



*O COME, LET US  
ADORE HIM*



*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*  
**Sherwood Episcopal Church**

**December 24, 2020 at 5 pm**

## Welcome!

We are glad that you have chosen to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with Sherwood Episcopal Church. Take time to be in the moment on this special evening, open your heart to the scripture, prayers, and hymns that will be said and sung tonight. Celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, knowing that the light of Christ is within you as you go out into a world that needs it so desperately.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mother Nancy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

### *A Christmas Prayer*

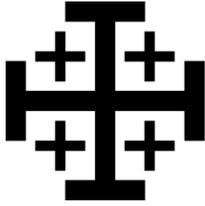
Giver of all that is good, we thank you today for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was born into poverty in a hard and cruel time, who gave himself for us, and lives with you in glory.

We thank you for all your friends and prophets, who have gone before us, and those who taught us to celebrate this feast of the Nativity with beloved Scripture, and beloved carols and loud rejoicing; help us to teach those who come after us that Christmas is a holy time, a time to seek reconciliation and peace.

Bless us, Lord, as we seek Christ in the lowly managers of this world, bless us, as we seek to honor the mystery of the Incarnation in our midst, remembering always that you made us, and all humanity, in your divine image.

Help us to gladly welcome today, and all days, Your Wisdom, Your Power, Your Emmanuel, your Prince of Peace.

*God With Us, pg. 128*



# Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road

Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-666-2180

sherwoodcockeysville.org

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
5 PM

December 24, 2020  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude

*Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (Op. 122, No. 8) - Johannes Brahms  
*What sweeter music can we bring* - Ralph Vaughan Williams,  
arr. Mark Schweizer  
*Oh, sleep now, holy baby (A la ru)* - Hispanic folk song

Welcome

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

PROCESSIONAL HYMN - 83 (verses 1-3)

*Oh come, all ye faithful*

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;

Refrain:

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

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only begotten Son of the Father; (Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; (Refrain)

THE OPENING SENTENCES

BCP pg. 355

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

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

GLORIA - 96 (verses 1 & 3)

*Angels we have heard on high*

1 Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

3 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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 FIRST READING

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 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.  
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

*Said in unison*

- 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.

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;  
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

**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.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HYMN - 101 (verse 2)

*Away in a manger*

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

*Following the sermon, let us pause for a period of silent reflection on God's holy word.*

HYMN - 101 (verse 3)

*Away in a manger*

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care;  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP pg. 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 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 – *Form IV*

BCP pg. 388

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the blessings of this life; especially for those celebrating birthdays as well as anniversaries.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant concludes*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another virtually with a sign of God's peace.*

## THE OFFERTORY

*We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference. You may now contribute online via our website. Go here to check it out.*

*([sherwoodcokeysville.org/give](http://sherwoodcokeysville.org/give)) Or if you would prefer, mail in your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cocksவில், 21030. We are checking the mail regularly and depositing any checks.*

*Thank you!*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN - 115

*What child is this*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary. (Refrain)

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A - BCP pg. 361

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:*

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - S130 *setting by Franz Peter Schubert (Deutsche Messe)*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.*

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer and at the conclusion says*

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 LORD'S PRAYER

*The Celebrant says*

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*Celebrant*

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.

For those who have consecrated wafers please distribute communion saying:

**The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI - *Jesus, Lamb of God, S164 setting by Franz Schubert (Deutsche Messe)*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

#### A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988) Celebrant:*

Let us say together the prayer for spiritual communion.

BCP pg. 364

**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. And since we cannot receive you today in the**

**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.**

*The celebrant pronounces a blessing over the people, and the people respond, **Amen.***

#### THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### HYMN - 111

*Silent night, holy night*

*You are invited at this time to light the candles that were included in the Christmas bag you received from Mother Nancy ... or light any candle in your home to allow the Light of Christ to warm you and bring you peace. On the third verse, raise your candle high above your head. Please extinguish your flame at the conclusion of the hymn.*

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.

## **Worship Participants from Studio Sherwood**

Officiant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director & Organist: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Choir: Carrie & Kaitlyn Fowler

Lectors: Carrie Fowler, Greg Szymaszek

Broadcast Engineer: Taylor Brooks

Assistant Engineer: Anne Wismer

*Thank you for joining us for our virtual worship this evening. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and also remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please contact Carey Mednick at [sherwoodparish@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodparish@gmail.com).*

*Please remember those on our parish prayer list:*

Sally, Debbie, Shannon, Jeff & Kim, Norma, Sharon, Margaret, Ed, Laura, Joyce, Christine, Mike and his family, Kendall, Jean, Marge, Sarah, Joe, Gail, Steve W., Pam, Michelle, Joe G., Jay, Stan, Rick; David C., Ella Mae, Steve & Debbie, Jeanetta, Christina, Khalil, Charles, Samantha, Courtney, Bud, Steve S., Debbie H., Patti and the Banister family, Danny, Allison, the Daniels family, and Linda and her family.



**Altar Flowers for Christmas 2020 are given to the Glory of God and ...**

In memory of those lost to COVID-19 and in thanksgiving for those  
on the front lines of the pandemic.

*In memory of:*  
Our parents

**By Susan and Larry Boucher**

*In memory of:*  
Art and Joyce Christ  
JR Christ  
Erna and George Gohlinghorst

**By Marge Gohlinghorst**

*In memory of:*  
Frederick B. Hennessey  
Vicki D. Hennessey

*In thanksgiving for:*  
Our Sherwood Family  
Our children Lauren, Megan, and Teddy  
My parents Herb and Sue Hoffman

**By The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey and Kevin Hennessey**

*In memory of:*  
All departed friends and family members, especially those  
who passed away in 2020: Eddie, Harry, and Brett

*In thanksgiving for:*  
the love and support of my family, friends, and dogs  
during this most challenging year

**By Joyce Mann**

*In memory of:*  
John & Louise Merryman  
John Merryman III  
Eleanor M. Kemp

**By Suzanne Merryman**

*In memory of:*  
Noah Offut

**By Cecil Offut**

*In memory of:*  
Robert & Louise Rouleau

**By Robin Rouleau**

*In memory of:*  
Shirley F. Spinks  
Kimberly A. Spinks  
Dorothy Spinks  
Alvin & Ruth Ward  
Thomas & Jean Rattican  
Charles & Virginia Spinks

*In thanksgiving for:*  
Stephanie Everts  
Debbie Geiman  
Harold Hover  
John Johnson  
Norma Mochinal  
Joyce Truxel

**By Charles Spinks**

*In memory of:*  
Bryce & Elise Thompson  
Kathleen C. Scott

**By Sandy Thompson**

*In memory of:*  
Clifton, Madeline, Douglas & Byron Potter

**By Anne & Ralph Wismer**

