

CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC. 24, 2022, 4:00PM



“Song of the Angel” - William-Adolphe Bouguereau (1881)

“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 all. “ – Luke 2:11-14

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

The Eve of The Nativity of Our Lord

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)
LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.

Bell Ringing

Prelude

Bethlehem Pastorale

Daniel Rohne

Mary Peterman, Flute; Denise Gregory, piano

Lighting the candles of the Advent wreath

Today we light the fifth candle of the Advent wreath, the Christ Candle.

“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.” Psalm 96:11-13

Let us pray.

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

H 83

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Hymn of Praise

What child is this

H 115

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living God, on this holy night we gather—
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: For to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! **Amen.**

A Reading from The Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9, Verses 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

- 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 peoples with his truth.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from Titus, Chapter 2, verses 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear

H 89

The Holy Gospel our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Thomas Hughes

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

With the angels of heaven we proclaim your glory, O God. As the radiance of your presence lights up the heavens, we pray for enlightenment for your church on behalf of the whole world. *(Silence)*

We pray for the universe, that the breath of God's peace, which called all creation into being, may flow through it like the song of the angels, and the shining of the stars, that we will live in peace with the earth, with all creatures, and with one another. *(Silence)*

We pray for the believing community throughout the world, that all will work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth, and for the church gathered in this place, that we will bear the good news of God's living presence in our world, deepening the Christmas faith and living that faith in love. *(Silence)*

We pray for those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war; and for all of our brothers and sisters in any need, that the life, light and hope that is our Savior might touch their hearts this night. *(Silence)*

We pray for the imprisoned and the homeless, and for the children born into poverty and pain. May we make room in our hearts for all of God's beloved children. *(Silence)*

We pray for the sick and those in any need or sorrow or trouble or anxiety, especially those on our prayer list, for Susan Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Lydia O'Neil and Toni Faibisy, and for those who care for them, that God's love that extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross will bless them this night with the gift of healing and of peace. *(Silence)*

We pray for those who have died, especially John Whitfield and Roger Key, that they may rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we are one for evermore. *(Silence)*

Grant that through our prayers, our lives may radiate the presence of Christ to all who dwell on earth, for he is our Lord of ever and ever.

Amen.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence)*

**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.**

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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory See, Amid the Winter's Snow Arr. Larson
Mary Peterman, Flute; Denise Gregory, piano

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from EOW for Christmas Eve

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 God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Celebrant and People

(WLP 785)

**Holy, holy, holy,
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words
You are holy, Lord.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us and proclaimed your dream of peace.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and spoke out the good news of hope.

He gave himself for our weary world,
Accepting death so that we might live,
And held our darkness deep within
until through the cross and grave and empty tomb
he set us free for love.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, a people of grace and truth, carrying your good news of joy into every season.

And bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph, and all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

The bread is broken.

We who are many are members of your one Body

For we share in one bread and one cup.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution of the Sacraments

Candle Lighting

Silent Night

H 111

Closing Prayer

BCP 365

God of Earth and all stars, thank you for this day when you call all people to gather in your loving embrace, by many names and traditions, in lands far and near. Thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. May we love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. Thank you for the rejoicing in our lives, and for your promise of steadfast love when our days are hard with sorrows. Surround us now with the love that will not let us go, and give us rest, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Blessing

The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of a home and hearth to you
The cheer and good will of friends to you
The hope of a childlike heart to you
The joy of a thousand angels to you
The love of the Son and
God's peace to you
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem

H 79

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Resources

Lighting the Advent Wreath, Revised Common Lectionary Prayers
Opening and Closing Collects, Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Vol I, Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

Prayers of the People, Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, Enriching our Worship

Intercessions for the Christian People, Gail Ramshaw, ed.

Announcements

Welcome to St Peter's. May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church. Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

Happy Birthday – Rob Dobson (Dec. 26), Alice Hughes (Dec. 29), Linda Upshaw (Dec. 30), Vivian McDonald (Dec. 30).

Congratulations to the ECM! (Episcopal Church Men)! For the 3rd year they raised over \$1,000 for the Caroline County Department of Social Services to purchase store specific grocery limited gift cards for local families.

Thank you to all who helped with the food distribution this past week and who put together Christmas gifts for a family in Bowling Green.

Sat., Dec. 24, 4:00pm – Christmas Eve service

YouTube <https://youtu.be/ZpbxVC8rvpw>

Sun., Dec. 25, 11:00am – Christmas Day service

YouTube <https://youtu.be/6dtYbL4Y7tk>

Monday morning meditation (12/26) is taking a break and will resume on January 2nd.

Bible Study (12/28) is taking a break and will resume on Wednesday, January 4th in the Parish House Make a New Year's resolution to attend Bible Study , which meets from 10-12 every Wednesday in the Parish House. All are welcome.

----- Coming Up -----

Sun., Jan 1, 11:00am – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

YouTube <https://youtube.com/live/INqJUoRMJ24?feature=share>

Thank you for your generosity—Your donations have made a positive difference for many in need in this Christmas season.

Poinsettias for Christmas, 2022

Laura Carey, in memory of Milton Carey

Laura Carey, in memory of John Whitfield

Larry and Jan Saylor, in memory of our parents

Catherine D. Hicks, in memory of her father, Matthew Delbridge

Alice and Tom Hughes in memory of Jan and Gary

Ken and Andrea Pogue in memory of Barbara Pogue, Ken's mother

Ken and Andrea Pogue in memory of Judy Mazique, Ken's sister

Ken and Andrea Pogue in memory of Myrtle Samuels, Andrea's mother

Alice and Tom Hughes, in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren

Larry and Jan Saylor, in thanksgiving for our family, Brad, Deanna, Emma and Owen

Catherine Hicks, in thanksgiving for her husband, Ben Hicks

Endowment Fund for Christmas 2022

Ben and Catherine Hicks in honor of our three daughters and our granddaughter

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535

Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908
The Vestry

Becky Fisher, Andrea Pogue (2023), Cookie Davis, Robert Bryan (2024)

Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)

Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar

Becky Fisher, Senior Warden

Cookie Davis, Junior Warden

Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist

The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector

The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com

**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring
Prayer List**

Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Laura Carey, Lydia O'Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Mike and Marilyn Newman, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom

Ruby Barnes (Laura Carey's sister), **Claire Cole Curcio** (friend of Catherine Hicks), **Sandra Smith, Otis Felts** (friend of Johnny Davis), **The Glasgows** (friends of the Felicianos), **Randall Clingenpeel, Mrs. Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's mother), **Ann Pyle** (Carolyn Duke's mother), **J.T. Moriarty** (Hicks' friend), **Harvey Yarus** (friend of Tom Kramer), **Patty Reno** (cousin of Tom Kramer), **Joanne Wilkerson and Jimmy Davis, Julie Davis** (sister, brother and daughter of Johnny Davis), **Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Nathaniel Schakenberg, Martha Oldham** (Mike Newman's sister), **Jonathan Coleman** (Cleo Coleman's son), **Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear** (BJ's grandson), **Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith** (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), **Orville Watson** (Linneth Feliciano's brother), **Gloria Jewell, Kathryn, David and Bobby Hill** (Lydia O'Neil's family), **Lorena McElwain**, (friend of the Pogues), **Odessa Davis, Kelly Paterino, G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw** (Brad Volland's cousin), **Joan Pemberton** (Brad Volland's aunt), **Anna Haug, Albert Barnett** (Andrea's uncle), **Scott Crabtree** (Eunice Key's brother), **Louise Chapman** (Barbara Segar's cousin), **Dot Wright, Carolyn and Butch Delhagen** (Newman relatives), **Mary Lawrence Hicks** (Catherine and Ben Hicks' daughter), **Rodney C. Johnson** (Hicks' friend), **Charlene Schakenberg**, (Becky Fisher's mother)

Serving in the Armed Forces

PJ Koons

Steven Lee

Alexis Rye

Scott Estes

Greg Merkl

Michael Hobbs

Cliff Lance

Grace Grimaldi

Alex Long V