**Nativity Worships**

**July 21, 2024**

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

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| Prelude | *Andante* | CW Gluck |
| Entrance Hymn | O for a thousand tongues to sing | H 493 |
| Sequence | My shepherd will supply my need [vv.1,2; then 3] | H 664 |
| Offertory Hymn | The King of love my shepherd is [vv. 1,2 4,5,6] | H 645 |
| Communion | Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless | H 343 |
| Closing Hymn | Be thou my vision | H 488 |
| Postlude | *Hosanna* | John Bacchus Dykes |

**The Collect**

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*Amen.*

**Old Testament Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

**The Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me***

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**The Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-22**

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**The Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

**Prayers of the People**

We pray for our parish members: Jamie, Nancy B., Dan, Nina A., Marian, Norma, Amanda, Duane, Ruth, and our family and friends, Miles, Bill L, Debbie K, Justin W, Georgia, David, John, Jay, Sarah, Violet, Aaron, Hudson and the people of Palestine and Israel who are living in fear.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially MaryAnn Smith Lash, Gail Azevedo, Jeanine Pizzuto and Jack Fritz, and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan.

**Announcements**

**July Charity of the Month: Ritter Center Back to School Backpack Campaign.**

Many low-income families simply do not have the means to purchase backpacks and school supplies for their children. In July through mid-August, Ritter Center raises money to provide gift cards so families can buy the essential school supplies their children need ensuring that their kids can start the school year prepared to learn and achieve scholastically.

Donate by dropping cash or a check in the Charity of the Month box at the back of the sanctuary or sending a check to Nativity with the memo: Ritter Center, Back to School Backpacks.

The funeral for Jack Fritz will be on July 26th at 4 p.m. Join us as we celebrate his new life in God.

**Summer Worship** continues throughout July at Nativity with our 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. In August, Rev. Kirsten will be in Massachusetts and we will be worshipping with St. Paul’s.

August 4th 10 a.m. choral Eucharist at St. Paul’s, no 8 a.m. service.

August 11th  10 a.m. choral Eucharist at St. Paul’s, 8 a.m. service with Rev. Scott at Nativity.

August 18th 10 a.m. choral Eucharist at St. Paul’s, no 8 a.m. service. (Fred Goff will be the guest musician at St. Paul’s).

August 25th 10 a.m. choral Eucharist at St. Paul’s, 8 a.m. service with Rev. Scott at Nativity. Join St. Paul’s for their end of summer BBQ after church.

September 1st Rev. Kirsten returns, 8 and 10 a.m. services at Nativity.

September 8th Welcome Back Sunday at Nativity (with celebratory lunch).

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.