**Advent Ecumenical Service**

**St. Mary’s, Dec. 16, 2020**

**Prelude** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* arr. Gerald Near

**Welcome**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Music** *Incarnation Hymn* Neil Barham

1. In mute astonishment and awe, 2.From Light Eternal shines the Light,
The angels learn God’s plan And Satan’s night is ended
To send His Uncreated Son Its brilliance breaks upon the world
Down to the Earth—as Man! In day uncomprehended.

3. Incarnate God, embrace me now,
And by your Spirit’s art,
Enflesh the Word of God anew
Within my yielded heart.

**The Parable of the Birds\***

**Prayers**

In joyful expectation of Christ’s coming we pray for our needs and the needs of the world saying “Lord, hear our prayer.”

We pray for God’s people in all places and in all ages who by the Spirit have been gathered into the Church. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation and all the nations of the world.

Help us to live peaceably with one another and be instruments of your peace in all places.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit.

Visit those in need of healing and pour upon them the balm of your grace.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are lonely and alone, for those who are homeless and those whose homes are torn by strife. Be present to comfort and protect.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for nurses, lab technicians, doctors, and scientists who take care of those who are infected during this pandemic and who work for its end.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who resist taking precautions against the transmission of Covid-19, that their hearts will be softened with love for their neighbor.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have departed this earthly life. That light perpetual shine upon them.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

And now as Christ has gathered us into one by the Spirit we gather our prayers into one and pray as our Savior has taught us.

Our Father………….

**Music** *Let Earth and Heaven Combine*Charles Wesley

Let earth and Heaven combine,
Angels and men agree,
To praise in songs divine
Th’incarnate Deity,
Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man.

He laid His glory by,
He wrapped Him in our clay;
Unmarked by human eye,
The latent Godhead lay;
Infant of days He here became,
And bore the loved Immanuel’s name.

He deigns in flesh t’appear,
Widest extremes to join;
To bring our vileness near,
And make us all divine:
And we the life of God shall know,
For God is manifest below.

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* arr. Egil Hovland

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*The Parable of the Birds*  Louis Cassels