



The First Sunday of Christmas
Unveiling the Word of God



27 December 2020 AD

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah in the City of Myrtle Beach

Concerning this Service

In this season of light and dark, the Church reflects not only on the coming of the Messiah in human flesh to save and redeem us but also on the great acts of God which have revealed this great news from the beginnings of our belief given by our forebearers in faith. This particular liturgy collects these faith proclamations to undergird our joy at this season. In the readings which follow selected portions of the chapters are read. This particular form of worship comes to us from Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, Virginia.

DRIVE-BY COMMUNION AT 11:00

Prelude

Opening Sentence

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (*Colossians 3*)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May his light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Exhortation

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In these holy days of Christmastide, we are invited to enter a time of light and glory, a time when the darkness is pierced by the brightness of Christ the Lord.

We have experienced once again the miracle of Our Savior's birth in a lowly and humble place. We now journey with the Magi as they set out in faith to follow the sign in the night sky.

Let us continue that journey and move toward Epiphany, a time of revelation and discovery. We pause to hear once again the story of creation of a new light and a new earth.

We hear also the cry of the prophets and the call of Moses in a blaze of fire. We attend the plea for justice and mercy from the lips of Micah and the prediction of a Messiah to brighten the darkness. And Isaiah heralds glad tidings.

Let us therefore hold fast the ancient story of light and truth, of justice and grace as we turn our hearts to God in this faithful story. This day we ***Unveil the Word of God.***

Hymn 83 (verses 1, 2, 3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,

lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father;

Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

The Unveiling of the Word of God (*this title spoken by Celebrant*)

Genesis 1

Anthem *Divinum Mysterium*

Exodus 3

Hymn *O Holy Night!*

1 O holy night! the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! o hear the angel voices!

O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine!

2 Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother;

And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim. His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Micah 6

Hymn 94 (verses 1-4) *While Shepherds Watched*

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
- 2 “Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
- 3 “To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
- 4 “The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

Malachi 3

Hymn 517 (verses 1 and 2) *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*

- 1 How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts, to me;
my thirsting soul desires and longs within your courts to be.
my very heart and flesh cry out, O living God, for thee.
- 2 Beside thine altars, gracious Lord, the swallows find a nest;
how happy they who dwell with thee and praise thee without rest;
and happy they whose hearts are set upon the pilgrim’s quest.

Jeremiah 31

Hymn 115 (verses 1 and 3) *Greensleeves*

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain:
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (*Refrain*)

Isaiah 40

Hymn 96 (verses 1-3) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? *[Refrain]*
3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

John 1

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. [The Prologue to John's Gospel is read.] *[Glory to you, Lord Christ.] The Gospel of the Lord. [Praise to you, Lord Christ.]*

Prayers of the People: A Bidding Prayer

Silence will be kept following each bidding.

Celebrant: Summing up our prayers, let us join in the words our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Postlude



The homily for today by Fr. George Welles will be sent with Quick Notes on Monday.

We have a Care Team which is helping us stay in touch by telephone. Call 843.999.0888 for anything whatsoever.

On Sundays we receive the gifts of the people for the support of the church and its mission in the world. Please mail your gifts to **The Church of the Messiah, P O Box 70367, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.**

Back Lot Communion will be offered on January 10th at 11 o'clock.



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