

# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



DECEMBER 24, 2021  
THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY  
5:00 PM

## WELCOME TO SAINT MARY OF THE HILLS!

Dear Friends,

Welcome! Whether you are joining us in person or online this Christmas, it is so very good that you are here to worship and adore the infant Christ, Immanuel, God among us.

It is no secret that the world we inhabit is wearied and worn – by a pandemic that rages on in our midst, by the sad divisions promulgated by pundits and politicians, by the individual and collective pains and griefs that mar our day-to-day lives. Into just such a world enters the Christ, Jesus born of Mary.

The English priest and poet Malcolm Guite penned a Christmas sonnet some years ago that seems fitting, almost as though it was written for this moment, our time –

Christmas sets the centre on the edge;  
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,  
The fringe of empire, far from privilege  
And power, on the edge and outer spin  
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars  
That edge a galaxy itself light years  
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.  
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.

And from this day our world is re-aligned  
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb  
Becomes the source from which we all unfold  
And flower into being. We are healed,  
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,  
For now in him all things are re-aligned.

In the child Christ, the babe of Bethlehem, all things are re-aligned. Our world is made new as the eternal takes on temporality, the infinite takes on finitude. This mystery of Christmas is an ancient love story that never grows old, of God who will not remain at a distance.

God has come near to us – to you, to me, to all.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew +". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege  
Rector

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## 5:00 PM

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

### THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 83 (*omit vs. 4 & 5*)  
O come, all ye faithful

*Adeste Fideles*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity and the people respond, Amen.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – S 278



1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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 forever. **Amen.**

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**  
**SHARED BY OUR CHILDREN**

*The People remain seated to sing the carols.*

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*\*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

*\*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**“What Child is This?”**

*Greensleeves*

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?  
*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

*St. Louis*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

## “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Gloria*

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## “The First Nowell”

*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel*

## “We Three Kings”

*Three Kings of Orient*

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God, and Sacrifice.  
Heaven sings Alleluia:  
Alleluia, the earth replies.

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!*

**“Silent Night”**

*Stille Nacht*

*The People remain seated for the first verse, then stand.*

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the sermon.*

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*from Common Worship*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

O God, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.  
Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.  
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**



In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to proclaim the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant prays,*

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

*The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN 99  
Go tell it on the mountain

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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 continues the prayer and concludes the preface, singing,*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

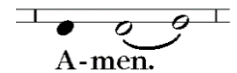
*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

*People*



THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Contemporary*)

BCP 364

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion is served at the altar rail. To receive the sacrament, stand or kneel to receive the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Receive the wine that follows either by drinking from the cup or by retaining the wafer to dip lightly into the cup. If you do not wish to receive Communion but would like a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest. Gluten free wafers are available.*

HYMN 101  
Away in a manger

*Cradle Song*

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

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.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION 100

Joy to the world!

*Antioch*

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant says the dismissal, and the people respond, Thanks be to God.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

The Christmas flowers and greenery are given to the glory of God and:

In loving memory of John and Harriet Bagg and Bill and Catherine Norfleet by John and Ann Bagg

In thanksgiving for our family by Mary and Doug Galke

In loving memory of Andy Greene by Beth Greene

In loving memory of and in celebration for family and friends by Susie and Ann Greene

In loving memory of Jordan, Alex, Sara, Gene, Grover and Carrie by Jo Ann Hallmark

In loving memory of George and Novella Frazier, Albert and Trilby Gerth, H. B. and Joanne Hege, and Robert and Rita Schroeder by Andrew, Amanda, Eleanor, and David Hege

In honor of my mother, Kirby Brown, by Juliana Henderson

In loving memory of Randolph and Clementi Holder and Eric and Walter Turnbow by the Holder-Turnbow family

In thanksgiving for the birthday of Megan Redford and in thanks for Alex and Bre Lawler and Lennon and Megan Redford and in loving memory of Tom, Jack and May by Rick and Beth Lawler

In loving memory of William Daniel McGill, Violet Holler McGill and C.B. Barbre, Jr. and in honor of Jo Singletary Barbre and Barbre and Alex Hoar by Loy and Paul McGill

In thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren who bring love, peace and joy to my life by Jane Milner

In loving memory of Mable and Roy Raulerson and Win and Richard Rheutan and in honor of Kit, Maggie, Warner and Hayes Raulerson and Patrick Raulerson by Mary Ellen and Joe Raulerson

In loving memory of our daughter, Jennifer Rundell Leach, and our brother, Charles Bishop, by Luella and John Rundell

In loving memory of my mother, Maria Skibo, by Luba Skibo

In loving memory of Elizabeth Postlethwait by the Postlethwait and Stroh families

In loving memory of Spencer Sweeting Klingeman and in honor of Megan and Dex by Sue Sweeting



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**St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church**

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