

THE FALLS CHURCH  
EPISCOPAL  
FOUNDED 1732

*A welcoming community called to be an enduring  
beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.*

**Second Sunday after Christmas  
Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**A Service of the Word & Spiritual Communion**

Prelude

Improvisation on *Greensleeves*

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn 109

The first Nowell the angel did say

*The First Nowell*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
3 And by the light of that same star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

*(continue on next page)*

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

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.**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Collect of the Day

*Priest*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**  
*Priest*            Let us pray.

*Celebrant* : 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 Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a  
*Read by a member of the Gardner Family*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

Psalm 84:1-8, *Quam dilecta!*

*Read by a member of the Gardner Family*

- 1 How 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.
- 2 The 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.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.  
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

*The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.*

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon (*seated*)

The Rev'd Michael Hinson, Priest Associate

The 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.

Prayers of the People (Form IV)

*Read by Krista Gauthier*

*Celebrant or other leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those on our parish prayer list who have requested our prayers for healing in body, mind, and spirit: Tom Dziedzic, Hank Hegener, John Miles, Robin Rosbolt, Carl Close, Martha Close, Hewitt Ebert, Michael Gardner, Barbara Norman, Chris Thayer, Michael Cordes, Will Granger, Sandy Haslam, Ivlar James, Rita Kettler, Charles Mason, Patricia Mattis, Kareena Shakoor, Claire Sloyan, Karen Vaughan, Chris Wray, and for those serving on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic, and for any others on your hearts and minds today.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Teresa Gauthier in whose memory the altar flowers are given, and any others you wish to name (pause) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

The Peace

*Priest*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**

The Offertory

*The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Teresa Gauthier, loving grandmother to David and Krista Gauthier and great grandmother to their two girls.*

Offertory Anthem

*God has come down*

Written and Sung by  
Thomas Ebert  
Parishioner

*During the offertory anthem you are invited to make a gift to God's mission at the Falls Church Episcopal through Realm, on the website, or by Texting TFCE at 73256.*

Spiritual Communion, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant 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, our 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:

*Celebrant 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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death;**

**We proclaim his resurrection;**

**We await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
\* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung,  
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Postcommunion Prayer

**Loving God,  
We give you thanks  
For restoring us in your image  
And nourishing us with spiritual food.  
Now send us forth  
A people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
That we may proclaim your love to the world  
And continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Christmas Blessing

*Celebrant continues*

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his 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 his 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.**

Dismissal

*Priest*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Unison or harmony*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.  
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Chandler (1807-1876), alt.  
 Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Cowley Carol Book*, 1902







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Who are the ministers of this church?

“The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”

*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855*

The Falls Church Episcopal is a parish of The Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We share ministry with Christians in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor, Assisting Bishop

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Jill Kettler, Junior Warden

Paul Rosbolt, Invite-Welcome-Connect Warden

Erin Cline (Stewardship)

Roger Cline (Building & Grounds)

Christine Cordes (Adult Formation & Spirituality/Pastoral Care)

Nick Donlan (Youth)

Amanda Dupree (Communications)

Courtney Morrison (Adult Formation & Spirituality/Pastoral Care)

Stephen Smith

Margaret Stromecki (Outreach and Endowment Board)

Fred Thrasher (Hospitality: Fellowship & Special Events)

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