

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

The hymnals used for our worship service are indicated by their name, and the specific hymn by its associated number. The blue hymnal book located in your pew book rack is the "1982 Hymnal," and the green hymnal book found in your pew seating area is the "Gather Hymnal."

COVID-19 Guidelines

Please follow instructions from the service ushers. The use of face mask coverings is now required for all people while indoors of the church building, whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Face masks are not required while outdoors. Please maintain appropriate social distancing in the pews by observing the seating guidelines. Singing during the service is permitted with face coverings in place.

Please note: we are no longer requiring people to check-in and provide name and contact information for contact tracing purposes. In the event it becomes necessary to provide notification of a COVID-19 related matter, the church office will send email notification to the entire St. Francis community. If you are not on our email distribution list and you desire to be notified, please provide your contact information to the church office or one of the ushers. Thank you.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

OPENING HYMN:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Hymnal 100

THE WORD OF GOD

ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 IN EXCELSIS: (spoken)

BCP 356

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147: 13-21

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your
gates; he has blessed your children within
you.

15 He has established peace on your borders;
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth,
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind, and the waters
flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes
and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation;
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE MUSIC:

It came upon the midnight clear

Hymnal 89

GOSPEL: *John 1:1-18*

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to

all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON:

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – FORM II

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for Doug, our Bishop, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the community of St. Francis; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant:

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.**

THE PEACE

BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 a.m.)

*All things come of thee, O Lord. **And of Thine own have we given thee.***

OFFERTORY HYMN (10:00 a.m.)

God rest you merry gentlemen

Hymnal 105

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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 God thanks and praise.**

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 364

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. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- Everyone is invited to come forward for the ministration of Communion. Please leave masks in place and come forward to receive the Communion wafer by extending your hands to accept the wafer from the clergy. Please take the wafer and consume it by momentarily removing your mask from your mouth and then replace your mask to its original position.
- For those wishing to come forward to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms in front of your chest.
- As you come forward, please maintain a single file line.
- For those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time, you may express your desire of communion with God by saying the Prayer of Spiritual Communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*optional – for those not receiving the Holy Communion wafer.*)

Gracious Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the sacred mystery of the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love and devote ourselves to you and your reconciling mission of love, and desire your presence in our souls. Since we cannot receive the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Christ, 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.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Hymnal 324

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 365

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Go tell it on the mountains

Hymnal 99

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of ...

David Haynes, Everett and Margaret Haynes, Charles and Laura Thibodeau, Ann Marie Cherrier given by their family, Rob, Lisa, Zophia and Adeline

Richard Peterson, Fordyce and Shirley Freeland, Steven Freeland giving by Ron and Debbie Freeland

Allen and Barbara Beck, Christopher Pope, Jane Howell, Linda and Conway Dodge given by Peter and Nancy Pope

Iver and Gladys Erikson, Gordon and Dottie Erikson, Bill and Charlene Stewart given by Mark W and Beverly Erikson Stewart

Abbott Benedict Reid of St. Gregory's Abbey given by Fr. William Schuyler

My grandparents, my father and Peter given by Laura Caswell

Elizabeth and Donald Hofstra, Thomas Johnson given by Laurie and Octavio Sanchez

Our parents: Oscar and Madeline Schmidt; Richard, Edith and Helen Jones given by Randy and Carolyn Schmidt

Norman Lizano given by his family, Conrad, Emily, Max and Nina

Vito and Jule DiPinto and Barbara Domiano given by Mary Ann and Matthew DiPinto

James and Anna Giarusso, Scott Zenaro, Richard H. and Edith L. Jones, Helen Gould Jones given by Vincent and Beverly Giarusso

E. William Zoba, Jr. (My loving husband); Scott Harrison Zoba and Gregg Bradley Zoba (My beloved sons) given by Agnes Christabelle Zoba

Helen Van De Mark; Christine and Stanley Van De Mark; Florence Faucher given by Albert Van De Mark

Barbara Van Schermbeek given by her daughter, Elizabeth Adams

Raymond P. and Bertille W. Stanovich given by the Stanovich Family

Virginia and John Bryan, Jr. given by Dawn and John Bryan III

Our parents, Tyke Crowley given by Sue and Dick Delorme

Jason Borjeson given by Paul and Andrea Taylor

Peggy Mellors given by Andy, Amy, Addie and Jake

Jerry, Joan and David Couture given by The Lonardo Family

Rudolph L. Zlody and Michael P. Zlody given by Kathleen O'Connor and family

All of our grandparents and Nicholas given by Melissa, Michael, Murray

Robert Ricardi given by with all of our love Carolyn, Kristen and Erynn

Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of ...

Our parents and grandparents and my brother David and Raymond McDonald given by David and Jeanette Dill

Our Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and Rich given by Judy, Kyle and Chris David Bourgeois given by Gemborys and McGurin Families

Don Engstrom, Herbert, Marjorie and Jon Griesbach given by S. Jane Griesbach

Roland and Mabel Lajoie; Carl and Mae Swenson; Donald Lajoie; Pamela Swenson given by For our Parents, Brother and Sister-in-Law; Dave and Beverly Lajoie

Amy Ann Glanville given by Roz and Pete Glanville

Jack Holden given by Sally and Ed Holden

Jack Holden given by the Jensen Family

Our parents, Barbara and Victor; Jane and Richard given by Mark and Julie Russell

Jadwiga Borzynski, Joshua Kozaczka, Lorraine Wehyrich given by The Hicks Family

David Paul given by Steven and Mary Cook and Family

Charles "Chuck" Miller given by his wife, Denise and children

Nathaniel Williams, Reginald and Barbara Williams, John and Helen Borko given by David and Susan Williams

And in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of ...

Loretta Haynes given by their family, Rob, Lisa, Zophia and Adeline

Ashely, Sam, Maxwell and Alexander given by Ron and Debbie Freeland

Ohana given by Beth Ann Carrigan

My children and grandchildren given by Laura Caswell

Our 4 children and 9 grandchildren given by Laurie and Octavio Sanchez

God's loving care everyday given by Randy and Carolyn Schmidt

William Bruce Zoba (My son) and his family given by Agnes Christabelle Zoba

Todd, Kristin and Abby Van De Mark; Tim and Dawn Van De Mark given by Albert Van De Mark

Chris, Maggie and Callan given by Kim Whamond

Teresa Lucas given by David and Diane Lucas (Family)

Our children, Jen and Mike given by Sue and Dick Delorme

My family, Mark, Lindsay, Leo, Riley, Richard, Matt and Kayla given by Julie Russell

Sophie Kozaczka, Jason, Andrew, Lucas and Sofia Hicks given by the Hicks Family

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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Deacon: The Rev. S. Jane Griesbach
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