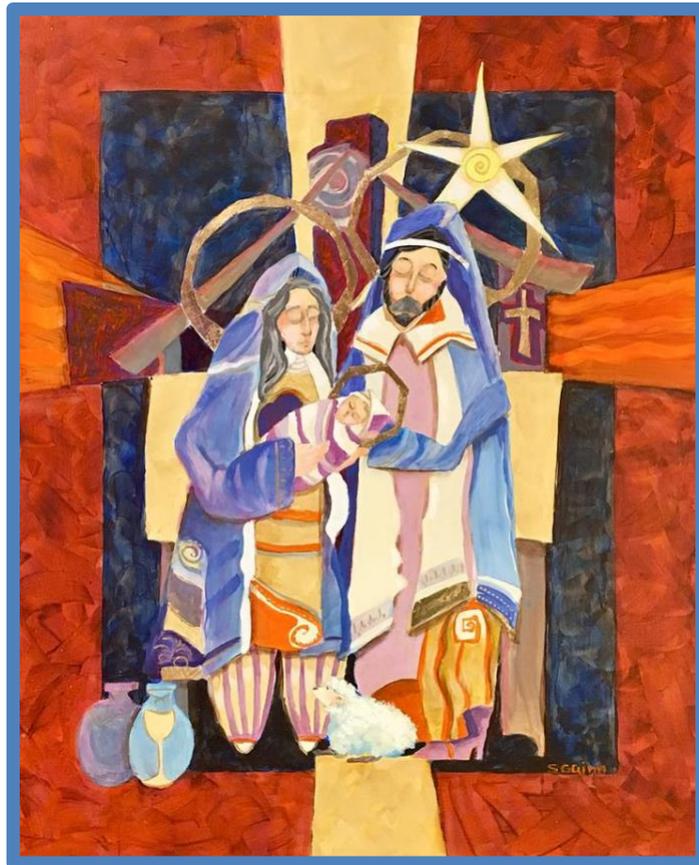


The Diocese of Los Angeles

The Parish of Saint Patrick
The Episcopal Church in Thousand Oaks



Nativity, Shane Guinn

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Holy Eucharist + December 24, 2020 + 7:00 pm

WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The days are short at this time of year. The nights are long. Many of us come from houses and yards draped in lights. Inside there may be a Christmas tree bringing a light of promise to our homes. Those same Christmas lights have led us out of the shadow of darkness to worship together this Christmas.

Here we shall hear of angels, of shepherds, and of Mary and Joseph wondering about the future of the baby Jesus. They may have seen the star overhead in the night sky. Others, wise men from the East, were on a journey following that light, probably not knowing what it meant. Many of us bring questions about God, about the meaning of life, along with our own empty places or struggles.

No one comes with all the answers.

It's just so much better that we come with a sense of wonder and expectation and hope as we sing Silent Night, Holy Night.

May the gift of this Christmas Eve find you hearing God's call to follow Jesus in the new year that will give us the rest of the story.

Many of us know that as we tell his story, we are finding the Christ in the story of our own lives.

Please come back. Come often.

May the gift of this Christmas not be something left under a tree, but the Spirit of Christ planted in all our hearts, and what brings us back to be the People of God.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Holy Eucharist + December 24, 2020 + 7:00 pm

*The Altar Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God
and in Honor of the Birth of Christ*

Hymn, O come, all ye faithful, *sung by all*

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

2. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

The Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Officiant ✠ The Word became flesh, and lived among us, alleluia;

People **And we beheld his glory, alleluia;**

Officiant Glory as of God's only Son, alleluia;

People **Full of grace and truth, alleluia.**

The Officiant prays the Collect for Purity

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.*

Hymn, Angels we have heard on high, *sung by all*

GLORIA

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

2. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Salutation and Collect of the Nativity of Our Lord

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O GOD, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The People are seated.

The First Reading

ISAIAH 52:7-10

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.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of meditative silence follows the Reading.

The Second Reading

LUKE 1:26-58

NOW IN THE SIXTH MONTH the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. After having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when Mary saw the angel, she was shocked, and considered what manner of greeting this was. So the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of God; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am not yet married?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will shine on you, and the power of God will come upon you; in that way, the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now take note, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

A period of meditative silence follows the Reading.

Sequence, Angels from the Realms of Glory, sung by all **REGENT SQUARE**

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

3. Sages, leave your contemplation;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

The Gospel

LUKE 2:1-20

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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.

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Homily

The Reverend George Daisa

A period of meditative silence follows the Sermon. All then stand.

The Nicene Creed, the ancient summary of the Christian faith, is recited by all in unison.

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.**

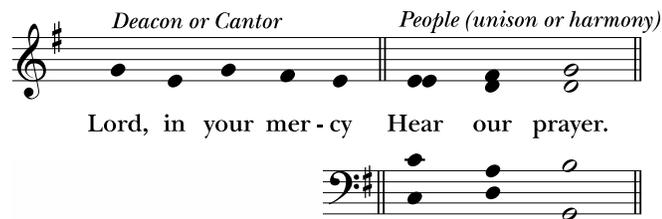
**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.



Intercessor Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.
Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Officiant prays this concluding Collect

O GOD, WHO WONDERFULLY CREATED, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

Musical Anthem

The Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation is presented in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise."

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 God thanks and praise.

IT IS RIGHT, AND A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus, sung by all



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

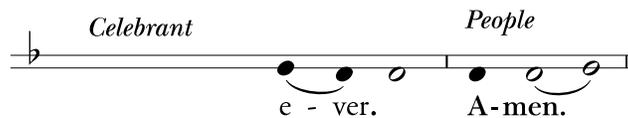
Celebrant and People

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified ✠ by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God, Blessed Patrick, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.



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

All then pray together

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 Host.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God: Holy Food, for Holy People.

Spiritual Communion

Celebrant In this time of social distancing, when we long for the physical Sacrament of Holy Communion but cannot - for safety - partake of it, it can be meaningful to pray for God's presence in our lives, express our desire for Communion, and name our hope of taking part in the physical Sacrament soon.

If you desire to receive Holy Communion, the Church invites you to pray with one another this prayer of Spiritual Communion.

People **In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the physical Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

After Communion, Silent night, holy night, *sung by all*

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 Christmas Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with the light of his holiness.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Dr. Eric Kinsley, *piano*
Ms. Susannah Ruth, *soprano*

Blessing for the Longest Night

All throughout these months
as the shadows
have lengthened,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
preparing for
this night.

It has practiced
walking in the dark,
traveling with
its eyes closed,
feeling its way
by memory
by touch
by the pull of the moon
even as it wanes.

So believe me
when I tell you
this blessing will
reach you
even if you
have not light enough
to read it;
it will find you
even though you cannot
see it coming.

You will know
the moment of its
arriving
by your release
of the breath
you have held
so long;

a loosening
of the clenching
in your hands,
of the clutch
around your heart;
a thinning
of the darkness
that had drawn itself
around you.

This blessing
does not mean
to take the night away
but it knows
its hidden roads,
knows the resting spots
along the path,
knows what it means
to travel
in the company
of a friend.

So when
this blessing comes,
take its hand.
Get up.
Set out on the road
you cannot see.

This is the night
when you can trust
that any direction
you go,
you will be walking
toward the dawn.



The Parish of Saint Patrick

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[The Reverend Steve Simpson, Associate for Family and Youth](#)
[Ms. Susannah Ruth, Parish Administrator / Choirmaster](#)
[Dr. Eric Kinsley, Music Director](#)

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