THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Sunday the Twenty-Fifth of December
at Ten thirty o’clock in the Morning
Two Thousand and Twenty Two
WELCOME TO ST. PETER’S CHURCH
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.

PRELUDE
Improvisation: Variations on ‘God rest you, merry gentlemen’

Entrance Hymn
“O little town of Bethlehem”

ACCLAMATION
Celebrant: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
People: He has come to his people and set them free.
Celebrant: Light has sprung up for the righteous
People: And joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.
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.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please be seated)
**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 52:7-10

*Lector* A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**ORGAN:** Chorale prelude on *In dulci jubilo* (BWV 608)

**SECOND LESSON:** Hebrews 1:1-4

*Lector* A reading from Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN** (Verses 1 to 4) *Blue Hymnal N° 98*

"Unto us a boy is born"

**THE GOSPEL:** John 1:1-14

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**SEQUENCE HYMN** (Verse 5) *Blue Hymnal N° 98*

"Unto us a boy is born"
SERMON

The Rev. Elizabeth S. Ivell

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. 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

Carol Lindskog

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.

Intercessor: Jesus, Saviour,

People: Hear our prayer.

Wonderful counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

Intercessor: Jesus, Saviour,

People: Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Intercessor: Jesus, Saviour,

People: Hear our prayer.

Everlasting father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Intercessor: Jesus, Saviour,

People: Hear our prayer.

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace.

Intercessor: Jesus, Saviour,

People: Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives.

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
Celebrant: May the God of love make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
“When Christ was born” Reginald Jacques

DOXOLOGY (Verse 3) (please stand as you are able) Blue Hymnal No 380 Old 100th
“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. 367)

SURSUM CORDA
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:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS Blue Hymnal S130
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 all, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many 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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

People   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.

THE 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.

Communion will be distributed in person at the crossing. Please sit and wait for an usher to guide you. Gluten free wafers and wine are available; inform the clergy if you need them. 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.

**COMMUNION ANTHEM**

“I sing of a maiden”  
*Patrick Hadley*

**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*BCP, p. 365*

**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.

**THE BLESSING** *(please stand as you are able)*

**Celebrant**

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. Amen.

**WELCOME**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Joy to the world”  
*Blue Hymnal No. 100*  
*Antioch*

**DISMISSAL**

**Celebrant**

Let us go forth into the new light of the incarnate Word. Alleluia, alleluia!

**People**

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata - Prelude IV: *Vom Himmel Hoch*  
*Garth Edmundson*

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Thank you for joining us today for worship! If you would like to give online, scan this QR code.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Elizabeth S. Ivell
Music Director: Dr. Anthony Hammond
Crucifer: Bret Sharretts
Lector: Lucille Knapik
Intercessor: Carol Lindskog

Prayers for the St. Peter's Community
Alex, Bob, Jean, Jeffrey, Maddie, Rick, Kathy Bowen, Lenny Capricciuolo, Eli Chasid, Dick Clair, Peter Darlington, Bruce Dykes, Gail Compton Flynn, Jean Galbraith, Emden Gansner, Weld Granbery, Jack & Ann Marie Gutjahr, Connie Halliwell, John and Helen Hunt, Wally Kennedy, George Lonsberry, Patty Paulman, Lois Platt, Karen Rand, Mary Lou Smith, Tina Stewart, Michael Sutcliffe, Barbara Trillich, Charles Trillich, Jean Watson, Leslie Wentz

The Faithful Departed
Richard Reinhard, Brent Wentz

WINTER@ ST. PETER’S… SAVE THE DATE!

Sun. Jan. 1: New Years Day Service: 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Carols
Sun. Jan. 8: Epiphany
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
Adline 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
Funsho 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
Mary 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
Rev. Charles Rice
Frederick & Vera Riedel
Cynthia Robinson
Charles Robinson
Nancy Sabatos
Rudolf Sabatos
Joanne Sullivan Siotka
Nicholas C. Siotka
Marta and Paul Sommer
Charles Edwin St. Martin
The Talmage Family
Cecil Teekasingh
Doreen Teekasingh
Grace G. Terwillger
Hal R. Terwillger
William Terrell
Edwin Thompson
Lucille Thompson
William Thompson
Tia
Alice Tildsley
Arthur Tildsley
Marianne Koppisch Tobler
Paul Watson
Brent Wentz
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 by Karen Ann Rand and the Rand family.