THE EVE OF THE
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Saturday the Twenty-Fourth of December
at Five thirty o'clock in the Evening
Two Thousand and Twenty Two
Welcome to St. Peter's

St. Peter's Church, Morristown: Where All Are Welcome!
A warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors! We are delighted that you are here. Everyone is welcome in this community of faith. Please help us get to know you by filling out a welcome card found in the pews or available from an usher. After you fill it out, please give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Everything you need to know about St. Peter's
Please visit our website at www.stpetersmorristown.org.

+ UPCOMING SERVICES +
Christmas Day
Holy Eucharist—10:30 a.m.

Christmas I
Sunday, January 1—10:30 a.m.

Epiphany
Sunday, January 8
Holy Eucharist: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
Worship Together 9:15 am
A service of Eucharist for Families

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Prelude

Bottle Hill Brass Ensemble
A selection of seasonal music for brass by members of the Bottle Hill Big Band

St. Peter’s Choir
“Ding dong! merrily on high”

16th Century French carol (arr. Wood)

“Once in royal David’s city”

The congregation is invited to remain seated, but to join in at verse 3

Solo 1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
Full 3. And through all his wondrous childhood he would honour and obey,
4. For he is our childhood’s partner, day by day like us he grew,
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,

1. where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
2. and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
3. love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay:
4. he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:
5. for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
6. we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high;

1. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.
4. and he feeleth for our sad-ness, and he saith in our glad-ness.
5. and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
6. where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait a round.
THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

THE WORD OF GOD

(Please stand at the ringing of the bell)

ENTRANCE CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King;
Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings;
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, born that man no more may die,
With th’angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Acclamation

Celebrant: The people who walked in darkness
People: Have seen a great light.
Celebrant: For to us a child is born
People: To us a Son is given.
Celebrant: His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
People: The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest
People: And peace to God’s people on earth.
**Gloria**

“Angels we have heard on high”  

**Collect of the Day**

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.  
People  And also with you.  
Celebrant  Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.  

_Amen._

*(Please be seated)*

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 62:6-12  

**Lector**  A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.  

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

*Lector*  The Word of the Lord.  

*People*  Thanks be to God.
The Lord is King; 
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
Confounded be all who worship carved images 
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.
For you are the Lord, 
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints 
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

Lucille Knapik

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Elizabeth S. Ivell

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So
they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Anne C. Thatcher

THE NICENE CREED (please stand as you are able)
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lucille Knapik
Intercessor: Wrapped in the wonder of this night, let us pray and give thanks to God, saying in response,
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you give us the gift of diversity among all peoples and nations, help us to see each other as you see us, opening our eyes in your Love and grace.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you give us many and various ways of being followers of Jesus, guide all the churches of the world to walk your path of peace, that they may share your Good News of love.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you bless us with communities of caring neighbors, help us to reach out beyond ourselves, to all those who are sick, hungry, oppressed, lonely, in trouble, and in prison.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you give us access to the abundance of creation, help us to use our resources wisely and equitably, not focusing on our own desires.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you grant us eternal life, guide all those who have died to their eternal reward, comfort their loved ones, and give us strength to continue this life in faith.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
Intercessor: Eternal God, you have inspired the saints of all ages, including St. Peter, help us to experience the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child in all we do this Christmas season. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The Angel said “Be not afraid”. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offering
Half of this evening’s offering will go to Nourish NJ and New Jersey Battered Women’s Shelter.

Anthem: "The Blessed Son of God" Ralph Vaughan Williams

Doxology (please stand as you are able) Blue Hymnal N° 380

"All praise to thee"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A (BCP, p. 361)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth… Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
The Celebrant continues:
Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People
Christ has died
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

**Lord’s Prayer**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

**Invitation to Communion**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive communion. Please sit and wait for an usher to guide you.

- It will be distributed at the high altar and in the chapel.
- Those seated in the balcony and those who cannot climb stairs will receive in the chapel.
- If you are place bound, please alert and usher and we will bring communion to you.
- Gluten free wafers are available; please inform the clergy if you need one.
- All are welcome to drink from the common Chalice, however intinction is not permitted at this time.
A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
(We invite those who are at home to pray the Anima Christi during Communion.)
Jesus, may all that is in you flow into me. May your body and blood be my food and drink. May your passion and death be my strength and life. May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross. Let me not run from the love you extend. Hold me safe from the forces of evil. On each of my dyings shed your light and your love. Until with your saints may I praise you forever. Amen.

CHOIR CAROLS AND ANTHEMS

“Away in a Manger.”
“What Child is This?”
“Infant holy, infant lowly”
“Sussex Carol”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (please stand as you are able)
Celebrant Let us pray
People God of hope faith, joy and love, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CAROL
“Silent Night”

As the torchbearers and clergy come down the aisles, you are invited to light your candle and pass the light to your neighbors. Once your candle is lit, keep it upright; have others tip their unlit candles into the flame.
THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

WELCOME

RECESSIONAL CAROL

“O come, all ye faithful”

“Adeste fideles”

DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into this holy night renewed by the presence of Christ in our midst.

Alleluia Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata (from Symphonie V)  Charles-Marie Widor

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MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Anne C. Thatcher
Assisting: The Rev. Elizabeth S. Ivell
Crucifer: Bret Sharretts
Director of Music: Dr. Anthony Hammond
Torches: Kayla Drakes, Roberta Moseley
Chalice Bearers: Joedian Dawkins, John Creamer
Lectors: John Creamer, Lucille Knapik
Intercessor: Lucille Knapik

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CHRISTMAS FLOWER & GREENS DEDICATIONS
IN MEMORY OF:

Doris M. Allen
Burnett Andrews
Elizabeth Andrews
Patricia Emberley Bacon
Liam Bailey
Solon Bailey
Charles & Vera Beck
Anne Jean Bendetti
Jack Bickerton
Carol Boccino
Arlene Borowick
Edward H. Burnet
Anne Cardillo
Dominick Cardillo
Louis Cardinali
Louise Cardinali
Diane Clifton
Don Clifton
Helen Bourne Clifton
Elizabeth Conklin
Herbert Conklin
Peter Conklin
Beatrice Cooney
Reverend Matthew Corkern
Henry & Florence Custy
William Dickinson
Agnes Dickinson
Daniel Patrick Dooley
The Duke Family
John Dyer
Amanda Emberley
Charles Walter Emberley
Charlotte Theiler Emberley
Chief (Mrs.) Flora Fajemirokun
Chief Henry Fajemirokun
Tunde Fajemirokun
Delphine Ferguson
Rev. Hughes Garvin
Valerie Gilliland
John R. Hartman
William & Annie C. Hasher
William Hasher
Emily Mary Hasher
Frances K. Hazen
Robert M. Hazen
Rev. David Hegg
Edward James Hill
Marie Theiler Hill
Margaret E. Hoffman
Gale Jackson
Gladys Jeffery
Fred Jeffery
Joe
Walter Kaupe
Mary Howard Keasley
Peggy Kelley
Theresa Kitson
Julius & Mary Knapnik
Alice E. Lindsley
Bertha H. Lindsley
Lina Miceli
Mike
The Mitchell Family
Monroe Moseley
Minnie Moseley
Nella
Laurel Anne Olcott
Candace C. Owen
H. Martyn Owen Jr
Howard & Ann Palmer
Rev. William J. Patterson
Elisabeth S. Patterson
Deborah B. Phillips
Frank L. Phillips
Phyl
Emily L. Porges
James B. Porges
Bruce Rand
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Frederick & Vera Riedel
Cynthia Robinson
Charles Robinson
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Rudolf Schmidt
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Nicholas C. Siotka
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The Talmage Family
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Doreen Teekasingh
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William Terrell
Edwin Thompson
Lucille Thompson
William Thompson
Tia
Alice Tildsley
Arthur Tildsley
Marianne Koppisch Tobler
Paul Watson
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Laura Wolf
Cornelius P. Yernbridge
CHRISTMAS FLOWER & GREENS DEDICATIONS
IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Dominick Beck
The Reverend Michel Belt
Josh & Alaina Boccino
St. Peter’s Choir
St. Peter’s Choristers
Gwendlyn Foster
Health & The Gottlieb Family
The Knapnik Family
Lorenzo Maslany
Annalyse Olcott
Kailina Olcott
Rye Olcott
Echo Olcott
Cash Olcott
Sarah & Dan’s Marriage

The St. Peter’s Christmas Tree in the Chapel is given in loving memory of Bruce Rand

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