



LIGHT OF CHRIST

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Livestream Link: <https://youtu.be/-VR87vn-acg>

Christmas Eve 2021

4:30 pm Christmas Carols

5:00 pm Christmas Service



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~ Isaiah 9:6



Welcome to our Christmas Eve Service

As we celebrate the meaning of the incarnation, all are invited this night to welcome Jesus. In doing so, we hope to discover again — or for the first time — who God is and who Jesus is — "up close and personal". This is a glorious night full of God's splendor, mystery, and presence. Sing, pray, rejoice! Our prayer is that deep joy, hope, love, and peace are your gifts this Christmas.

The Gathering

The Processional

- Celebrant: 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.
People: **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**
Celebrant: From eternity to eternity, you are God,
People: **and now we see you as a newborn child.**
- Celebrant: Welcome all wonders in one sight! Eternity shut in a span,
heaven in earth and God in man. Great little one whose all-
embracing birth brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.
- Celebrant: Alleluia! For unto us a Child is born.
People: **To us a Son is given. Alleluia!**

Let us pray,
**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.**

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

- Reader: God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in
darkness see a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ
with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good
news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light
who has come into the world.
- Reader: As the shepherds kept watch by night,
People: **the glory of the Lord shone round about them.**
Reader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
People: **Jesus is our Way.**
Reader: With Jesus, even dark places receive light;
People: **Jesus is the Truth.**
Reader: In Jesus, we shall live forever:
People: **Jesus is our Life.**

Song

The Gloria

The 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 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.**

The Word

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

A Psalm (Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13) Please read in unison.

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

² Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from Titus. (Titus 2:11-14)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Anthem

Sing them over again to me
Wonderful words of life
Let me more of their beauty see
Wonderful words of life
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty

Refrain
Beautiful words wonderful words
Wonderful words of life
Beautiful words wonderful words
Wonderful words of life

Gospel Reading

(Luke 1:26-38)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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

Sermon

Rev. Donald Nwankwo

Prayerful reflection as we prepare our hearts to come to the Lord in corporate prayer.

The Response

Prayers of the People

Reader: We come in prayer to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Reader: Wonderful counsellor, 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 ...

Lord, in your mercy

People: hear our prayer.

Reader: Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness ...
Lord, in your mercy
People: hear our prayer.

Reader: Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities ...
Lord, in your mercy
People: hear our prayer.

Reader: Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace...
Lord, in your mercy
People: hear our prayer.

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

Confession and Absolution

Deacon: Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world. (Matthew 1:21)

People: God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you created us from nothing and gave us life. You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside. We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbor. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you all your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Nicene Creed

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.

Offertory

Doxology

The Eucharist

Celebrant: The Lord is here.

People: His Spirit is with us.

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.

Celebrant:

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things, who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you saying:

Sanctus

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; **by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(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 alcove in the church.)

Communion Hymns

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

The Blessing

Celebrant:

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Candle Lighting

(The ushers will process up the center aisle and light the first candle on each row. For safety purposes, as the light is passed down the row, the lit candle should be held upright and the unlit candle held over it. All children should be given battery operated candles in an effort to cut down on a fire hazard.)

Celebrant: “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” *(John 8:12)*

The Recessional

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DEC. 24, 2021

Merry Christmas to you all! May you have a blessed time with your families and friends.

Christmas Season Service Times

Sunday, Dec. 26: 1 service @ 9:30 am (Karen dinner following the service)

Sunday, Jan 2: 1 service @ 9:30 am (No ESL classes or Sunday School)

Karen TLC Family Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 26th

There will be one service that day at 9:30 am and the dinner will follow.

Our Giving

We are grateful for your faithful giving and various acts of service in the Lord's House. As we look to close out the year, we encourage your continued faithfulness. Please prayerfully consider ways that you can give specially as well, no matter the size, to help us finish the year in a strong position.

There are multiple ways available to send your offerings to the church if you missed a church service.

- Through Zelle which acts like a bank transfer. Please use our admin's email, jeanie@tlcdenver.org, when you set it up.
- Through our secure, easy-to-use online page at www.onrealm.org/TheLightChrist/Give
- By texting TLCgiving to 73256. (standard text message and data rates may apply)
- By mailing a check to The Light of Christ Church (4000 W. Yale, Ave., Denver, CO 80219)
- And of course, through the offering baskets at the Sunday morning services.

Save the Date! 2022 Diocesan Gathering – Feb. 7 – 9 2022

Wellspring Church. There will be several events for lay people to attend.

Pastoral Staff

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Dave and Amarah Bailey,
Youth Pastors
Steve DeThomas, Building Maint.
Karen Fancher, Nursery
Jeanie Hutton, Operations Admin.

Vestry

Ken Ross (Bishop)
Donald Nwankwo (Rector)
Pam Munter (Sr. Warden)
Kathy MacLeod (Secretary)
Michael Padbury (Treasurer)

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