

# The Light of Christ ANGELICAN CHURCH

*We have yellow large print bulletins available,  
if you would like a copy, please see the Ushers.*

***December 31, 2020  
7:00 pm***



***Blessed New Year!***

***Welcome.*** *We are so glad to have you worship with us this evening, and we pray that the Lord will touch your heart in a meaningful way through His Word. All baptized Christians are invited to take Communion.*

# The Light of Christ Anglican Church

## New Year's Eve

### Processional Hymn *(Please stand)* - ***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;

#### *Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

#### *Chorus*

### Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

### Collect for Purity *(Together)*

***Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

## Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## Collect

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 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.**

## Hymn *(Please stand)* **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

**Lessons** *(Please be seated)*

**New Testament Lesson**                      **2 Corinthians 4:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

Reader:                      The Word of the Lord.

**People:**                      *Thanks be to God.*

**A Psalm.**                      **19:7-10**

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*the  
commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was  
in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**Hymn** *(Please stand)*

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**Gospel Reading**

**John 15:1-17 (ESV)**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People:** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose

you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Sermon** *(Please be seated)*

Mrs. Becky Nwankwo

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**Nicene Creed** *(Please stand)*

*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** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the source of all life, giver of all blessing, and savior of all who turn to you: Have mercy upon this nation; deliver us from falsehood, malice, and disobedience; turn our feet into your paths; and grant that we may serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and merciful God, through your well beloved Son Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, you have willed to make all things new: Grant that we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and may come at last to that heavenly country where your people hunger and thirst no more, and the tears are wiped away from every eye; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*1 John 1: 8-9*)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on***

*us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **Affirmation and Blessing of Those Not Married**

### **Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Marriages**

#### **Peace** *(Please Stand)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

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#### **Offertory** *(Offering of clocks, watches, calendars, etc.)*

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *(Psalm 96:8)*

### ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King.  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong  
And warring human kind hears not the tidings which they bring  
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below.*  
*Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*  
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*  
*heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.*  
*Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.*  
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
*Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.*

Holy and gracious Father: 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Lord, You who live outside of time, we ask Your blessing this New Year's Eve upon Your gift to us of time.

Bless our clocks, watches, calendars, and the vast array of electronic devices that help us mark time. You who kindly direct us to observe the passing of minutes and hours, may they make us aware of the miracle of each second of life we experience. May these, our time keeping servants, help us not to miss that which is important.

Bless, Lord, this new year, each of its 365 days and nights. Bless us with happy seasons and a long life. Grant to us, Lord, the new year's gift of a year of love.

We pray that you will sanctify these gifts of bread and wine 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.***

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

***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!***

Dear people, these are 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.

*(We have gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut-and-corn free communion wafers available for anyone who needs it. Please let the Clergy serving communion know if you would prefer these to the regular wheat wafers.)*

*(All baptized Christians are welcome to take communion. The ushers will direct the people down the center aisle. After receiving bread, please take a cup from the tray, then dispose of your cup in the basket. Prayer Ministers at TLC are available during communion, look for the prayer ministers in the southeast alcove in the church.)*

## **Communion Prayer Time**

You may use this time to offer Thanksgivings for the Lord's blessings during this difficult past year, and petitions for the coming year.

## **Post Communion Prayer** *(Please Stand)*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **Blessing**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## **Recessional Hymn - Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **Dismissal**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People: Thanks be to God.*