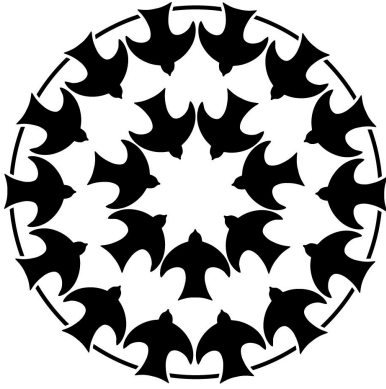


# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024

3:00 p.m.





# THE CHURCH of the HOLY COMFORTER

4819 Monument Avenue, Richmond 23230

804-355-3251 ✉ hoco.org

in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

*Holy Comforter is a Christian community, engaging diversity,  
empowering through worship, and embracing the spiritual journey,  
in our church, in our community, and in the world, that all may be made whole and fully alive.*

## WELCOME TO HOLY COMFORTER!

The Church of the Holy Comforter welcomes you to this service; may it be a time of grace that grounds and strengthens you. This service leaflet, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red), *The Hymnal 1982* (blue), *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (green), and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (black) provide the resources needed for participation in our worship.

- **Guest Book** ~ Our guest book is located on a stand at the back of the church. If you are new to Holy Comforter, please sign the guest book. We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today!
- **Receiving Communion** ~ To receive, stand or kneel around the Holy Table, simply hold your hands palms up and the priest will place a piece of bread in them. To receive wine from the chalice, assist the chalice bearer by holding the base and helping to guide it to your lips. We will offer one chalice from which to drink and one for intinction, dipping the bread into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, we welcome you to receive a blessing—to indicate this, please cross your arms on your chest. Gluten-free bread is available as is a non-alcoholic option chalice; simply ask the clergy.
- **Votive Candles** ~ You may light a candle at the votive stand in the back of the church. Votive candles may be lit before, during, or after the service.
- **Children Welcome!** ~ Even our youngest children are welcome to remain with us in the church for the service. Enjoy our baby/toddler/young child area in the pews.
- **Restrooms** are located in this building behind the choir area; go out the doors by the Earth banner and turn left. One of the restrooms contains a **baby-changing station**. Ushers can guide you. Additional restrooms are in the parish house, the building next door.

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**Prelude**      Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
God rest ye merry gentlemen  
In dulci jubilo  
O Holy Night

Once in royal David's city; v. 1      James Munro

**Hymn**      Love broke forth      *Irby*

Love broke forth in ra - diant fa - shion and God called cre - a - tion good  
Love broke forth in - to a bo - dy gent - ly laid on Ma - ry's chest  
Love broke forth to know com - plete - ly who you are and who you'll be

God made hu - mans in her i - mage to be loved and un - der - stood  
See him swad - dled in a man - ger, Migh - ty God now pow - er - less  
Ga - ther - ing in - to one bo - dy all of our hu - man - i - ty

Then God took on flesh and bone all of hu - man life to know  
Giv - ing up his throne on high to ex - per - i - ence this life  
Ten - der - ly Love speaks your name, your be - long - ing to pro - claim

## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

## Song of Praise



Glo - ry be to God on high,  
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De o!

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* 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 Proclamation of the Word

### The First 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, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**      Il est né, le divin enfant

French carol

**The Second Reading** ~ 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

*Hymnal 1982 #83*

O come, all ye faithful

vs. 1-3

*Adeste fidelis*

**The Holy Gospel** ~ Luke 2:1-20

*Presider*      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!" 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.

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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



# The Christmas Story

James Munro, Sam Baggett, Evan Herr, August Herr, Bowie Parham, Drexel Rayford, Lily Hawes,  
Hannah Banton, Ollie Parham, Thomas Munro, Mary Davis, and the Congregation

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee  
lie! A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go  
by; yet in thy dark streets shine - eth the ev - er - last - ing  
Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.

A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
Je - sus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked  
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and  
ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that  
Je - sus Christ is born! While shep - herds kept their  
The shep - erds feared and  
Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and  
hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

## Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith

*A period of silence follows the sermon*

## Nicene Creed

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.

## The Prayers of the People

*As the Intercessor pauses, the congregation is invited to add their own prayers either silently or aloud.*

*Presider* Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

*Leader* Jesus, whose mother was Mary, we pray for families and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, cradled in a manger, we pray for the homeless and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, sharing the stable with animals, we pray for creation and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, worshiped by shepherds and kings, we pray for all nations and races and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, our Emmanuel, we pray for . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem**

Mary borned a baby

*spiritual; arr. Noah Francis Ryder*

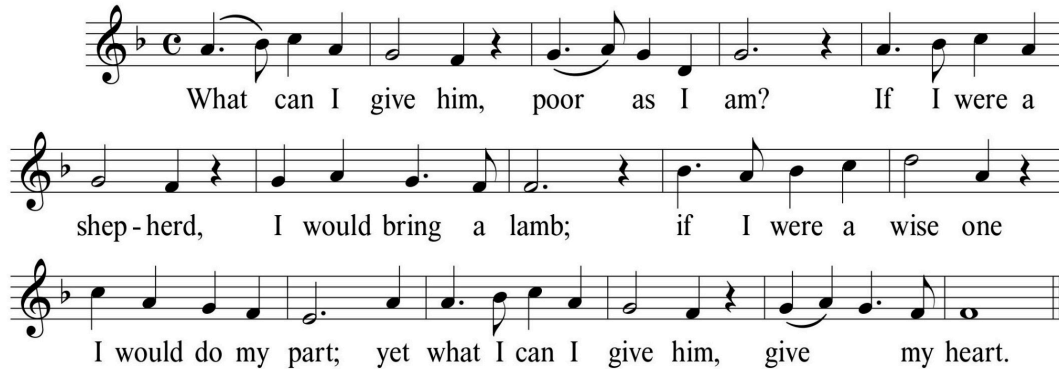
*Please consider supporting God's ministry through Holy Comforter. You may leave your offering in the plate that will be passed or use our Virtual Offering Plate <https://hocorva.churchcenter.com/giving>*



**Presentation Hymn**

In the bleak midwinter; vs. 4

*Cranham*



What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a  
 shep-herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise one  
 I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

**The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching our Worship**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing

**Sanctus**



4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow'r and\_ might, \_\_\_\_\_ heav'n and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he, is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant

that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. 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.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us, let us pray to God, who is our Divine Parent, our Mother,

*All* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept. Then all sing*

**Gently [In One]**

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly  
 Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have  
 mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the  
 son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy  
 giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.  
 Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the  
 son of Ma - ry.

**Invitation to the Table**

The Gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ was born for you and invite Christ into your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion Hymns

*Hymnal 1982* #115 What child is this

*Greensleeves*

#89 It came upon the midnight clear

*Carol*

#111 Silent night, holy night

*Stille Nacht*

## Postcommunion Prayer *from Enriching our Worship*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Christmas Blessing

*Presider* May Almighty God, who came to us as a vulnerable baby, bless you in this holy season, and brighten your heart with the light of Christ's holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Hymn

*Hymnal 1982* #87 Hark! the herald angels sing

*Mendelssohn*

## Dismissal

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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"Love broke forth" Music: Henry J. Gauntlett. Words: Anna Strickland. ©2024 Anna Strickland. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC [www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org)

## ⌘ Serving Today ⌘

**Presider** ~ The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith

**Preacher** ~ The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith

**Director of Music Ministry** ~ Jim Bennett

**Musicians** ~ Kevin Davis, Lian-Marie Munro, Art

Raymond, Don Ellison, Steve Herr, Kipley Herr,

Melisse Menchel, Susan Boze, Nancy Deane,

Brian Davis, Leslie Smith, Robin

Kranitzky-Hurdle, Helen Reese, Nan Ottenritter

**Altar Guild** ~ Hilary Raymond, Susan Carvell,

Terry Long

**Readers** ~ Melissa Irby, Cheryl Groce-Wright

**Intercessor** ~ Carol Gibbs

**Banner Bearer** ~ Lindsey Smith

**Crucifer** ~ Liam Davis-Vojta

**Eucharistic Ministers** ~ Maria Scott and

Robin Kranitzky-Hurdle

**Ushers** ~ Helen Reese and Dale Davis

**Streaming Director** ~ Ron Cox

**Bread Baker** ~ Cindi Hanayik

## ✠ Announcements ✠

**Christmas Day service** - tomorrow, 11:00 am with our friends from St. Mark's.

**Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion** ~ Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am

**The Feast of the Epiphany** ~ Monday, January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. F. Bradley Peyton will be our presider and preacher. Please join us!

**Bulletin Cover Art and Art displayed** ~ Our congregation took part in transforming the message of materialism that often dominates our holiday time into a reminder of God's gift to humanity through art. Original art by members and friends of Holy Comforter.

**Christmas Donations - Make it two** ~ On four religious holidays each year, we make contributions to external organizations doing God's work in the world. For the Christmas season, we invite you to support the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) and Side by Side. Put bluntly, VICPP is a lobbying organization for Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc. faith communities representing our shared desire for peace and justice. Side by Side supports LGBTQIA+ youth; such support is needed more than ever. All cash and checks written to HoCo with "VICPP" or "Side" in the memo will go to these great organizations that make a difference in many lives. Thank you for your support.

**If you need a priest while our rector is on vacation after Christmas** ~ please contact Julie Edwards, vestry person for pastoral care, and she will assist you by contacting our priest-on-call. Hilary will be back for Sunday, January 5.

**Blood Drive** ~ Holy Comforter and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive on Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9:00am-2:00pm. Please join our life-saving mission! Schedule an appointment today at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

Volunteers are also needed to check in donors and provide hospitality. contact Angie Palmer at 804-402-9441 for more information.

**Monday night Zoom class** ~ Starting soon.

**Tuesday Morning Book Group** ~ We are reading *Life After Doom, Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart* by Brian D. McLaren. Join us at 11:00 a.m. *On break and returns January 7.*

**Wednesday Worship ~ Centering Prayer** ~ 11:45 am - 12:05 pm **Holy Eucharist** ~ 12:15 pm. *On break and returns January 8.*

**Food Pantry** ~ The next Good Samaritan Sunday to donate food for the Food Pantry may be brought to service on Sunday, **January 5.**

**Informal Artists of HoCo - UnFinished Objects UFOs** ~ We'll meet in the Conference room from 10:30 - noon (ish) on Tuesdays to work on our own personal projects. Knitting, sketching, drawing, writing...good conversation and busy hands.