

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Alexandria, Va.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2015  
5:00 and 9:00 P.M.

**Prelude** Francisco Robles, Guitar, Michael Barber, Trumpet

**Christmas Acclamation**

*Celebrant: Alleluia, I bring tidings of great joy, to us a Son is born  
People: To Us, a Savior is given. Alleluia*

**Hymn 83**      *O Come All Ye Faithful*      **Vs. 1-3, 6**

**Prayer at the Christmas Creche**

**Opening Acclamation**      BCP p. 355

**Gloria**      *Robert Powell*      **S280**

**The Collect for Christmas**      Insert

**A Reading From Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Psalm 96**      Insert

**A Reading from Titus 2:11-14**

**Hymn 79**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      **Vs. 1-2**

**The Gospel**

*C. The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Luke*

**R. "Glory to You, Lord Christ"**      **N.**

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 firstborn 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;

**Angel** '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.'

**N.** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,

praising God and saying,

**Congregation** 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

**N.** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**Shepherds** 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

**N.** 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.

*C. "The Gospel of the Lord!"*

**R: "Praise to You, Lord Christ"**

**Hymn 79**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      **V. 3**

**The Sermon**      The Rev. Meredith Heffner      5:00 p.m.

The Rev. John A. Weatherly      9:00 p.m.

**Hymn 79**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      **Vs. 4-5**

**A Christmas Litany**

In peace this holy night, we pray to you Lord Jesus to come into our hearts.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For all people in their life and work, for our families, friends and neighbors, for those who are separated from those they love because of duties or deployments, and for those who are alone.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For our homes, this community, this nation and the world.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For all those this Christmas who are sick, especially those of this congregation; those who we remember who were among us last year, but whose mortal forms we no longer see; for those in danger, sorrow or any kind of trouble.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Lord, help us to love and serve you always.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Lord, show us how to live in peace all our days. Open the hearts of those who plan violence, or those who live with violence, throughout the world;

***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Lord Jesus, you love peace and came to us as a baby in a manger to share the good news of God's love with us. Glory to you in the highest, and grant these our prayers in the name of the holy Christ Child. ***Amen.***

## **The Peace**

### **The Offertory Anthem**

*Your Christmas offering is greatly appreciated as it supports the parish's ministries, and outreach to this community and the world.*

### **The Presentation Hymn** *(congregation stands and sings)*

"Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo."

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**BCP p. 367**

### **Sanctus**

**S-128**

### **Fraction Anthem** *Agnes Dei*

**S-161**

*All are invited to come forward and receive our Lord's Sacrament or if preferred, a blessing from the Priest.*

## **The Communion Hymns**

**Hymn 89** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

**Hymn 102** *Once in Royal David's City*

*Congregation remains silent for the first verse while choir sings. Congregation sings all other verses*

**Prayer After Communion** *kneeling* **BCP p. 365**

**Hymn 111** *Silent Night* *Kneeling, candles are lit, lights dimmed*

**The Blessing** *Afterwhich, lights Lifted, candles out*

**Hymn 100** *Joy to the World* **Antioch**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Alleluia.

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

## **Organ Postlude**

**Welcome** to this service at St. Mark's. The Nursery is open for both services tonight, and located in Gibson Hall. Please silence your cellphones. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to speak to an usher.