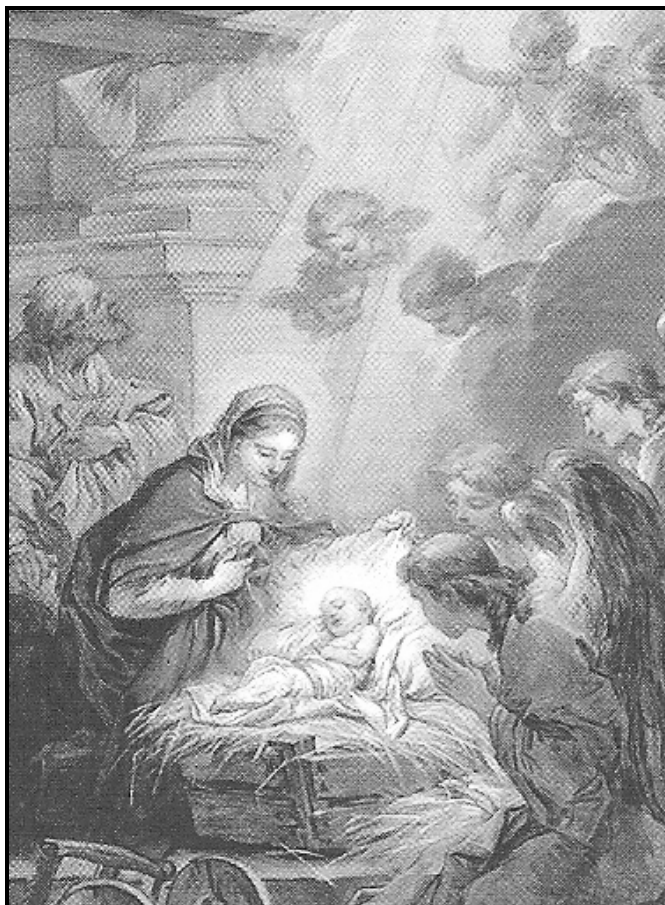


Please turn off your cellular telephones as you enjoy the prelude!

*Thank You.*

# Christ Episcopal Church

EAST NORWALK, CONNECTICUT



**Christmas Day: December 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**

The Reverend Frank E. Wismer, III, Vicar

**ALL** are invited to worship in this place,  
including young children and their occasional noise but,  
**IF** you would prefer—Christ Church does offer childcare during worship.  
Please consult an usher for answers to any questions you may have.

☺ Welcome home! ☺

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Book of Common Prayer, Page 355

The Prelude

He Had No Place To Lay His Head *Donald Lee Moore*

The Opening Hymn 89

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear *v. 1-2-3*

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

The musical score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*The people standing if able, the Celebrant says*

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

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

*The Celebrant then continues*

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.*

## 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 Celebrant then adds*

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 Lessons**

*The people sit.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah 9: 2-4, 6-7**

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 a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

*Silence may follow.*

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
 sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
 tell of his salvation from day to day.  
 Declare his glory among the nations,  
 his marvelous works among all the peoples.  
 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
 he is to be revered above all gods.  
 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
 but the Lord made the heavens.  
 Honor and majesty are before him;  
 strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
 bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
 Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
 tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!  
 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
 He will judge the peoples with equity.'  
 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
 let the field exult, and everything in it.  
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
 before the Lord; for he is coming,  
 for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 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 the Letter of Paul to 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.

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

*Silence may follow.*

*Introduction*

1 On this day earth shall ring  
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth;  
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head,  
 4 On this day an - gels sing;

with the song child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,  
 when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;  
 Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,  
 with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,

born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.  
 lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

*Refrain*

Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,

Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"*

*Then, all standing if able, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 2: 1-20**

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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, '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.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ 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.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

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

*The people sit.*

## **The Story**

**Father Frank**

*Then, all standing if able, the Celebrant continues with*

## **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.*

*Silence may follow. All kneel if able.*

**The Prayers of the People**      Form III      **Book of Common Prayer, Page 387**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit  
 that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
 to the honor and glory of your Name;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

**The Peace**

*All stand if able. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

**Announcements ~ The Offering**

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

**The Offertory Hymn 110**

**The Snow Lay On The Ground**

1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,  
 2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,  
 3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;  
 4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;

when Christ our Lord was born On Christ - mas night. Ve -  
 that brought in - to this world the God made man. She  
 to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the  
 for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O

ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -  
 laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the  
 an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song, Ve -  
 come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, to

*Refrain*  
 ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 ass and ox - en shared the roof with them.  
 ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -  
 praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -

ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

## The Doxology

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer D

Book of Common Prayer, Page 372

*The people remain standing if able. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks;  
for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light  
inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all  
things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to  
rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you  
night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence,  
they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and  
giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you,  
and glorify your Name, as we say,

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 if able.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty  
works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your  
own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in  
obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all  
your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you,  
you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy  
you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find  
you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you,  
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

### **Celebrant and People**

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**Book of Common Prayer, Page 364**

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. *Alleluia.*

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

**The Blessing**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

*All stand if able.*

1 Chris - tians, a - wake, sa - lute the hap - py morn  
 2 Then to the watch - ful shep - herds it was told,  
 \*3 He spoke, and straight - way the ce - les - tial choir  
 \*4 In Beth - le - hem the hap - py shep - herds sought  
 5 Let us, like these good shep - herds, then em - ploy

1 where - on the Sa - vior of the world was born;  
 2 who heard the an - gel - ic her - ald's voice: "Be - hold,  
 3 in hymns of joy, un - known be - fore, con - spire;  
 4 to see the won - der God for us had wrought,  
 5 our grate - ful voic - es to pro - claim the joy;

1 rise to a - dore the mys - ter - y of love,  
 2 I bring good tid - ings of a Sa - vior's birth,  
 3 the prais - es of re - deem - ing love they sang,  
 4 and found, with Jo - seph and the bless - ed maid,  
 5 trace we the Babe, who hath re - trieved our loss,

1 which hosts of an - gels chant - ed from a - bove;  
 2 to you and all the na - tions on the earth:  
 3 and heaven's whole orb with al - le - lu - ias rang;  
 4 her Son, the Sa - vior, in a man - ger laid;  
 5 from his poor man - ger to his bit - ter cross;

1 with them the joy - ful tid - ings first be - gun of  
 2 this day hath God ful - filled his prom - ised word, this  
 3 God's high - est glo - ry was their an - them still, peace  
 4 a - mazed, the won - drous sto - ry they pro - claim, the  
 5 tread - ing his steps, as - sist - ed by his grace, till

1 God In - car - nate and the Vir - gin's Son.  
 2 day is born a Sav - ior, Christ the Lord."  
 3 on the earth, and un - to men good will.  
 4 ear - liest her - alds of the Sa - vior's name.  
 5 our first heaven - ly state a - gain takes place.

6 Then may we hope, the angelic thrones among,  
 to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
 he that was born upon this joyful day  
 around us all his glory shall display;  
 saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
 eter-nal praise to heaven's almighty King.

The Postlude

Go Tell It On The Mountain

arr. Carl Simone

# THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!

*Ordinary People ✦ Extraordinary Spirit*

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*The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to promote the growth of faith and Christian fellowship; by following the word of God. We encourage an open, accepting, welcoming, inclusive environment; providing realistic outreach activities to support the needs of the parish and the community.*