



*Welcome to Christ Church*  
*Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m. December 24, 2014*

**Service Notes:** Hymns are in the larger blue books. **Welcome materials** are on the back table. Thanks to 2:00 service participants: Lector, Chalcist and Acolyte: Kelly Madenjian & Assistants! Altar Guild: L. Goodwin Ushers: Volunteers

**Prelude**

83 Carol *O Come all ye faithful*

Celebrant: I bring you good news of great joy:  
 People: **A Savior has been born to you. Alleluia**  
 Celebrant: Unto us a child is born,  
 People: **Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**  
 Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.  
 People: **Glory to God, forever and ever.**

*(and together)* **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 Christmas 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*: 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 forever. **Amen**

### **A Reading from the Letter of Titus (3:4- 7)**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
People **Thanks be to God.**

**115** Sequence Carol *What child is this (vss. 1,2 then 3)*

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (KJV) People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ****

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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

**Homily** **Christine and Dave Carter** *(Building and Blessing the Christmas Creche)*

### **The Blessing of the Christmas Creche**

In the faith of Christ, and in your name, O God most holy, we hallow this crib of Christmas, to set before the eyes of all your children, young and old, the great love and humility of Jesus Christ your only son; who for us, and for our salvation, came down as at this time from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of Mary his mother, and was made man; to whom with you and the same Spirit be all honor, majesty, glory and worship, now and through the ages. **Amen**

**Prayers of the People** (based on seasonal prayers from the Church of England)

In peace let us pray to the Lord. *Silent Space*

O God, on this holy night, your Son, our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew us to be his Body in the world. Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

On this night there was no room for your Son at the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

On this night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.... Especially..... *(see intercessions list)*..... Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

On this night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

On this night the shepherds in the field heard the good tidings of joy. Give us grace to bring the Gospel of Christ's redemption into the world. Holy God. **Hear our prayer.**

On this night strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Bless those celebrating birthdays: *Miranda Apicelli, Nicole Nichols, Chris Landis, Bill Wright (and read names from the intercession sheet under birthdays)*

And those celebrating anniversaries *(see intercessions as needed)*.

We also prayer for those far from home, especially those in the Armed Forces: *Angela, Dan, Jeff, Ken, Tom, Jotham, Doug, Joel, Jed, Micah, Bill, Colin, Tim and Jay (and any others written in)*.

**Hear our prayer.**

On this night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom but *especially those on our Christmas memorial list:*

And those we remember this evening: *(from intercessions list)* Holy God **Hear our prayer.**

On this night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God. **Hear our prayer**

*Celebrant:* O God, angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger throne. Receive our prayers that we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and all who gathered there, through him who is your Word made flesh. **Amen**

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

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

**109** Offertory Carol *The First Noel* *(the ushers pass the collection plates)*  
Presentation Verse.... **All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee....**

### The Holy Eucharist

**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 Celebrant continues The Celebrant continues all standing.....* Holy One, we thank you for this most sacred feast, in which we celebrate who you are and who we are becoming. As your Word spoke the Creation into being, so we lift our voices to sing:

*Said Together.....*      **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.**

*Celebrant continues...* Thank you God, for sending your Son to welcome us as your beloved sons and daughters. Thank you for taking away all obstacles that separate us from you, and making us your friends.

Thank you, for continuing to feed us even as you fed your first disciples on that darkest night, when you took bread, blessed, broke, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is my gift to you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After the meal, you took the cup of wine, blessed, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of our new relationship, which is my gift to you which sets you free from the bondage of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*      **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come Breath of Life and Spirit of Wisdom: in the beginning you hovered over the waters of creation, and called the world into being; so now call us into being as your new creation, Sanctify this bread and wine that, nourished by your Body and Blood, we may work with you in your world in witness of your love, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, now and forever.

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, forever and ever. Amen**

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

**Carols during Communion** (79, 111)

**Thanksgiving Prayer after Communion**

*Celebrant:*      Let us pray together.

*Celebrant and People:*      **Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior, baby who makes every birth holy. May we, who like the shepherds have witnessed a new kind of love return to our work with joy. May we, for whom the heavens have opened to proclaim that God is with us, who have fed on living bread and drunk the wine of heaven, go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day. Amen.**

*(from the New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**Christmas Blessing** *(Fr. Dave)*

May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ child be God's gifts to you this Christmas-tide, and always.

**100**    Recessional Carol      *Joy to the World*  
**Dismissal & Postlude**

**Christ Church:**

The Rev. David M. Carter, Rector

P.O. Box 21, 527 Pomfret St., Pomfret, CT 06258    860-928-7026    [www.christchurchpomfret.org](http://www.christchurchpomfret.org)  
[christchurchpomfret@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpomfret@gmail.com)    Cell #860-608-7632