

WELCOME

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CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December 2020

READINGS:

OT: **Isaiah 52: 1—7**

GOSPEL: **John 1:1-14**



COLLECT

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:

give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven

through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for ever.

OT: Isaiah 52: 1—7

Awake, awake,

put on your strength, O Zion!

Put on your beautiful garments,

O Jerusalem, the holy city;

for the uncircumcised and the unclean
shall enter you no more.

² Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,

O captive Jerusalem;

loose the bonds from your neck,

O captive daughter Zion!

³ For thus says the Lord: You were sold
for nothing, and you shall be

redeemed without money. ⁴ For thus

says the Lord God: Long ago, my

people went down into Egypt to

reside there as aliens; the Assyrian,

too, has oppressed them without

cause. ⁵ Now therefore, what am I

doing here, says the Lord, seeing that

my people are taken away without

cause? Their rulers howl, says the

Lord, and continually, all day long, my

name is despised. ⁶ Therefore my

people shall know my name; therefore

on that day they shall know that it is I

who speak; here am I.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, 'Your God

reigns.'



GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the

Word was God. ² He was in the

beginning with God. ³ All things came
into being through him, and without

him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴ in him

was life, and the life was the light of all

people. ⁵ The light shines in the

darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a

witness to testify to the light, so that

all might believe through him. ⁸ He

himself was not the light, but he came

to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light,

which enlightens everyone, was

coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world

came into being through him; yet the

world did not know him. ¹¹ He came

to what was his own, and his own

people did not accept him. ¹² But to all

who received him, who believed in his

name, he gave power to become

children of God, ¹³ who were born,

not of blood or of the will of the flesh

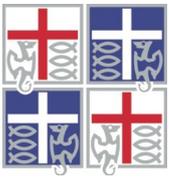
or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.



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CHRISTMAS DAY

25th December 2020

READINGS:

OT: **Isaiah 9: 2 - 7**

GOSPEL: **Luke 2: 8—20**



COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven
touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

OT: 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.



GOSPEL: Luke 2: 8—20

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' ¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.