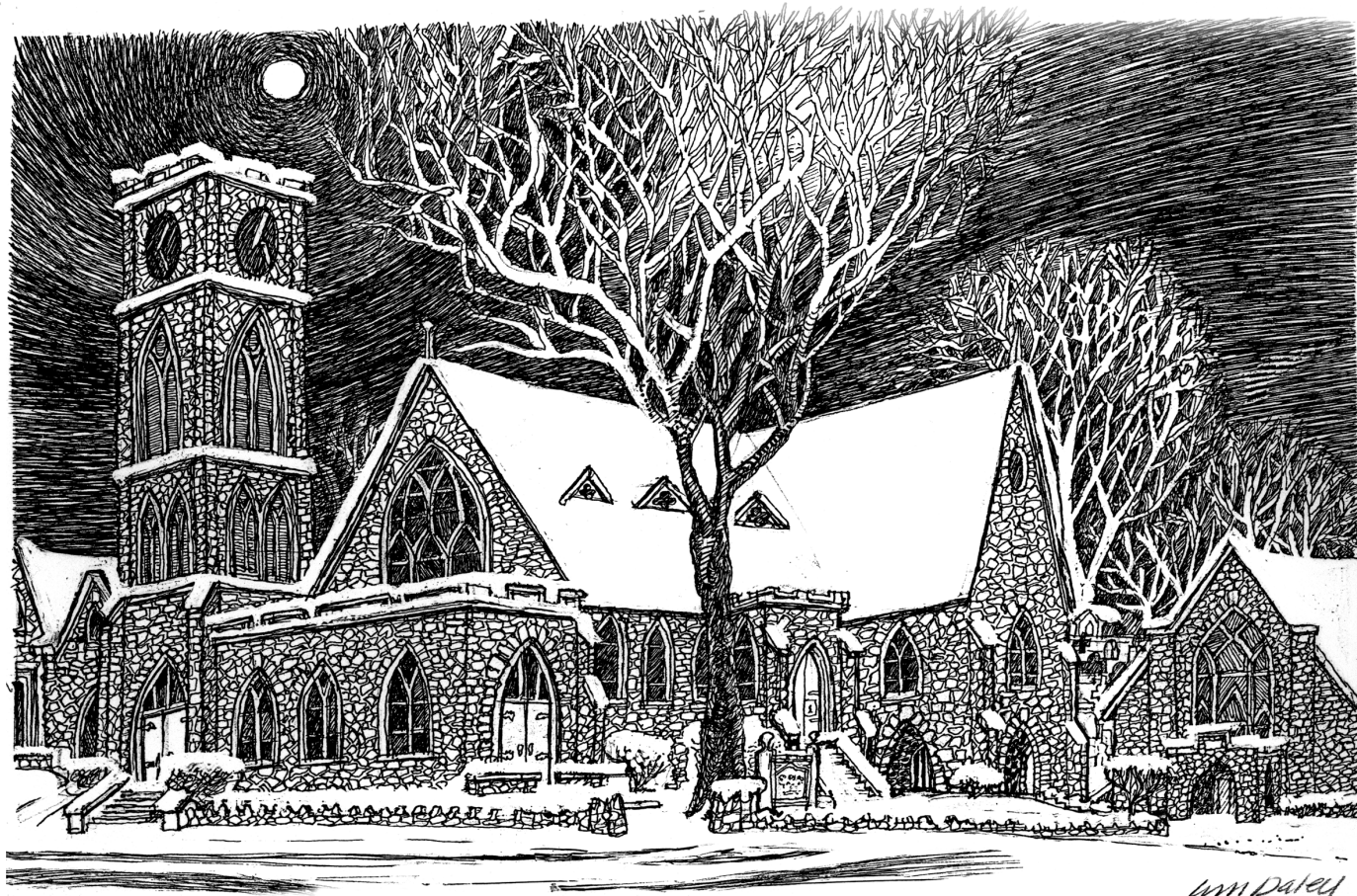


ST PAUL'S ELKINS PARK

An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church



Unto Us A Child Is Born

Christmas

In the year of our Lord 2020

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate

7809 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 215.635.4185

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Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park!

*We are on a mission to know Christ;
to make Christ known in our community;
and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.*

Join us in Online Worship!
Sunday 10:00 AM Family Communion
with music of many cultures.

Tuesday 10:00 AM Spoken Morning Prayer

Go to www.stpaulselkinspark.org for Online Links

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a multi-cultural community of faith
with members from all over the world.*

*We welcome all at the Holy Table in our church,
without exception, wherever you are in your spiritual journey.*

Cover: *Drawing by William Daley.*

Christmas Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director

Readers

Keita Kary
Will Pillsbury
Ruth Kwarteng
Erica Moten

Ministers of Music

David Antony Lofton, piano and keyboard
Tessika McClendon, soprano
Pascale Spinney, mezzo-soprano
Matthew White, tenor
Shango-Jamal Lewis, bass-baritone
Vivian Barton, violin
Gregory Teperman, cello
Karen Whitney, organ

The Ministry of the Word

Prelude: *Carol Prelude on Greensleeves* by Searle Wright

Opening Hymn *O come all ye faithful* **Blue Hymnal #83**
vs. 1,3,6

Opening Sentence
Blessed be the Lord Our God.
People **For ever and ever. Alleluia.**

Hymn of Praise and Glory
Angels we have heard on high **Blue Hymnal #96 vs. 1**

The Collect of the Day
The Presider says The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born in poverty of a young woman: 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 for ever. Amen.

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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."

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he
comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Traditional

The Gospel (*Read this Christmas in Spanish*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke 2:1-20

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid

Our Affirmation of Trust in all that is Holy

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

 You create our world and give us life.

 Your purpose overarches everything we do.

 You have always been with us.

 You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
 good beyond all measure.

 You came to us before we came to you.

 You have revealed and proved
 your love for us in Jesus Christ,
 who lived and died and rose again.

 You are with us now.

 You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

 You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

 You reconcile and heal; you overcame death.

 You are God. We worship you.

Taken from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer

The Prayers of the People

The Reader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

(Silence)

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For Congress and the President, for peace among the nations, for all those in uniform now serving in harm's way, and for those who suffer for the sake of conscience.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Give us hope in this time of uncertainty. Strengthen those who are afraid and give us courage in the face of violence and hate. Open our hearts and the hearts of our enemies to your ways of peace; break down the walls that divide us

Make us instruments of reconciliation and show forth your love.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Daniel, our Bishop; for Paul, our Rector, for Simpson, our Priest Associate, for David our Music Director, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all people everywhere;

For all who serve in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation,

(The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(The People may add their own thanksgivings either silently or aloud)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(The People may add their own petitions for those who have died,
silently or aloud.)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Anthem *A Stable Lamp is Lighted*

From a poem by Richard Wilbur - Music by David Hurd

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 our thanks and praise.*

Celebrant

Almighty God, you shape your own life to sustain
and restore, and to enjoy humanity, whom you
have made.

We gather at your table like those who came to your Son's manger,
longing for you to bring together men and women, kings and working
people, Jews and Gentiles, heaven and earth - here at the manger, the
place where our humanity and your divinity have met and kissed one
another.

You had too much love to keep it to yourself; and though we warred
against you and one another, you overcame us by coming into our
midst as a helpless little baby.

As the Babe's arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross; yet you made his birth the foretaste of our redemption and abundant life of compassion and service to others, and made his death the gateway to an eternally resurrected life.

You give us such joy and peace in your company that, our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky, and around your eternal throne, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Celebrant and People **The Blue Hymnal #S130**

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands. .

Sanctify your whole church to be as fragile and tender and true as the infant Savior.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that this bread of wheat gathered from the fields and this cup of grapes gathered from the vineyards may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in 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

God who honors the humble and humbles the exalted, as you drew the
Wise Men to this place led by the star, call us to yourself, and make
your whole creation what it was meant to be from the very
beginning of time.

Lift your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your glory,
once made flesh in a humble family, now exalted and reigning with
justice and mercy.

In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your
presence, and prepare us for your freedom, after the example of your
Son, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

And now, let us join hands with our neighbor, and in the language of our own
birth, say together the words that our savior taught us,

The Lord's Prayer

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,
for ever and ever.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Blue Hymnal #S164

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

The Blue Hymnal #111

Post communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

Celebrant

May the peace of Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing
once again through these church doors.
And may the blessing of God almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
Be with you, and with all those you love,
This day and forever more.
People: *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Blue Hymnal #100

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world,
 rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Postlude – *Chorale prelude on "In Dulci Jubilo"* by J.S. Bach