

# THE PARISH OF MISSISSIPPI LAKE

**December 24, 2020**  
**Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm**

**St Bede's Nolan's Corners – Rev. Canon Mary Ellen Berry**

**6:30 pm**

**St John's Innisville – Rev. Rosemary Parker**

**7:00 pm**

**Christ Church Ashton– Rev. Canon Mary Ellen Berry**

**St James Carleton Place – Ven. Brian Kauk**

**8:00 pm**

**St James Franktown– Rev. Rosemary Parker**

**Parish of Mississippi Lake - Live on Our Facebook Pages**

Thank you for joining us in worship today! For those at home, have your Candles and Prayer Spaces ready.

## Prelude

*We are gathering today on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace. For those who maybe be watching this from beyond our parish, we invite you to acknowledge the traditional territory you are on today.*

## **The Gathering of the Community**

### The Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

*Light All Five Candles on the Advent Wreath!*

**Loving God, we thank you that our waiting is over.  
We thank you for the gift of your dear Son.  
Help us to share your gift with the whole world,  
and to show Christ's light and love to others;  
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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 the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
**but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
**Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
**ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
**let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!  
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes,  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## 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 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 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## Homily

### Prayers of the People

Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for all of God's creation.

God of glory, the heavens are glad and the earth rejoices on this holy night. The seas roar and the forests sing for joy. Move us to respond in loving care for all of creation. Gracious God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of grace, bless your church that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth, and declare this glory among the nations. Gracious God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of counsel and might, grant your wisdom to all world leaders, that they may serve in the name of justice and righteousness and all may live in peace. Gracious God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of light, illumine the lives of all who walk in the darkness of oppression, homelessness, poverty, or sickness. Lift the yoke of their burden and give them rest from weariness. Gracious God,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of welcome, lead this congregation to receive with love all who enter our doors, especially those for whom the world has no room. Gracious God,

**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Light. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Remaining in your seats, bow to those around you.*

## Musical Offering

# The Holy Eucharist

## Prayer Over the Gifts

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

## 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 him thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory, till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,

and on this night, was born of the Virgin Mary.

He emptied himself, taking our human form,  
That through his incarnation and passion  
we might come to share in his divine nature.  
Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation  
moved over the face of the waters,  
and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth,  
we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose  
who celebrate the birth of your Son,  
we give you our praise, with angels and archangels  
and the whole company of heaven,  
offering the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father.  
In Jesus, the Messiah, you have come to us,  
and lived for a time among us,  
that we might for ever live with you.  
In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt,  
and as the carpenter's son,  
the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.  
Obedient to your calling, he accepted death on the cross.  
When you exalted him on the third day,  
and bestowed on him the name above all names,  
he opened the gate of glory,  
that we might be your children,  
and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world,  
at supper with his disciples, he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”  
After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,  
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.  
This is my Blood of the new covenant;  
it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son’s command.  
We recall his blessed passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.  
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts,  
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us,  
and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,  
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love,  
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.  
Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love  
until at last, in your new creation,  
we enter into our heritage  
in the company of the Virgin Mary,  
the apostles, and prophets,  
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be to you,  
Lord of all ages, world without end.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light  
and life.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion

*Please remain in your seats, and sanitize your hands.  
The celebrant will distribute communion down in the pews.  
When the celebrant has left your area of the church,  
briefly remove your mask to receive the host,  
put your mask back on, and then sanitize your hands again.*

## Prayer After Communion

Almighty God, in this night, you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him, until the day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

And may the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace, surrounded by the light of Christ, inspired with his purpose, and confirmed in his love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Please leave the church building as directed, and head safely home.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Adapted from *Full Homely Divinity*, accessed Nov. 18, 2020:  
<http://fullhomelydivinity.org/articles/advent%20ofullpage.htm>

Eucharistic Prayer: "Eucharistic Prayers suitable for Christmas and Epiphany," The Scottish Episcopal Church (2016).

Unless otherwise indicated, materials are from *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985).