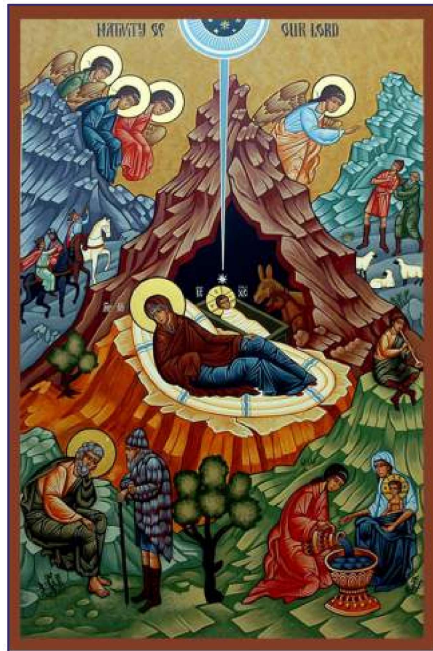


St. Clare's Episcopal Church



EVE OF THE NATIVITY

**DECEMBER 24, 2023
8:00 PM**

WELCOME

Welcome to St. Clare's! We are delighted that you are worshipping with us on this Holy night. We hope that you are greeted warmly by our community - whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here, and welcome to join us in Holy Communion.

If this is your first time visiting with us, we invite you to take a moment to fill out the Visitor's Card located in the pew, or the Visitor's Book in the Narthex, so that we may get to know you better. We hope that you will consider joining our community as we grow together in relationship with God and with one another.

If you have a pastoral concern or need, or would like more information about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to call the church office at 706-745-0607 to make an appointment. I am available to meet with you to see how we might better serve you.

Blessings,

Liz+
The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt
Rector

Invitation to Communion

We hope that you will accept our invitation to join us at the Table. All are welcome. The usher will signal when it is time for your pew to come forward. You may stand or kneel at the altar. There are several ways that you may participate with us. When the bread is offered, place one hand on top of the other and extend them forward to accept the bread. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice to your mouth with one hand. If you would like to receive the wine without drinking from the cup, hold the bread in the palm of your hand and the chalice bearer will dip the bread in the chalice (called intinction). If you prefer not to receive the wine, consume the bread and then cross your arms over your chest and the wine will pass by you. If you would like to participate, but not receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing.

Eve of the Nativity

Prelude Music

7:30 PM

Choir	<i>O Sweetest Lord Jesus</i>	J.S. Bach
Men's Choir	<i>God Rest You Merry</i>	R. Vaughn Williams
Choir	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	arr. by James E. Clemens
Choir	<i>Hush, My Dear, Lie Still</i>	Malcolm Archer
Choir	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	Malcolm Archer
Solo	<i>A Stable Lamp is Lighted</i> <i>Sandy Calloway, baritone</i>	David Hurt
Men's Choir	<i>Let Us Pray for Peace</i>	Thomas Keesecker
Choir	<i>A Shoot Shall Come Forth</i>	Richard Horn
Choir	<i>Lovely Child, Holy Child</i>	arr. by David N. Johnson
Choir	<i>A Carol</i>	Roland E. Martin
Choir	<i>On Christmas Night</i>	R. Vaughn Williams

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

THE WORD OF GOD

*We invite you to prepare for the service in quiet meditation and prayer.
Please silence all cell phones.*

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.*

A Song of Praise

Gloria in excelsis

Hymn S-280*

**S denotes "service" music, found in the front of the blue hymnal*

The Collect of the Day (Standing)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

The First Lesson: 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. 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. For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 96



- 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 | holi-
ness; *
let the whole earth tremble be- | fore 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 there- |
in.
- 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.

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymn 87

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-14-20

Celebrant: 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt

A period of silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Presider: Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.

Litanist: You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, especially those in Israel and Hamas, and Russia and Ukraine, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Embrace with your eternal protection all of our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable: especially refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence or illness, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray; give them courage and hope in their troubles now as we say their names responsively: Missie, Karen and Todd, Duke, Theresa, Herb and Judy, Ann, Nicole, Johnny, Benny, Jose, Tracy, Leo, Linda, Allison, Frank, Lamar, John, Peter, Jane, Audrey, Grady, Arlene, Bob, Peg, Keri, Carolyn, Bonnie, MaryAnn, Travis, Annie, Jane, Sally, Mary, Joy, Anne, McKinley, Katie, Edwina, Terri, Herb H., Al, Josh, Roz, Bob, Ann, Delores, Mary Lou, Pat, and Joan. We pray for those who travel, including Diana & Richard, and Lisa & Tom.

We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. Hear our grateful thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings in our lives, especially for those celebrating birthdays, including Josh Wallace, Mike Priven, and Candace Tschirki; and those celebrating anniversaries, including Katherine & Daniel Duello, and Mary & Daryl Golnitz

We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died, especially Ronald Swafford, Robert Reinheimer, and Jean Sambor .

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

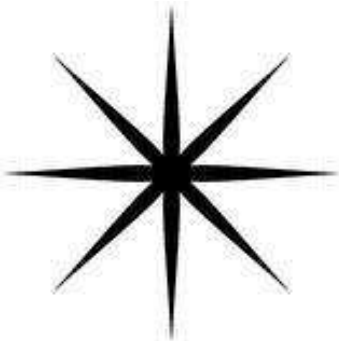
Celebrant: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Peace (Standing)

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

People: And also with you.

Please exchange the greeting of peace with your neighbors



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 blessed St. Clare 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 for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (*contemporary*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give 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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

All persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those not receiving may come to the communion rail to receive a blessing; please cross your arms over your chest. If you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer, please say "gluten-free" to the priest

Fraction Anthem

Hymn S-152*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Music

He Shall Feed His Flock and Come Unto Him

G. F. Handel

Missie Kirkland, soprano

Mary Ann Fox, piano

Post Communion Prayer (*said by all, standing*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Post Communion Hymn

Silent night

Hymn 111

(please kneel as you are able)

The Blessing

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 heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

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.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen

Processional Hymn

Joy to the world

Hymn 100

The Dismissal (*standing*)

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

Go Tell It on the Mountain Afro-American Spiritual

Christmas Tributes

Contributions to "Christmas Tributes" go to support the gardens that help provide the flowers for the altar, and to purchase flowers for feast days.

In Honor of

Our Children and Grandchildren from Butch & Alice Duryea
Josh Nelson from Elizabeth Nelson

In Memory of

Our Parents - Bruce & Elizabeth and Webb & Viola from Herb & Betty-Bruce Hoover
Our Mothers - Becky & Mickey from Bill & Pat Murray
Our Parents - Al, Lorton, Arie, and Willemijn from Liz & Kees Schellingerhoudt
Robert F. Cook and Rommey Smith from Fran & Sandy Smith
My Dad - Willis Swanson from Kitty Taylor





A Very Merry Christmas!

With Special Thanks to Our Guest Musicians

Chris Calloway

Craig Duke

Whitner Schellingerhoudt

Those Who Served Tonight

Verger - Eli Smith-Foot

Crucifer - Michael Smith-Foot

Lector 1 - Butch Duryea

Lector 2 - Missie Kirkland

Eucharistic Minister - Lynnae Boudreau

Ushers - Carlene & Tony Dockery

Altar Guild - Linda Boyett

Flower Guild - Entire Guild

VPOD - Michael Smith-Foot

Videographer-Kees Schellingerhoudt

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 31st, 10:30 AM, followed by Bon Voyage to the Duellos
*Katherine, Daniel, Camilla, and James Duello are heading to New Zealand in 2024.
Let's send them off with lots of love from St. Clare's! Join us in the Parish Hall after
Christmas Lessons and Carols for a chance to wish them well on their adventures, until
we see them again.*

Centering Prayer and Weekday Eucharist will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Feast of the Epiphany

10:30 AM, January 7th, 2024

Announcements

*The church office will be closed from December 25th through January 1st.
No Morning Prayer, Centering Prayer, Weekday Eucharist (Wednesday)
or Compline services will be held or streamed on Facebook during this time.*

Pledges for 2024 are still being received. Please place them in the offering plate or return them to the church office as soon as possible.

Gifts or 2023 pledge payments that you wish to record in the 2023 tax year must be placed in the Sunday offering plates or postmarked by December 31st.

*Join us on Saturday, January 6th,
for dinner and a bonfire.
5:00 PM Dinner
5:30 PM Burning of the Greens*

*We will celebrate the Feast of the
Epiphany on Sunday, January 7th.*





Weekly Services

Sundays, HE Rite II, 10:30 AM (In person and on Facebook)
Wednesdays, Centering Prayer, 11:30 AM (Assisi Chapel)
Wednesdays, HE Rite II, 12:15 PM (Assisi Chapel)
Morning Prayer is 8:00 AM M-F (Facebook)
Compline is 7:30 PM M-F (Facebook)
Choral Compline, First Sundays, 7:00 PM (In person and on Facebook)

2023 Vestry

Lynnae Boudreau, Senior Warden
Lisa McElfresh, Junior Warden
Lamar Barber, Treasurer
Jo Ellen Clow, Clerk
Sandy Calloway
Amy Cox
Katherine Duello
Lynne Joynes
Pat Murray
Herb Pilcher
Michael Smith-Foot

Clergy and Staff

Bishop of Diocese of Atlanta
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright
Rector—The Rev. Liz Schellingerhoudt, OA
Liz@StClaresEpiscopal.org
Parish Administrator—Kitty Taylor
Admin@StClaresEpiscopal.org
Treasurer—Lamar Barber
treasurer@stclaresepiscopal.org
Organist-Choirmaster—Karen Calloway
edwins@windstream.net
Sunday Sexton—Billy Clayton

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