

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and
mind and voice!

From our second carol

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
First Sunday after Christmas
Christmas Carol Singing
December 29, 2018, 10:30 am

Merry Christmas! Today our focus is on the carols of the season. Enjoy!

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as
children.

Carol: - *Angels from the Realms of Glory (we stand)*.....93

The Collect of the Day (*we remain standing*)

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of
your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in
our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Carol: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.....107

The Lessons (*we are seated*)

The First Lesson – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;

**For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.**

He has established peace on your borders;
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**He sends out his command to the earth,
and his word runs very swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool;
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
who can stand against his cold?**

He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

He has not done so to any other nation;
**to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!**

The Epistle Lesson - Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded
under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the
law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might
be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no
longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem
those who were under the law, so that we might receive
adoption as children. And because you are children, God has
sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!
Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a
child then also an heir, through God.

We stand for the following carols.

O Little Town of Bethlehem.....79

Love Came Down at Christmas.....84

The Gospel – John 1:1-18 (*we remain standing*)

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Prayers (*we stand or kneel*)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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 Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation (*we sit*)

The Offering

But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offertory: *The First Nowell*.....109

Presentation: *O Come All Ye Faithful (we stand)*.....83:1

The General Thanksgiving (*we continue standing*)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Carol: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*.....89

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

On New Year's Day we will mark the Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This commemorates the eighth day of Christmas when Jesus was circumcised and received his name. "After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." Luke 2:21.

Next Sunday, January 5, will revel in Our Name as we celebrate the Epiphany together! We will worship at 10:30 in the nave. Then we will adjourn to the Little House for lunch on the grounds and our annual Epiphany meeting. At that meeting we will hear about 2019 and plans for 2020 and elect two new members of the vestry. Jimmy Weldon is bringing a ham; please bring a side dish to share.

Serving at Epiphany this week:	And next:
Ushers: Pam and Eddie Harper	Ushers: Laura Williams and Barbara Trogdon
Altar Guild: Suzy Wilson	Altar Guild: Betty Weldon
Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart	Lay Reader: Amanda Borden
Officiant: Suzy Wilson	Officiant: Lee and Amanda Borden
Refreshments: Kay Dickey	Refreshments: Everyone