Second Christmas

A painting of a manger with a baby

Description automatically generated

*January 5, 2025 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.*

Episcopal Church of the Nativity

San Rafael, California

Merry Christmas and Peace to you!

*The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector*

*The Rev. Scott Sinclair, Priest in Residence*

*The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon*

The Word of God

**Prelude *O Light of Light, Love given birth* (*Elmhurst)*         by C. Ratcliff**

**Entrance Rite**

**Entrance Hymn*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed (Cradle Song)* (H 101)**

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**Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Presider says*

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|  | Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| People | And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen. |

**Collect for Purity**

*The Presider may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Opening Anthem or Song of Praise*S 277 Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Hurd)***

*The following is sung, all standing*

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**The Collect of the Day**

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| Presider | The Lord be with you. |
| People | And also with you. |
| Presider | Let us pray. |

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Lessons**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

7Thus says the Lord:  
 “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
  and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
 proclaim, give praise, and say,  
  ‘Save, O Lord, your people,  
  the remnant of Israel.’  
 8See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
  and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
 among them the blind and the lame,  
  those with child and those in labor, together;  
  a great company, they shall return here.  
 9With weeping they shall come,  
  and with consolations I will lead them back,  
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
  in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
 for I have become a father to Israel,  
  and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
  
 10Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
  and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
 say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
  and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’  
 11For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
  and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
 12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
  and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
  and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
 their life shall become like a watered garden,  
  and they shall never languish again.  
 13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
  and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
 I will turn their mourning into joy,  
  I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
 14I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
  and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,”  
 says the Lord.

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| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm: Psalm 84**

*Remain seated.*

1How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
  My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
  my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
 2The sparrow has found her a house  
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
  by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
  my King and my God.  
 3Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
  they will always be praising you.  
 4Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
  whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.  
 5Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
  for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.  
 6They will climb from height to height, \*  
  and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.  
 7Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
  hearken, O God of Jacob.  
 8Behold our defender, O God; \*  
  and look upon the face of your Anointed.  
 9For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
  and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
  than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
 10For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
  he will give grace and glory;  
 11No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
  from those who walk with integrity.  
 12O Lord of hosts, \*  
  happy are they who put their trust in you!

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
  15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19aand what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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| --- | --- |
| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Sequence Hymn*Of the Father's love begotten (Divinum mysterium)* (H 82)**

*All stand.*

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**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

*All stand.*

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| --- | --- |
| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. |
| People | Glory to you, Lord Christ. |

13After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”  
  19When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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| --- | --- |
| Deacon | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | Praise to you, Lord Christ. |

**The Sermon  *The Very Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding***

**The Creed**

*All stand.*

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**

*All remain standing.*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop Sean, our Diocesan Bishop Austin, our Nativity clergy, Kirsten, Scott and Rebecca and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President Joe, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of San Rafael, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our parish members Jamie, Nancy B, Nina A, Marian, Norma, Duane, Amanda, Ruth, Steve K, Dick, Barbara B, and Uwe; and our family and friends, Miles, David, John, Violet & John, B. Y., Justin, John B, Laura, Tanner, Lisa, Phil, Greg, Nick and Phoebe, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, remembering especially Bill Shepherd and Fr. Michael Hiller and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Mary and Joseph and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

*Silence*

*The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

**The Peace**

*All stand.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Presider | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| People | And also with you. |

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements**

Join us for Epi*phany Prayers tomorrow January 6th at 5 p.m. A time of candlelit contemplation followed by Evening Prayer with the story of the coming of the Magi (Mt. 2:1-12). Co-hosted by Nativity and St. Paul’s.*

*Street Chaplaincy. Nativity will lead the cooking of the Tuesday night Wellness Gathering meal for our neighbors who live outside. January 7th 4:30-7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church San Rafael. Email Rev. Kirsten for details at nativityonthehill@gmail.com.*

The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence**

*The Presider says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

**Offertory Hymn*What star is this, with beams so bright (Puer nobis)* (H 124)**

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**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Sursum Corda**

*The People remain standing.*

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| 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 him thanks and praise. |

**Proper Preface**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

*Presider and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Words of Institution**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many 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.

**Epiclesis**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Presider*

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**

**Fraction Anthem*Love came down at Christmas (Gartan)* (H 84)**

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**Invitation**

*The Presider says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Distribution**

*All God’s people are invited to participate in Holy Communion. If you do not wish to receive bread and wine, you may come forward with hands crossed at your chest and the priest will offer a blessing.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

**Communion Hymn*Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)* (H 324)**

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**Post-Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Christmas Blessing**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  Amen.

**Post-Communion Hymn*When Jesus left his Father's throne (Kingsfold)* (H 480)**

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**Dismissal**

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|  | Let us go forth in the name of Christ. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

**Postlude**    ***Where is this stupendous stranger? (Mariposa)*             by C Susa**

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