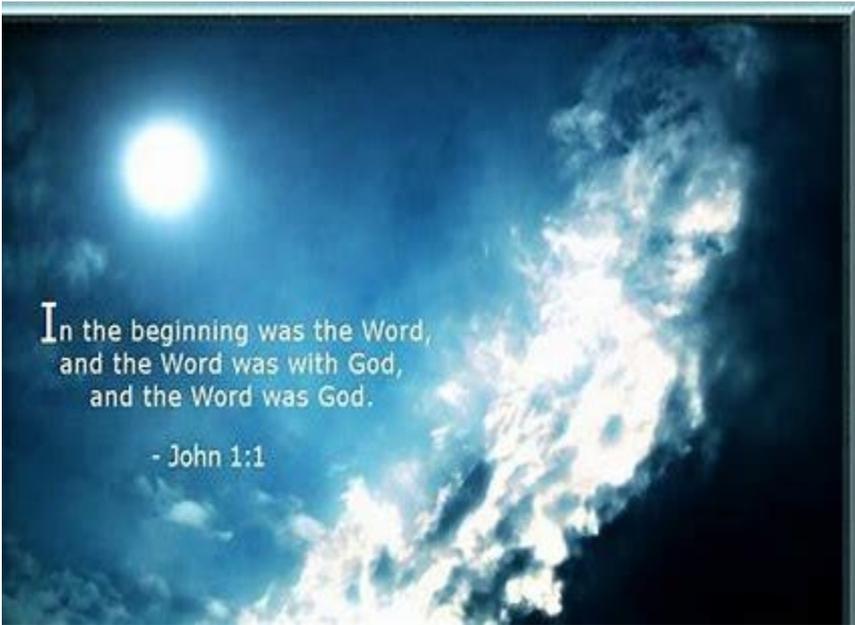


*The Church of the
Holy Family
The Episcopal Church in
Mills River, NC*



*The First Sunday after
Christmas Day
December 26, 2021*

SACRED PLACE SACRED SPACE
Please observe silence after the Altar Candles are lit

PRELUDE

A bell rings three times; the People stand

ENTRANCE HYMN #102 *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display
heaven's Word, the world's creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and
forever. Amen.***

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #93 *Angels, from the realms of glory*

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

***Refrain: come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.***

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Refrain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: Psalm 147

¹Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

⁴He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

- ¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- ¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- ¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- ¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- ²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- ²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

^{4:4}But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #112 *In the bleak midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
throng'd the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the belov'd
with a kiss.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to John.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Chris Mason

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jose, our Bishop, and Chris, our Priest that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant continues:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

PROPER PREFACE

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, 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S 129 *Holy, holy, holy*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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,

*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 forever.

AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

(All are welcome at our Table)

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN #94 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your
hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son
Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain
with you always. *Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESSIONAL HYMN #100 *Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

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INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

Shirley	Mickey	Kevin	Cody
Brent	Devin	Nicholas	David
Josh	Jan	Lila	Dave
Julie		Danny	Elisa
Helen	Joy	John	Carolyn and
Chris C.	Jim B.	Susie	Tyshaun
Baby	Rita Beth	Edward	
Bobby-Cole			

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer pray for Holy Family, Mills River, and St. Mary's and St. Stephen's, Morganton.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week , especially Jim and Evie Brush, Eng Duncan, and Marge Bowden

A message from Fr. Chris:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: This is my final service as your Priest-in-Charge. I have been blessed to serve you as your priest, and I look forward to returning in the future as a parishioner. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you begin a new phase in your individual ministries, and as the Body of Christ in Mills River, NC.

Upcoming Events

Men's Breakfast- Every Wednesday, 8:30 am at Kosta's Restaurant

Executive Committee Meetings-Every Tuesday, 1:00 pm

Outreach Committee, 1st Tuesday of the month, 1:30 pm

Choir Practice, Every Wednesday, 4:30 pm

Women's Group- Saturday, January 8, 2022, 10:00 am

Sunday Worship

9:45 am Christian Education
10:45 am Worship and Communion

Treasurer

Judy Rhodes, *Music Minister*
Linda Bregartner, *Altar Guild*
Linda Bregartner, *Interim Treasurer*
Jeanne Mason, *Parish Secretary*
Diane Carter, *Prayer Ministry*
Martha Callan, *Outreach Chair*
Charlotte Garcia, *Youth and Children's Ministry*

The people of Holy Family, Ministers

The Rt. Rev. Jose A. McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Chris Mason, Priest in Charge

**The Church of the Holy Family is a parish of the
Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western North Carolina
419 Turnpike Road, Mills River, NC 28759
(828) 891-9375 Website: www.ourhollyfamily.org
Email: secretary@ ourhollyfamily.org**

VESTRY

Gary Carraux: Senior Warden [1/22],
Stan Phipps: Junior Warden [1/23],
Linda Bregartner [1/22], Stan Pacana [1/24],
Evie Brush [1/24], Vacant [1/23]

