

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

1305 Thomas Dr, Bellevue, NE 68005



December 24, 2020

7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

WELCOME EVERYONE

If you are our guest today, or are a member who has been away for a while, we are glad you joined us for worship today. Please let us know you joined us online by leaving a comment or emailing us so that we can say thank you.

God Bless
Fr Tom

CHS Office (402)291-7732
Office Email: holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org
Fr Tom's Email: Frtom@chsepiscopal.org
Website: <http://chsepiscopal.org>

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Opening Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 102 v 1, 2, 4, 6

Welcome

Peace

Announcements

Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Leader: Tonight is Christmas Eve, the night on which we celebrate the gift given to us in the birth of Jesus and recall the hope we have in Christ. Tonight we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle - We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle - We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle - We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle - We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

Last Candle - Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which we celebrate this Christmas Eve. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Light the white Christ candle now.)

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. We look forward to that day when you will come again and we will behold you face to face with all the company of heaven'.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

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

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

Celebrant and people

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.

Gloria

Canticle 20

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us:
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect of the Day *[Please kneel or stand]*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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 Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 96

- 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 people 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant: 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!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message

Fr Tom Jones

Celebrant: Let us stand as we affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed *[Please 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.**

Prayers of the People *[Please kneel or be seated]*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

A moment of Silence

In the Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for the _____; in the Diocesan Cycle of prayer, pray for _____ in the DR for the _____. In the parish cycle of prayer, for the _____ and for all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit in and around our community due to the pandemic. For all people in their daily life and work;

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

For those in positions of authority, including our President, Donald Trump, our governor, Pete Ricketts, the elected and appointed officials in our community, the nation, and the world;

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.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Scott, our own Bishop; for Tom, our Priest and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

We pray that you stay with and strengthen all those who are ill; _____; Are there others?

For those who serve our country at home and abroad; especially those who are deployed _____: are there others? We pray that you will stay with them and their families Lord, giving them comfort and hope until they are once again reunited in peace.

For those in our community who travel, that you watch over them and keep them safe, especially: _____; are there others?

For all those with special concerns, especially; _____; are there others?

Hear us Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you Lord, for all the blessings of this life; and we pray that you continue to pour out your blessings on those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially; _____; are there others? We pray also for those who are celebrating anniversaries this week, especially, _____; are there others?

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, [especially for _____] are there others? that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant continues:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

Almighty God, whose will it is to hold heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom, give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. **Amen**

Offertory Music

Gracious Spirit

H87

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore us forever. We gather around your altar like those who thronged your Son's manger, longing for you to reassemble men and women, kings and working people, Jews and Gentiles, heaven and earth at the place where our humanity and your divinity meet. You had too much love to keep it to yourself; and though we took up arms against you and one another, you disarmed us in coming into our midst as a defenseless baby. As his 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 his death the gateway to resurrection 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.

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.

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 church to be 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, 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.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God of justice, send your Spirit upon your people in their wilderness. Bring good news to the oppressed and all who live with the chains of debt. Bind up the brokenhearted and any who languish in the slavery of another's scheming or the exile of their own folly. Proclaim liberty to the captives and those who live under the shadow of fear at home, at work, or in their neighborhood. Announce release to the prisoners and to all who are incarcerated by their own body or the travails of their own mind. Usher in the year of your favor and deliver your people from sin and guilt and addiction and shame. Provide for those who mourn that they may have a garland instead of ashes, and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Show us your face, everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

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.

Communion Hymn

What Child is This

H115

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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 Blessing

The Dismissal

Going forth Hymn

Silent Night

H 111



Birthday/Anniversary Prayers

Birthday Prayer: O God, our times are in your hands: Look with favor, we pray, on *this* your servant, as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness, all the days of *their* life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer: O gracious and ever living God, look mercifully on these who have been joined together. Grant them your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Birthdays:

Jacob Stewart

Catherine Westman

Anniversaries:



WEEKLY MINISTRY TEAMS

Ministries	Dec 24	Dec 25	Dec 27
VPOD	Michele H		Blythe B
Hospitality Team			Team 1
Altar Guild	Team 5	Team 5	Team 4
Recycle Team	Karen G	Karen G	Karen G
LEMs	Terri	Michele H	Lori
Sunday 9:30 AM			
Acolytes	Kyper & Ailynn M	Isaiah H	Bob R

This Week's Highlights

Christmas Communion: For those who will be watching our holiday services online, if you would like to stop by the church before services, to pick up the blessed sacrament so that you may receive communion at the usual point in our worship, Fr. Tom will be at the red doors between 6:00 – 6:30pm on Christmas Eve, and between 8:30 – 9:00am Christmas morning. Please, don your mask before rolling down your window.

Christmas Eve and Morning Service Bulletins: To print out a complete copy of our Christmas worship service bulletins, please visit our parish website [home page](#) and click on the links provided.

Office Closures: The office will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The following week, the office will be closed Monday the 28th, Thursday the 31st, and Friday, Jan 1st.

Holiday Pictures: For the January Flame, we would love to publish pictures of your Christmas decorations and/or any family pictures from Christmas this year you are willing to share. This could be a fun way to come together even in those times when we can't. Please email your pictures to holyspirit@chsepiscope.org by Tuesday, 29 Dec.

Ministry Team Leaders: Please begin submitting 2020 ministry reports for inclusion in the parish Annual Report. We know there may not be much to report about, other than the covid, but we ask all team leaders to submit their reports to the office by Sunday (17 Jan).

This Weekend's worship: As the covid wave continues, we are still unable to hold indoor public worship. **This Sunday's 9:30 am service will be online only.** All other regularly scheduled indoor public worship has been suspended through the middle of January. Online worship throughout the week includes Morning Prayer Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 9:30am, Compline/Evening Prayer Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8:00 pm.

Drive-thru communion: We will once again offer drive through communion following Sunday's worship. Fr. Tom will be at the red doors between 11:00 and 11:30 am, if you attended worship online, you are invited to stop by the church to receive communion.

Presence Candles: Just a reminder, it is not too late to make a donation in thanksgiving, or remembrance, towards next year's presence candles. Your donation of \$20 keeps a presence candle burning in either the chapel or sanctuary for the month you request. To reserve your month, please call the office and speak with Jean.

2021 Pledge Cards: If you have not yet made your pledge for next year, please complete our online pledge card by [clicking here](#) to help us meet the fiscal obligations of our shared mission and ministry.