

St. John's Episcopal Church



Christmas Festival with Pageant

Friday, December 24th, 2021 ~ 5pm

The Reverend John Beach
Priest-in-Charge

Prelude

Opening Hymn

#83 ~ *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1-3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

Words of Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Wreath

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lessons & Music

Hymn #56 ~ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)*

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 you, O Israel!

Luke 2:1-7

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn #101 ~ *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care;
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Luke 2:8-20

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn #99 ~ *Go Tell it On the Mountain* (verses 1-2) Traditional Tune

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn* #128 ~ *We Three Kings of Orient (verses 1 & 5)*

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, 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.

Refrain

*While this hymn is sung the children are invited to join in a procession to build the Christmas Crèche.
Adults are welcome to remain seated unless assisting children.*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem #89 ~ *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Doxology *

#380 vs. 3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Officiant 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

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

#S130 ~ *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.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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. **AMEN**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

#S164 ~ *Lamb of God*

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the Lord's table and all are welcome here.

Distribution of Communion

At St. John's, all are welcome at God's table.

Communion Hymn

#111 ~ *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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.

Post-communion Prayer

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

Closing Hymn

#100 ~ *Joy to the World*

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

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude



Christmas Prayer List

Edward & Louise Azzari ~ Donnie & Eleanor Bernabie ~ The Brison Family ~ The Cameron & Chapman Families ~ Michael A. Coogan, Sr. ~ Carol Cox and Mr. & Mrs. William Cox, Sr. Russell Cutter ~ Edward, Madelyn, Eva, and Frank Davey ~ Departed members of The Davey, Lancaster, and Seaboyer Families ~ Victoria Denis ~ Vincent M. Federici ~ Joanne M. Felci James A. Felci ~ Mildred P. Felci ~ Paul Fuhs ~ Jean, Robert, and Richard Grabowski ~ Eileen Groth ~ John Guerrero ~ Marilyn Holmes & Margaret Hurl and Marcia Hurl Foote ~ Beulah, Stanley, and Gary Kanarkiewicz ~ John Kelly and John Kelly, Jr. ~ Marilyn & Arthur Kenney Kevin Lancaster ~ Phyllis Leston ~ James Lyon ~ Anna & Peter Manoogian and Elaine Manoogian Espindle ~ Shane Maxwell ~ Catherine & Dean Means ~ Alan Merritt ~ Pauline & Harlowe Midland ~ Henry & Louise Migdula ~ Danny Mullen ~ Doug Palazzo ~ Lisa Polese Eugene & Josephine Poti ~ Agnes & Coley Rochefort ~ The Rodenhisers ~ Marilyn Tarr Schiappa Jerry Smith ~ Marsha Soucy ~ Irene A. Tarr ~ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tarr ~ Joseph & Josephine DiTrapano ~ Tommy & Teresa Wales ~ Barbara & Mel Witham

In Thanksgiving

Josh & Sunny Irwin ~ Elizabeth, Phil, Paige, Gwyneth, Harrison, Emery, Lydia, and Michaela ~ The Seaboyer Children & Grandchildren

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge ~ Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Julia Aston, Worship Leader

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