**Nativity Worships**

**Fifth Lent**

**April 6, 2025**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

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| Prelude  | "Morning as glorious and clear . . ."     Juan Orrego-Salas (mid 16th C.) |
| Opening | I sing the almighty power of God | H 398  |
| Gradual | King of glory, King of peace [vv 1.2 before Gospel; v. 3 after Gospel] | H 382  |
| Offertory     | Blessed Jesus, at thy word | H 440 |
| Closing | Let thy blood in mercy poured  [vv 1,2,4] | H 313 |
| Postlude | Sarabande       George F. Handel |

**The Collect**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament Isaiah 43:16-21**

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

**The Psalm 126 *In convertendo***

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \*
"The Lord has done great things for them."

4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \*
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**The Epistle Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**The Gospel John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**The Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Braid Mission, a diocesan mission which offers team-based mentoring for Foster Youth.

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy B, Nina A, Marian, Norma, Duane, Amanda, Ruth, Steve K, Dick, Barbara B, Uwe, Everil and our families and friends: Myles, Violet & Aaron, B. Y., Justin, John B, Laura, Tanner, Phil, Greg, Nick, Phoebe, Seanna, Stacy, Cheryl, Lucy, Julie and Pat B.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Richie Faber, The Venerable Dorothy Jones and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan and those who have died in the fires in Los Angeles.

**Announcements**

**Who is My Neighbor?** Sunday morning check in. 9:15-9:40 in Rev. Kirsten’s Office. A

Nativity/St. Paul’s Task Force will meet each week to pray together and encourage one

another as we navigate the anxiety of how new federal government policies will impact

everyone in our community. (4/6)

**Book Club.** The Ungrateful Refugee by Dina Nayeri. Mondays at 5 pm. In the Nativity

Kitchen. Everyone is invited to read and discuss this book which challenges us to think

about how we understand and speak about immigrants in our community. (4/7)

**Red Door Community Garden** boxes available for rent. $50 for a year. For an

application, send a note to Church of the Nativity: nativityonthehill@gmail.com.

**Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde to Give the Palm Sunday Sermon at Grace Cathedral 11 a.m. Nativity will share her sermon** on our website and at coffee hour on Palm Sunday (recognizing that there may be conflicts with Vestry and Festival Choir rehearsals).

**Meditation Workshop at Nativity**  12-steppers are reminded that prayer and meditation are the tools “to improve our conscious contact with God,” but some find 20 minutes of silent meditation overwhelming. Members of the Nativity Red Door Community are invited to join in a meditation workshop in the sanctuary **9-noon, April 12**, that is designed as an introduction and refresher about this contemplative experience. There is no fee, but a goodwill donation is welcome to defray costs of refreshments and for the facilitator. To RSVP, please reach out to workshop organizer Richard Olive at Ollipops@comcast.net.

**Easter Festival Choir Rehearsals** 11:20-11:45 at Nativity, 4/6 and 4/13.

**Palm Sunday April 13th Procession of Psalms 10 a.m.** gathering at the outdoor altar and continuing worship in the Sanctuary. The Very Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding presiding.

**Monday of Holy Week April 14 Stations of the Cross** 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Tuesday April 15th 10:30 a.m. Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows.** Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Send a note to nativityonthehill@gmail.com if you would like to carpool.

**Maundy Thursday April 17th at 7 p.m. with St. Paul’s** in the Nativity Sanctuary. Footwashing, Holy Eucharist and stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday April 18th** **12 p.m. with St. Paul’s** at St. Paul’s. Carpools from Nativity leaving at 11:30 a.m.

**Holy Saturday April 19th 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary** followed by altar guild preparations for Easter Sunday.

**Easter Vigil April 19th 7 p.m. at St. John’s Ross.** Carpools from Nativity leaving at 6:30 p.m.

**Easter Morning** **April 20th 10 a.m.** Holy Eucharist with Festival Choir followed by an Easter Brunch provided by Nativity clergy.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.