



Sherwood Episcopal Church

Five Sherwood Road
Cockeysville-Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-666-2180

sherwoodcockeysville.org

December 26, 2021/10 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Watch live on our Facebook page and our website at 10 am, and on our YouTube channel after the service.

*For everyone's health and safety, please wear your mask properly
and remain as distanced as possible.*



Prelude

Christmas Organ Chorales

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

PROCESSIONAL 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 BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this town.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The Congregation sits for the lessons and stands for the hymns.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

CAROL - 89

It came upon the midnight clear

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
to hear the angels sing.

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

CAROL

He shall feed his flock (*Messiah*) - G.F. Handel
Cassidy Dixon, soloist

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall
sing.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs
with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are
with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labor, come unto him that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

CAROL - 115

What child is this

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?

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

CAROL - 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

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.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

CAROL – 83

Oh 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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

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 altar rail 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.

COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

Please stand as you are able.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**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.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant offers an invitation to Holy Communion. The people are seated.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg. 366

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN - 100

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.

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

Worship Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director: Greg Seseck

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lectors: Loretta Cunninghame, Carrie Fowler, Seminarian Karen Mercer,
Anne Wismer

Acolyte: Seminarian Karen Mercer

Usher: Sandy Thompson

Broadcast Engineer: Anne Wismer

Lay Participants for Sunday, January 2

Lector: Seminarian Karen Mercer

Acolyte: Anne Wismer

Usher: Sandy Thompson

Broadcast Engineer: Robin R.

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. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and also 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, 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.

Thank you!

After the December 19 service, several Sherwood parishioners stayed to help stuff hundreds of bags for Cockeysville Middle School. The 6th grade was rewarded for their great behavior during a difficult school year with a Christmas movie and chips, juice boxes, and candy canes provided by Sherwood. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated!

Office This Week:

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.

Important Update on Sunday, January 9:

Great things are happening at Sherwood! Join us in person after the service for a progress report on our stormwater management project. We are well on our way to protecting God's creation!

Youth Bible Study Rescheduled:

We will resume our youth bible study on Sunday, January 2. See you then!

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Sunday Worship at 10 am

Services are recorded and/or photographed

Parish Office Hours:

Closed Monday; Wednesday 10 am-3 pm or by appointment

Parish Staff:

Rector: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey - sherwoodrector@gmail.com

Music Director and Organist: Greg Sesek - gregsesek@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Carey Mednick - sherwoodparish@gmail.com

The Vestry of Sherwood Church:

Senior Warden: Bernice Arnold - arnoldfam805@hotmail.com

Junior Warden: Ralph Wismer - ralphwismer@outlook.com

Assistant to the Junior Warden: Anne Wismer - annewismer18@outlook.com

Treasurer: Charles Roebuck - charles@hgroebuck.com

Assistant to the Treasurer: Robin Rouleau - robin.rouleau@gmail.com

Registrar: Joyce Mann - joymann3@hotmail.com

Members: Laure Covert, Carolyn Fowler

Ministry Contacts:

Altar Guild and Worship Team: Anne Wismer - annewismer18@outlook.com

Altar Guild: Sandy Thompson - agthompson1@verizon.net

Cemetery Perpetual Care: Jack Turnbull - jbul547@gmail.com

Healing Ministry: Jane Turnbull - turnbull26@gmail.com

Hospitality: Karyn Galetto - galettobk@verizon.net

Outreach: Joyce Mann - joymann3@hotmail.com