



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

Wednesday Devotional Time

December 23, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Father Tony Holder, Rector

Mission Statement:

The Community of All Saints' accepts the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship of God, service to His people and stewardship of His gifts.

*The people are invited to read the parts in **bold**.*

Prelude Music

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Peter Hollens

Opening Sentence

The Officiant begins with the following words:

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1.21)

Opening Prayer

Officiant: God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer at this time of Christmas. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

People: **Amen.**

—Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Officiant: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Scriptural Reading: Isaiah 9. 2-6

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Selection: **“I heard the bells on Christmas Day”** *Casting Crowns*

Prayer: **For Peace**

Officiant: Loving and peaceful Father, in a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.

People: **Amen.** *—Rebecca Barlow Jordan*

Scriptural Reading: Luke 2: 9-14

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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!"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Selection: **“Angels from the realms of glory”** *The Piano Guys, Peter Hollens & David Archuleta*

Prayer : **For Christmas Eve**

Officiant: Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

People: **Amen.** *—Robert Louis Stevenson*

Musical Selection:

“Away In A Manger”

Pentatonix

The Prayers

The musical selection - “Unto a boy is born” - Michael Jones, is played during the prayers.

Christmas Prayer for Acceptance

Officiant: Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

People: Amen. –Karen L. Oberst

A Christmas Prayer That Reminds Us of the True Meaning

Officiant: Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name,

People: Amen. –Melanie Chitwood

Prayer for Healing and Forgiveness

Officiant: Heavenly Father, you already know the pain we've carried, the deep wounds, the feelings of loss and heartache. You know how we've so often lost hope. Wondering if we'll ever be truly free from this burden. It feels too great some days. We desperately need your healing and grace. We need your peace and our hope restored. We need to be reminded that you work on behalf of those you love, constantly, powerfully, and completely. Forgive us for trying to fix our situations all on our own. Forgive us for running in different directions and spinning our wheels to find help, when true help and healing must be found first in You. Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you, above everyone and everything else. We come to you and bring you the places we are hurting. You see where no one else can fully see or understand. You know all the places where we need to be set free, where we need to be healed, even those we're not aware of. We ask for your healing and grace to cover every broken place. Every wound. Every heartache. Every pain. Every illness. We pray for those who have asked us to pray for them as well, especially, *(name those for whom we wish to intercede)*; Thank you that you are able to do far more than we could ever imagine. Thank you for your mighty power that acts on behalf of your children. We reach out to you, and know that you are restoring and redeeming every place of difficulty, every battle, every sickness for your greater glory. Thank you that you will never waste our pain and suffering. These things we ask in Jesus' precious name.

People: Amen. *Prayer adapted from crosswalk.com*

A Thankful Christmas Prayer

Officiant: Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of live itself.

People: Amen. –Author Unknown

The Lord's Prayer

Sung by Contemporary Choir of St. Dominic's, San Francisco

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Officiant may say

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you, may the Christ Child light your way, may God's holy angels guide you, and keep you safe each day...and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

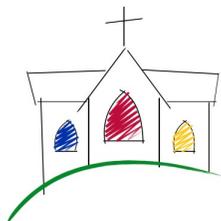
People: Thanks be to God.

Musical Selection:

"Christmas Medley"

Anthem Lights Band

Prayers taken and adapted from 22 Christmas Prayers and Blessings to share with the whole family on southernliving.com



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Deacon: The Reverend Alan Gellert