



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30PM

DECEMBER 24, 2021

INSTRUMENTAL CAROLS

All seated.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Please stand.

Reader The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them the light has shined.

The Christ Candle is lit.

People For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

HYMN

OH COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

H 83

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, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.

Glory to God, Glory in the highest;

Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory give;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

THE COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy that Brightness perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

All are seated throughout the pageant.

THE SACRED STORY: THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH TOLD BY THE YOUTH OF ST. FRANCIS'

THE SETTING

Reader This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem.

The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread."

In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

H 79

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in the dark streets shinest
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

MARY AND JOSEPH ARRIVE IN BETHLEHEM

Reader As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Mary and Joseph from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax.

But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

H 79, v. 2

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.

JESUS IS BORN

Reader Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father has filled with straw.

Mary For to us a child is born. And he will be called Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

AWAY IN A MANGER

LEVAS 27

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the 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 cradle till morning is nigh.
Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Reader In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of angels. The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly,

Angel Gabriel Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord.

Reader Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing:

Angels Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

H 96

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

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SHEPHERDS HEAD TO BETHLEHEM

Shepherd 1 Look! One star shines brighter than all the others!

Shepherd 2 Let's go and see it!

Reader The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

H 94

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."

"All glory be to God on high
and on earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

A CHRISTMAS HOPE

Reader So now we all come, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

We tell this tale of wonder and majesty every year, as it has been told for thousands of years. The story of angels and shepherds, stables and mangers, Mary and Joseph and the Christ Child.

And though the message does not change, we hope that the message continues to change our hearts, to change our minds, to bring needed change to our world. This Christmas, may God's promised peace be born in our world again.

Joy to you and your family on this Christmastide!

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

H 87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

PEACE

Presider, with children

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

THE VICAR'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

OFFERTORY

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

H 93

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

DOXOLOGY

H 380

The following is sung as the offerings are presented.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

EUCCHARIST

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thank to the Lord our God.

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

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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:

LEVAS 255

The People Sing:

**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.**

Please remain standing.

Presider On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup; gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, gracious God, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God, gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

LEVAS 261

The People Sing:

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Eucharistic bread is gluten-free and nut-free. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus.

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 throngèd the air;
 but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
 worshiped the beloved 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.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

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?

*Refrain: 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.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
 come, peasant, king, to own him;
 the King of kings salvation brings,
 let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People **Gracious God, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we, who have tasted heavenly things, share in the life of Christ's kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Please tip your candle into the flame to receive the light; after receiving the light, please hold your candle upright.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

SILENT NIGHT

H 111

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.

BLESSING

Presider May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God the One Holy and Undivided Trinity be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

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

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.

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

DISMISSAL

Presider Alleluia! Our service is ended; our service to the world begins. Let us go forth in the name of Emmanuel. God with us!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

MINISTERS OF WORSHIP

Presider	The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti
Acolyte	Madeleine Whaley
Ushers	Nathan Whaley and Bob Smith
Greeters	Sue Schmidt and Ellen Ogier
Eucharistic Minister	Kaleik Jokerst
Readers	Katie Jones and Jude McCart
Pageant Coordinator	Bethany Frost
Tellers	Rich Mayfield and Bob Smith
Livestream	Ruby Downs and Jackie Selle

FLOWERS GIVEN BY...

Joe and Donna Bernert, in memory of Joe Thum and Joe and Louise Bernert

Bob and Linda Carter, in memory of Edith Barber and Edna Miller

Wade and Becky Hall, in memory of our mothers, Frances and Annabel and in thanks for Glenn, Austin, and Brad

Janet Houseman, in memory of Regina Barcelona and William Martin Houseman

Chris and Mary Ann Kinder, In memory of Jim and Saundie Hogan and Floyd and Virginia Kinder

Jack Laules, in memory of Johanna Laules

Chris and Tracey Oswald, in memory of Carmen Archer, Dorothy Oswald, and Gerald Oswald by their family and in thanks for Amber, William, Rowan and Hawthorne Oswald

Bob and Doris Schaefer, in thanks for three beautiful great grandchildren

Doris and Jim Schneider, in memory of Gisela Dickinson (sister in law died on December 1, 2021)

Barb Sacco and family, in memory of Nick Sacco

Bill and Della Thompson, in memory of Myron Thompson and Rose Bonicelli