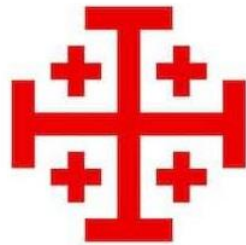




*Calligraphy provided by Adel Nasser, Palestinian Christian artist
and member of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem*



A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

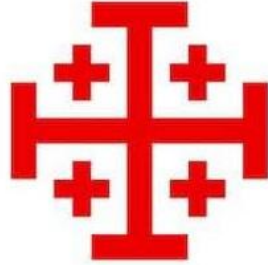
Simulcast on Saturday, December 19, 2020

from

**The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church
in Bethlehem, Palestine – 5:00 pm**

and

**The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
in Philadelphia, U.S.A. – 10:00 am**



Please consider making a donation today to support the work of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Holy Land. One hundred percent of your gift will go toward their holy work. As we remember the event that caused the wise men to bring their gifts, so too may it move you to generosity.

Thank you.

The Christmas Simulcast Service from Bethlehem and Philadelphia Saturday, December 19, 2020

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Mr. Gabriel Hanna,
 Organist at Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem

WELCOME The Reverend Dr. Munther Isaac
 Pastor, The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church
 Bethlehem, Palestine

OPENING HYMN O 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.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God Begotten, not created.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880. Music: *Adeste fideles*, melody
att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

WELCOME AND
THE BIDDING PRAYER

Led by the Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
and

The Reverend Patricia A. C. Davenport
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Gutiérrez

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 season glad with our carols of praise.

Bishop Davenport

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 here in Pennsylvania, in the Holy Land, and in the world.

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.

Bishop Gutiérrez

And now, for all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 3:1-15

Tony Nassar

Principal, Dar Alkamia Evangelical Lutheran School

ANTHEM

Almajdu laka

Ghada Khoury Pribble, *soloist*

(Refrain)

Glory to You Oh Christ Son of God;

You became man for our sake; Glory to You

I bring good tidings to you; today is born a savior who is Christ the Lord *(Refrain)*

Those walking in darkness have seen a great light

The blind shall see; the dead shall rise; *(Refrain)*

The captive shall be set free; and the poor shall receive good news *(Refrain)*

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Adel Khader

Christmas Lutheran Church

A COLLECT

The Reverend Canon Dr. Donald Binder

Chaplain to Archbishop Suheil Dawani

Consoling God, who speaks tenderly to all your people; when we are exiled your voice strengthens us, your love sustains us. When we are captive you come as the good shepherd and liberate us. In all our exile and in all our captivity, gather us and lead us. In the name of Jesus, Mighty God, we pray. Amen.

THE THIRD LESSON

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Galatians 4: 4-7

Read by Ms. Zoe Fuentes

Church of The Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA

A COLLECT

Bishop Gutiérrez

Redeeming God, you came to us an infant, homeless, helpless and vulnerable, yet safe in the loving embrace of Mary. Wrap our world in your arms that we may grow strong to care for the needs of the oppressed, the poor, the destitute, and all who suffer in this world. In the name of Jesus, Desire of Nations, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

Mary Had A Baby

**African-American Spiritual
arr. William Dawson
adapt. Steven Weatherman**

Augustine Mercante, countertenor

Joyce Chen, piano

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Glenside, PA

THE FOURTH LESSON

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews Hebrews 1: 1-12

Read by Ms. Dina L. Harvey

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA

A COLLECT

Bishop Davenport

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 forever. Amen.

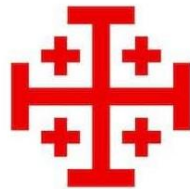
THE FIFTH LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 2: 1-14

Read by the Right Reverend Hosam Naoum

Bishop Coadjutor, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem



THE CHRISTMAS HOMILY

**The Most Reverend Suheil Dawani
Archbishop, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**

REMARKS

**The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**

SECOND HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

[Chorus]

Gloria In Excelsis Deo
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? *[Chorus]*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King *[Chorus]*

Words: French Carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria*, French Carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

PRAYERS

Led by the Reverend Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch
Canon to the Holy Land, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
and

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan
Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Canon Dayton-Welch

Most merciful God, we pray this day for the Church, that sacred mystery, for its members around the world, and for all who seek your truth. May the Bright Star over Bethlehem guide us all to your enduring love. Lord, hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, guide the nations of this world, that spirit of truth and generosity may call us to see our reliance on one another, and on you. We pray especially for those in positions of authority in the United States, in Palestine and Israel, and throughout your creation. Give justice to those who live under occupation and systems of racism, and humbly reconcile the hearts of those who rely on their own power and privilege. Lord, hear our prayer.

Dean Sullivan

Healing Christ, be with our world as we wrestle with the coronavirus. Help us to care for our loved ones and strangers alike, equip our medical professionals and leaders with wisdom and endurance, and arouse the hearts of the careless. Guard those who confront economic distress and loneliness. Finally, let the light at the end of this dark tunnel be your true light, that we might see and know you were with us all along. Lord, hear our prayer.

Resurrecting God, fill our minds with the faces of those we love but see no longer. May our grief be the mark of our love for them, and in your own time, call us home to be with you, that we might see them once again. Lord, hear our prayer.

ANTHEM

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow African American Spiritual
Brenda Bonhomme, *soloist* arr. by Fred Gramann

CREDO

Adapted from "Advent Credo" by Allan Boesak

Led by the Reverend Dr. Mitri Raheb
President, Dar Alkalima University College

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss.

People

This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Reverend Raheb

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, arrogance and suffering, disease and death.

People

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have life abundantly.

Reverend Raheb

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and inequity rule forever.

People

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.

*Led by the Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell
Dean of St. George's College*

It is not true that we are meant to be victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world.

People This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth and lo, I am with you, even until the end of the world.

Dean Sewell It is not true that we must wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can begin to make peace.

People This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams.

Dean Sewell It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity, and peace are not meant for this earth and for our enjoyment.

People This is true: The hour comes, and now is, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and truth.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

*Led by the Reverend Sani Ibrahim Azar
Bishop, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land*

O God, you who caused that holy night here in Bethlehem many years ago to shine with the brightness of the true Light for generations to come: 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.

BLESSING IN ARABIC

The Reverend Sani Ibrahim Azar
Bishop, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

BLESSING IN ENGLISH

The Reverend Patricia A. C. Davenport
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

DISMISSAL

The Reverend Canon Shawn Wamsley
Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

CONCLUDING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing: Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing: " Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest Heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come. Offspring of a Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity.

Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel.

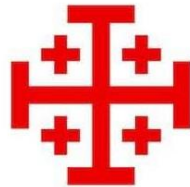
Hark! the herald angels sing: " Glory to the newborn King!"

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt

Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); William H. Cummings (1831-1915).



ORGAN POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Adeste Fidelis'

Eric H. Thiman

Mr. Wesley Parrott

Organist at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

For upcoming events at the Cathedral and the
Christmas Lutheran, please visit our websites.

www.philadelphiacathedral.org

www.bethlehemchristmaslutheran.org



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The Reverend Charles Lattimore Howard, Ph.D., Assisting Clergy
The Venerable Dr. Pamela Nesbit, Archdeacon Emerita
The Reverend Michael Nailor, Deacon
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Mr. Wesley Parrott, Cathedral Organist

Offices of the Dean and Chapter
3717 Chestnut Street, Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 215.386.0234 | Fax: 215.386.5009 |