

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina

The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 5, 2025

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space

Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Craig Duncan

A bell rings three times; the people stand.

Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN

H# 423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

H#376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty," says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84: 1-8

¹How 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.**

²The 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.**

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

A reading from Paul's letter 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.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

H #480 When Jesus left his Father's throne



1 When Je - sus left his Fa - ther's throne, he chose an hum - ble birth;
2 Sweet were his words and kind his look, when mo - thers round him pressed;
3 When Je - sus in - to Zi - on rode, the chil - dren sang a - round;



like us, un - hon - ored and un - known, he came to dwell on earth.
their in - fants in his arms he took, and on his bos - om blessed.
for joy they plucked the palms and strowed their gar - ments on the ground.



Like him may we be found be - low, in wis - dom's path of peace;
Safe from the world's al - lur - ing harms, be - neath his watch - ful eye,
Ho - san - na our glad voic - es raise, ho - san - na to our King!



like him in grace and know - ledge grow as years and strength in - crease.
thus in the cir - cle of his arms may we for ev - er lie.
Should we for - get our Sa - vior's praise, the stones them - selves would sing.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to

him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

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

Leader Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray saying, "Glorious Lord; ... ***Grant us your peace.***"

Celebrant: Son of God, child of Mary, child of joy and peace born in the stable at Bethlehem, hear the prayers of your people and help us to come to you and be born anew this holy season. **Amen.**

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.

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.*

THE PEACE

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

GATHERING *GTG #19 God of Great and God of Small*

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all.

God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns for evermore,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S 130 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 for ever. **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

S 164 Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN

GTG #5 God the Sculptor of the Mountain

God the sculptor of the mountains, God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens. God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation; we are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance of the Pharaoh, God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness, God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliverance; we are aimless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat:
you are host at every table; we are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet, God the resurrected truth:
you are present every moment; we are searching; meet us now.

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

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

H# 657 Love divine, all loves excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Group, Sat., Jan. 11, 10:00 am
Vestry Meeting, Sun., Jan. 12, 12:15 pm
Outreach Committee, Tues., Jan. 14, 4:00 pm
Annual Meeting, Sun., Jan. 19, 12:30 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Tracey Kelly, Rector, tracey@ourholyfamily.org
The Rev. Deacon Paulette Rempel, paulette@ourholyfamily.org
Rev. Tammy Bales, Preaching Associate, pastortam12@gmail.com
Ryan Singleton, Music Director, singletonryan97@gmail.com
Jeanne Mason, Parish Administrator, secretary@ourholyfamily.org
Liz Spahr, Pastoral Care Coordinator, liz@ourholyfamily.org
Jodi Harbin, Youth Ministry Coordinator, jodi@vetonthego.com

Michal Baird, Sr. Warden, michal@ourholyfamily.org
Kelly Beaty, Secretary, kstb@icloud.com
Patti Angrisani, Vestry Liaison for Invitation & Growth, pangrisani2795@gmail.com
Benjamin Hall, Vestry Liaison for Welcome & Hospitality, lbh49geo46@gmail.com
Warren Spahr, Vestry Liaison for Connection & Communication, wspahr@gmail.com
Zebbi Sampler, Treasurer, zebbi.baynard@gmail.com