

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2020**  
**4:00 PM, 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM**



**Adoration of the Child**  
*Angelico (1400-1455)*

**Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina**

**The Right Reverend Rob Skirving, Bishop**  
**The Reverend Eric Mills, Rector**

# HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

**Celebrant: Fr. Eric**

**Deacon: Pam Hayes**

**Deacon: Sally Learned**

**Congregational participation in bold.**

*Choral Prelude*

*Processional – “O Come All Ye Faithful” (instrumental)*

*Station at the Christmas Creche*

*Leader:* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

***People:* And we beheld the glory.**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice forever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People:* Amen**

*Lighting of Advent Wreath*

*Leader:* Behold to us, a child is born.

***People:* Come, Let us Adore Him.**

*Opening Acclamation*

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

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

*The Collect for Purity*

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.

***People:* Amen.**

## *The 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.**

## *The Collect of the Day*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

***People: Amen.***

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

A Lesson from the Book of Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with

righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 96

- 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.**
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
**but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
**ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
**let the whole earth tremble before him.**
- 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.**

## A Lesson from the Book of Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:1-14)

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

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.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sermon*

Fr. Eric

## *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.

## *The Prayers of the People: Form VI*

*Leader:* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

*Leader:* For all people in their daily life and work;

***People:* For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Leader:* For this community, the nation, and the world;

***People:* For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Leader:* For the just and proper use of your creation;

***People:* For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Leader:* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***People:* For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Leader:* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***People:* For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Leader:* For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Rob our Bishop, Eric our priest, Pam and Sally our deacons and for all bishops and other ministers;  
***People:* For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Leader:* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

*Leader:* Hear us, Lord;

***People:* For your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

*Leader:* We will exalt you, O God our King;

***People:* And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Leader:* We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

*Leader:* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***People:* Who put their trust in you.**

*Collect at the Prayers*

*Celebrant:* 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.

***People:* Amen**

*The Peace*

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

***People:* And also with you.**

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

## *Offertory*

(Congregation stands and says the following at the presentation of gifts)

**People: All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.**

## *The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B*

*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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before



you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

### *Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

## *The Breaking of the Bread*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## *Communion*

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion.*

The clergy will deliver communion to you at your seat. Please extend your open hands to receive the Eucharist. Do not remove your mask to consume until the clergy has passed by. Thank you.

## *Post Communion Prayer*

**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 Liturgy of Light**

*Candlelight Solo – “Silent Night”*

*Celebrant: The Blessing*

*Closing Hymn- “Angels We Have Heard on High” (instrumental)*

*Deacon: The Dismissal*

***Please be sure to wait for the ushers to dismiss you from your row at the end of the service as we continue to follow all Covid precautions.***

*Postlude – “Hallelujah” .... Handel*

***SPECIAL THANKS to Debbie Skillman, Geoff Gersen, Carol Amaya and Jeff Krantz for sharing their musical talents to enhance our Christmas Celebration.***

**Please note, the Parish Office will be closed from Christmas to  
New Year's.**

## **Parish Staff**

*Rector:* The Reverend Eric Mills

*Deacon:* The Reverend Deacon Pamela Hayes

*Deacon:* The Reverend Deacon Sally Learned

*Organist-Choirmaster:* Mrs. Deborah Skillman

*Verger:* Mr. Ricky Evans

*Parish Administrator:* Mrs. Lorraine Beamer

*Administrative Assistant:* Mrs. Betty Rupp

*Sexton:* Mrs. Karla Platt

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

**110 E. Nash Street (office)**

**P.O. Box 10476 (mailing)**

**Southport, NC 28461**

**910-457-5643**

**Email: [info@stphilipschurch.org](mailto:info@stphilipschurch.org)**

**Website: [www.stphilipschurch.org](http://www.stphilipschurch.org)**

**Like us on FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/StPhilipsChurch>**

