



December  
25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Christmas  
Day  
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#253227

***The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
The Christ Mass  
December 25, 2023  
The Vail Interfaith Chapel***



*Hark the herald angels sing*

***Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!***

***Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!***

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

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*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

***Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

## **Old Testament**

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, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

- 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.***

**New Testament**

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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*It came upon the midnight clear*

- 1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay***
- 4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.***

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*Deacon*     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.

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

*All stand.*

***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.***

### **A Collect for Forgiveness**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. ***Amen.***

### **Peace**

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

### **Holy Communion**

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*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* ***And also 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 him 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, as we say together,

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. *AMEN.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

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

**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 says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized persons are welcome and encouraged to receive both the bread and the wine of the Eucharist. Those not baptized or prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward and cross their arms to receive a blessing. Those desiring a gluten-free wafer may request one from the priest when they come forward to receive communion.*

*O come all ye faithful*

*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, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten  
Son of God the Father;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*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, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Let us pray.

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*Celebrant and People*

***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.***

**A Christmas Blessing**

## *Joy to the World*

***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.***

***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.***

***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**

*Deacon* Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to proclaim the birth of the Savior of the world.

*People* ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

*Thank you for joining us tonight! Please watch your step outside!*



## POINSETTIAS 2023

### **In Honor / Memory of :**

*Thank you offering*

*Herman and Mauriello Family*

*In honor of Reverend Rosemary Siebert, In memory of William Cuny*

*The Reichert, Hanley, Yonkey & Milanak families*

*Sherry & Tim Houston*

*In honor of our parents & Jordi's brother Kevin & Owen's sister Bette*

*Peggy & Bill Verity Clifton and Lydia Power*

*Our beloved families*

*June & Jack Hedrich & family, Bea & Tom Mertens & family*

*In remembrance of Lorraine Haaland, Inga & Norman Olson, John & Helen Aldonas*

*John Mitchell, Pearl Mitchell*

*In memory of Dora Jane & Lee Friesen and Hilda & John Puckett.*

*In honor of Cathey & Lee Friesen and Jill & David Hunt*

*In loving memory of Brandon Murphy, a family memorial*

*In loving memory of David Denissen*

### **From :**

*Tim & Nancy Cook*

*Brenda Herman*

*Anne Cuny*

*John & Terri Reichert*

*Mary Houston*

*Jordi & Owen Blakslee*

*Happy & JP Power*

*Dick & Suzanne Gilbert*

*Dave & Jill Mertens*

*Pam Olson & Grant Aldonas*

*Susan Mitchell Bryan*

*Rebecca Hunt*

*Greg & Melissa Murphy*

*Mindy & Kelby Denissen*



### ***Thank you to our Christmas musicians!***

Edwards Chapel 1:30 PM: pianist, Kim Denning & music leader Matt Lewis

Beaver Creek Chapel 4:30 PM: pianist Kim Denning & music leader Matt Lewis

Vail Chapel 8:30 PM: organist Jan Govreau, pianist Kim Denning & music leader Matt Lewis

Beaver Creek Chapel 10:30 PM: pianist Kim Denning, music leader Mercedes Dauphinais & Lance Shober

Christmas Day Vail Chapel 10AM: organist Jan Govreau & music leader Mercedes Dauphinais

### ***Announcements:***

- ❖ *Transfiguration is partnering with our local Your Hope Center to support our congregants' and community members' mental and emotional health. Please call 970.306.4673 anytime to speak with a trained clinician. For pastoral emergencies this week please contact Father Brooks at 970.376.1647 or Fr. Mike at 512.962.5068.*
- ❖ *Parish office closed December 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 2<sup>nd</sup>*
- ❖ *All bible studies are on hiatus, resuming on January 10<sup>th</sup>*
- ❖ *Please join us for our festive 12th Night Epiphany celebration beginning at 5:30 PM on Saturday, January 6th at the Edwards Interfaith Chapel. We'll serve the tea, coffee and hot chocolate and ask you to bring your favorite holiday dessert and beverage to share.*
- ❖ *2023 Parish financial books close on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>; all contributions for 2023 must be received by that date. Thank you for helping our church end the year financially strong!*