



*O COME, LET US  
ADORE HIM*



*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*  
**Sherwood Episcopal Church**  
December 24, 2021 at 5 pm

## *Welcome, A Christmas Prayer for You*

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.

*from God With Us, pg. 128*

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mother Nancy".

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

*In an effort to keep everyone safe, please wear your mask properly and remain distanced as you are able.*

# THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Christmas Organ Chorales

Welcome & Announcements

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey  
Rector

*Please stand as you are able.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN - 83

*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.

THE OPENING SENTENCES

BCP pg. 355

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

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

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**

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

Refrain:

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 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.**

*Please be seated.*

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 responsively by whole verse*

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.

## THE EPISTLE

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL AFFIRMATION



### 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.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

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

THE NICENE CREED

BCP pg. 358

*Said by all, standing as you are able.*

**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 III, BCP p. 387

Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy.

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud. A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayer:*

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 will greet one another with a sign of God's peace. Don't forget to show the sign of peace to our friends who are worshipping with us virtually.*

**Please be seated.**

*We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference. Give online ([sherwoodcockeyville.org/give](http://sherwoodcockeyville.org/give)) or if you would prefer, mail your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cockeyville, 21030. Thank you!*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*All persons, including children, are invited to receive the real and living presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Communion. Come forward to the chancel step at the invitation of the ushers. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. If you would prefer a blessing in lieu of Communion, please cross your arms on your chest.*

## THE OFFERTORY

*The people are seated while an offering is collected to support God's mission here at Sherwood Church and in the world.*

OFFERTORY

*In the bleak mid-winter arr. Mack Wilberg*

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own we have given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B – BCP pg. 367

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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS – S130

*Holy, holy, holy*

Setting by Franz Peter Schubert

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People and Celebrant*

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

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

BCP pg. 364

*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.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God* - Arranged by Andrew Adair

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

*For those who are not able to be present for communion, please pray the  
Spiritual Communion Prayer while communion is distributed.*

Music - Christmas Organ Chorales

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

*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.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg. 365

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN - 111**

*Silent night, holy night*

*The Light of Christ will be passed from the Altar candle to the congregation.  
When everyone's candle has been lit, we will sing the first verse of Silent  
Night. Please raise your candle high above your head as you sing and  
extinguish your flame at the conclusion of the verse.*

**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.**

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN - 87

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic hosts proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born king!"

THE DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

**God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all, impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions.**

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

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

Postlude



## Lay Participants

Lectors: Carrie Fowler, Jack Turnbull, Bronwyn Mitchell-Strong

Acolyte & Crucifer: Mason Strong

Torch Bearers: Dylan Barrett, Dylan Strong

Ushers: Kevin Hennessey, Sandy Thompson, Anne & Ralph Wismer

Broadcast Engineer: Stephanie Everts

## Lay Participants for Sunday, December 26: Lessons & Carols

Lectors: Loretta Cunninghame, Carrie Fowler, Karen Mercer,

Anne Wismer

Acolyte: Karen Mercer

Usher: Sandy Thompson

Broadcast Engineer: Anne Wismer

*A very special welcome to visitors and newcomers! Thank you for joining us for worship. If you are seeking a church home and are interested in learning more about Sherwood Church or if you would like to receive weekly emails and announcements from our parish, please contact Carey Mednick at [sherwoodparish@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodparish@gmail.com). Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel.*

***Please remember those on our current prayer list ... Virginia, Timothy, Margaret S. & family, Louis, Shannon T., Marisa, Bill P., Casey, Betsey, Kiernan & Colleen, Lou D., Wayne L., Nancy C., Sheila, Hoa, Diane B., Kaylay, Lorraine, Kathy, Butch, Paige, John M., Kyle, Irene, the Williams family, Melissa, and those impacted by COVID-19.***

***As well as those with ongoing needs ... Sally, Debbie, Shannon, Norma, Joyce, Christine, Kendall, Marge, Sarah, Gail, Steve W., Michelle, Joe G., Jeanetta, Christina, Khalil, Danny, Joe C., Marisa, Bill P., Dante, David D., Sandy & Jack, Alice, Debbie R., and Marian.***

*The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's although we will be checking e-mails and voicemails and will respond accordingly. Mother Nancy is available by cell phone @ 301-606-8447.*



### **Christmas Service Schedule 2021**

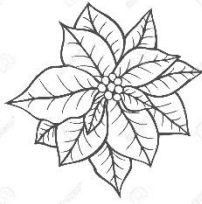
*We invite you to come celebrate with us!*

#### **Christmas Day Service @ 9 am--On Facebook Live**

Join Mother Nancy for Morning Prayer from her home  
on Christmas morning

#### **First Sunday after Christmas @ 10 am**

*Christmas Lessons and Carols in person and on Facebook Live*  
The celebration continues with readings and carols sung  
by everyone to enjoy



## Altar Flower Dedications – Christmas 2021

*In thanksgiving for:*

Sherwood's sacred space

**By the Army Corps of  
Engineers**

*In memory of:*

Our parents

*In thanksgiving for:*

Our Sherwood family

**By Larry & Susan Boucher**

*In memory of:*

Henry G. Cunninghame

Richard & Margaret Davis

Jack & Donald Davis

**By Loretta Cunninghame**

*In honor of:*

Deric Ford Davis

Maxine Burke Price

**By Greg Davis**

*In memory of:*

Beloved lost family

*In thanksgiving for:*

My children and grandchildren

**By Bernice Denbow**

*In memory of:*

Jacqueline Fudge

**By Davie & Carrie Fowler**

*In memory of:*

Fred & Vickie Hennessey

*In thanksgiving for:*

Our children, Lauren, Megan,  
and Teddy

Our Sherwood family

Greg, Carey, and Karen

**By Kevin & the Rev. Nancy  
Hennessey**

*In memory of:*  
Our departed family members,  
friends, and beloved pets  
**By the Mann Family**

*In memory of:*  
John and Louise Merryman  
John Merryman III  
Eleanor Merryman Kemp  
**By Suzie Merryman**

*In thanksgiving for:*  
Family and friends  
**By Charlotte Parker**

*In memory of:*  
Robert & Louise Rouleau  
**By Robin Rouleau**

*In memory of:*  
Dorothy Spinks  
Kimberly Spinks  
Shirley Spinks  
Thomas & Jean Rattien  
Alvin & Ruth Ward

*In thanksgiving for:*  
Mary & Stephanie Everts  
John Johnson  
Patty Martin  
Ricky Spinks  
Joyce Truxel  
**By Charles Spinks**

*In memory of:*  
Clifton, Madeline, Douglas, and  
Byron Potter  
**By Ralph & Anne Wismer**

**Sherwood Episcopal Church**  
Five Sherwood Road  
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030  
410-666-2180/sherwoodparish@gmail.com  
sherwoodcockeysville.org