

# Christmas 2020



*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.*

*Luke 2:10-11*

*Celebrant  
Music Director  
Soloist*

The Rev. Dr. John Agbaje  
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Tech*

Elizabeth Wagner  
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# ***Welcome!***

We hope that you will join fully in this time of  
prayer, song, and renewal,  
and that you will be blessed by the One  
who has sent his Son this night as the perfect Christmas gift!

*Prelude  
Five Carols*

## **Hymn 102 in *The Hymnal 1982* "Once in Royal David's City"**

*Irby*

**1** Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

**2** He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**3** Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing round,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
where his saints his throne surround:  
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,  
set at God's right hand on high.

*Celebrant* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
*All* **And we beheld his glory.**

*Celebrant* 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 for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**All Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Hymn 96 in *The Hymnal 1982***  
**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**  
*Gloria*

**1** Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

*Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

**2** Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

*Refrain*

**3** Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

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

*All*     **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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All*    **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

### **So this is Christmas**

So this is Christmas  
And what have you done  
Another year over  
And a new one just begun

And so this is Christmas  
For weak and for strong  
The rich and the poor ones

*John Lennon – So This Is Christmas Lyrics*

In this world of sin Christ was born for us. Born to share God's love and bring us peace. Even though Christmas is very commercialized today, but we must focus on the God's love in sending his Son to us. Christmas is not about shopping or sales. It is about love.

At Christmas, God showed mercy on all of us. He came to lift us up from sin.

Christmas reminds us that salvation comes only from Jesus.

We are to ask Jesus to descend to us tonight. We are to ask the Baby born in Bethlehem to cast out sins and enter into our hearts.

With Christ's birth we have the blessed assurance that God hears our cry. Not only to help us individually but also to help our world. He comes to bring us the blessings God the Father has planned for us and the Blessing God the Son holds in His hand to brighten our life.

Through Christ the glory of God will shine. He is our Savior who has brought us peace and joy.

As He enters our hearts we are to receive him happily. We are encouraged to let our hearts awake and thank God for the gift of Baby Jesus who is our everlasting King. Christmas reminds us of how humble Jesus was. One who was with God when this world was created. One who was of one substance and nature as of God came down to be like you and like me.

To affirm His lowliness further, and in spite of Christ's majesty, His birth was in a manger and the shepherds were the first He revealed Himself to.

Our call is to adore him praise him and pay homage to him as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Let us all go out and tell it to everyone that Christmas is about the love of God for each of us and for our world.

**Amen.**

Meditation  
*"Sussex Carol"*  
*Ralph Vaughn Williams*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*(BCP p. 358)*

**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  
worshipped 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

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.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory is to stand before the world as your own sons and daughters. May the simple beauty of Jesus' birth summon us always to love what is most deeply human, and to see your Word made Flesh reflected in those whose lives we touch. **Amen.**

*(from The Roman Missal)*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

### **Hymn 111 in *The Hymnal 1982*** **"Silent Night"** *Stille Nacht*

1 Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you  
sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were  
already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from  
you. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*Celebrant* May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven,  
give you his peace and favor.

*All* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon  
you and remain with you for ever.

*All* **Amen**



**Hymn 100 in *The Hymnal 1982***

**"Joy to the World"**

*Antioch*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven,  
and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills  
and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Dismissal**

*The congregation is dismissed.*

*Celebrant*  
*All*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

*"Angels We Have Heard On High"*

*Todd Kendall*

## ***Christmas Flowers***

Fred & Phyllis Berta

In Memory of their sisters, Karyl Danford  
and Kathleen Kovach; and beloved friend Phil Stover.

Larry & Joy Brown

In Thanksgiving for their blessings

Hayward Jones

In Memory of Betsy Jones

Libby Nicholson

In Memory of those whose lives were lost due to the  
coronavirus in 2020  
In Thanksgiving for healthcare workers who have worked  
tirelessly to combat the deadly COVID-19 pandemic and who  
have cared for our loved ones who have suffered alone and in  
isolation because of it.

Ann & Howard Phillips

In Memory of Jim Garwood

Dave & Janet Reuter

In Memory of our parents  
In Thanksgiving for our family and our parish leadership

Elizabeth Wagner

In Memory of Daniel L. Babcock

Mike & Katherine Wagner

In Memory of Bill, Bettie, Jim, & Ed Veazey;  
Bob & Betty Wagner  
In Thanksgiving for Michael & Colleen, Elizabeth & Sean



**Parishioners in need of our prayers**

Carolyn, Howard, Ruby, George,  
 the Darnell Family, Judy, Juanita, Rob,  
 Carmen, Joanne, Mary, Vern

**Family and Friends**

Alexis - the Reuters' niece  
 Alfred - Mary-Anna Welch's father  
 Amanda & Brett - Elizabeth Wagner's cousins  
 Ariel - Lillian Levy's sister  
 Bisi & Bitrus - friends of Joanne Stearns  
 Carol - friend of the Reuters  
 Carol - friend of the Rubinos  
 Carrie - Susan Kendall's daughter  
 Catherine - friend of Lily Levy  
 Chip - Jim Rudd's step-mother  
 Chris & family - friends of the Reuters  
 Colene - friend of Lillian Levy  
 Danielle - Jenna Walch's sister  
 David- Vern Hogden's son  
 Debbie - friend of the Tallmans  
 Emily - Ann Phillips' niece  
 Emma, Lowell, & the Burton Family -  
     friends of Juanita Limes and the Darnells  
 Gary - Dave Reuter's brother  
 George - Lily Levy's father  
 Helen C - Wayne Harper's mother in law  
 Jaime & Ryan - Linda Stagles' daughter  
     & son-in-law

James - Linda Stagles' brother  
 Jane - friends of the Tallmans  
 Jeff - friend of Natalie Mills  
 Jose & Elena - friends of the Welches  
 Joseph - father of Sebastian & Nathaniel  
 Josiah - the Tuxhorn's great-grandson  
 Kevin - friend of the parish  
 Lark - friend of Katherine Wagner  
 Leah & family - friend of Elizabeth Wagner  
 Leslie - friend of Juanita Limes  
 Mary - friend of the Wagners  
 Mike - friend of Tracey, Ann, & Howard  
 Nanci - friend of the Larsens  
 Nancy - friend of Katherine Wagner  
 Pat - friend of the Tallmans  
 Renea - friend of Juanita and Lisa  
 Roberta - Tracey Swartz' mother  
 Ron - friend of Ruby Webster  
 Sharon - friend of Ann Philips  
 Sue & Tom - friends of the Phillips'  
 Thomas - friend of the parish  
 Tonia - Juanita Limes' daughter-in-law  
 Tony - Judy Rudd's brother

## **St. Mark's Vestry**

**Senior Warden:** Gary Welch

**Junior Warden:** Katherine Wagner

**Treasurer:** Don Nancarrow

**Secretary:** Dave Reuter

### **Vestry Members:**

Carol Nancarrow, Tracey Swartz

Susan Kendall

Kendall Rubino, Jenna Walch

### **St. Mark's Staff**

Transitional Priest in Charge The Rev. Dr. John Agbaje

Parish Administrator Katherine Wagner

Music Director Donna Larsen

Sexton Douglas Plummer

Webmaster Dave Reuter

### **Look for us...**

**On the web:** [www.StMarksDayton.org](http://www.StMarksDayton.org)

**Facebook:** St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio

**Instagram:** stmarksdayton

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