

# St. James Episcopal Church

Taos, New Mexico

Sharing ourselves and our faith with others.



Evening Prayer  
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM

December 24, 2020

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Book of Common Prayer

### THE PRELUDE

Silent Night, Holy Night  
Of the Father's Love Begotten  
Mary Gates - Organ

Robert J. Powell  
Wilbur Held

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**     *The white candle is lit.*

Let us pray.....O God our Father, each year you fill us with joy as we recall the mysteries of our redemption and look forward to the great day of our final salvation. Grant that as we joyfully remember your Son's first appearing among us as our Savior, we may one day see him without dread when he comes again. **Amen.**

### THE OPENING SENTENCE

p. 116

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

p. 116

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
That we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### THE ABSOLUTION

p. 117

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

p. 117

O God make speed to save us.

**Oh Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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. Alleluia.**

O GRACIOUS LIGHT      Read responsively by whole verse.      p. 118

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

**and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

PSALM 96      p. 725

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.

**Glory be 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.**

## THE READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord" and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SONG OF MARY

p. 119

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

**The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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 GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 2:1-20**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Mac Brown

THE APOSTLES' CREED

p. 120

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

p. 121

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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**And grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**Let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;

**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

p. 212

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A COLLECT FOR PEACE

p. 123

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

p. 124

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

## A PRAYER FOR MISSION

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

p. 125

**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.**

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

p. 126

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*To read all this week's announcements, please consult your St. James Email Newsletter.  
If you do not receive it and wish to, please notify Gwen: [office@stjamestaos.org](mailto:office@stjamestaos.org)*

## THE CLOSING SENTENCE

p. 126

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## THE POSTLUDE

The First Nowell

Hugo Gehrke



In memory of and grateful thanksgiving for the life of William E. Zorumski by  
Caryle H. Zorumski

In memory of my sister Bea Sandoval with Love, Julia Jiron

