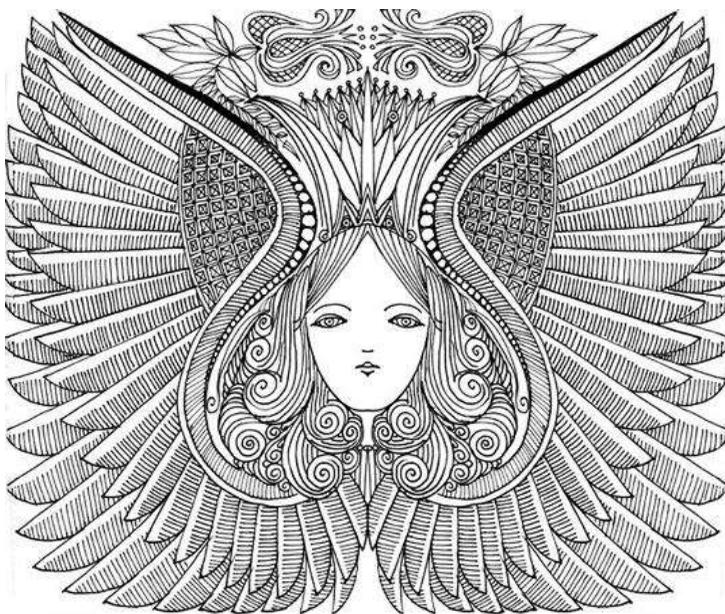


**Christmas Eve 2014
Festive Eucharist**

7:30 pm



Q. Cassetti

Welcome to our Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion. If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Anglican Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude: Bow Valley Brass Quintet

Fanfare: James Curnow

Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (118)

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him
born the king of angels;

Refrain:

O come let us adore him,
come let us adore him,
come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created:

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, in the highest.

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,
draw nigh with lowly fear:
We too will thither, bend our joyful
footsteps;

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born his happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing:

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.

Silence

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy; for to you is born in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

Jesus comes in grace and mystery, renewing faded hopes and announcing peace to a weary world.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!

Jesus comes among us in power and glory inspiring joy and calling us to lives that are full of God's love.

Jesus, the light of the world, is born.

Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corners of our lives. Let Christ's light shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us.

(The candle is lit)

Let us pray:

God of grace and glory, as we celebrate this Christmas, transform our hearts and our lives so that your Good News is not an old story but a fresh truth lived out every day through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: 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. 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 a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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 the Church. ***Thanks be to God.***

New Testament Reading: Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hymn Good Christians All, Rejoice (153)

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this.

He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

The Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory be to you, Lord Jesus 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 Saviour, 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 favours!' 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 Christ. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Homily – The Reverend Dr. Jane Rowland

Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.
Renew us as the Body of Christ.

Holy God ***hear our prayer.***

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God ***hear our prayer.***

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God ***hear our prayer.***

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God ***hear our prayer.***

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
 Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.
 Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.
 Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.
 Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.
 Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
 Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
 Holy God **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
 Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: See Amid The Winter's Snow (148)

See amid the winter's snow,
 Born for us on earth below,
 See, the gentle Lamb appears,
 Promised from eternal years.

Refrain

*Hail that ever blessèd morn,
 Hail redemption's happy dawn,
 Sing through all Jerusalem:
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies
 He Who built the starry skies;
 Who, enthroned in height sublime
 Sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
 What your joyful news today.
 Wherefore have ye left your sheep
 On the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing ‘Peace on earth’
Told us of the Savior’s birth.”

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a mighty love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and gladness, ***accept all we offer on this joyful feast.***
May we grow up into him who unites our lives to yours;
for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues....

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues and ends **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, bring us to light and life.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Carols *(please join in the singing of the carols)*

O Little Town of Bethlehem (121)

O little town of Bethlehem
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting light;
 the hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
 and, gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep
 their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together
 proclaim the holy birth,
 and praises sing to God the King,
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell:

and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is given!
 As love imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of God's heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in;
 Be born in us today.

O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel

Away In A Manger (126)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Silent Night

The congregational candles are lit during this carol, and remain lit through the communion prayers.

Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven a far,

Heavenly hosts sing alleluia

Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night Holy night. Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Creator of all, **who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in you salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,

the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary,

and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;

and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you ever more. **Amen**

Christmas Welcome

Fanfare – *La Rejouissance* G. F. Handel

Recessional Hymn Joy To The World (154)

Joy to the world!
 The Lord is come;
 Let earth receive the King!
 Let every heart prepare him room
 and heaven and nature sing
 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
 let men their songs employ,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 plains, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow
 Far as our sin is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the presence of Christ our Lord. Alleluia
Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude: Bow Valley Brass Quintet



The flowers this evening are given to the glory of God by: Randy and Bruce McFarlane in celebration of our children and with love to our Mother and Nana and by Gerry and Howard Dawe in loving memory of beloved family and friends,

The clergy, wardens and staff wish you a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Special thanks to our guest musicians of the Bow Valley Brass Quintet and to our Music Director Chris Fullerton.

Christmas Eve

7:30 pm

Preacher and Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Jane Rowland

Lay Reader: David Gravells

Deacons: The Rev. Rosemary Bishop and The Rev. Carolyn Herold

Organist: Chris Fullerton

Bow Valley Brass Quintet