

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST CHILDREN'S PAGEANT WITH HOLY EUCHARIST



DECEMBER 24, 2020

Cover art: Backdrop for Trinity Children's Christmas Pageant
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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

GUITAR

Greensleeves

English ballad, 16th cent.

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83 O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles, arr. Willcocks

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 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;

O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord. | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;

<i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;

<i>Refrain</i> | 6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

<i>Refrain</i> |

STATION AT THE CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE

Officiant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
People **And we beheld his glory.**

The Christ child is placed in the crèche

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your son Jesus Christ to be born of the virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE 96 **Angels we have heard on high (vs. 1 & 4)**

Gloria

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

OPENING BIDDING

STORYTELLER This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go.

The little town we seek sits in the hill country, some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses there have gathered together 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. The donkeys chew their barley and broken straw while weary cows lean and rest at the end of the day. Sheep nearby are almost asleep. Doves coo in the rafters.

All is still and quiet in the little town.

Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

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

STORYTELLER As night gathers, the last few 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 Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long before.

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

Duet Once in royal David's city

Irby

1. 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.
2. 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.

STORYTELLER 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 his father filled with straw.

Choir Away in a manger, no crib for his bed

Mueller

1. 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
2. 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.

STORYTELLER In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is split by light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter. It is the face of an angel.

The fearful shepherds hear sounds in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "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."

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.”

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.

HYMN 94 **While shepherds watched their flocks by night** *Winchester Old*

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. “Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

STORYTELLER Three camels plod up the road that leads to Bethlehem. They have come from the east, far beyond the Arabian Desert. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

HYMN 128 **We three kings of Orient are** *Three Kings of Orient*

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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
<i>Refrain:</i>
<i>O star of wonder, star of night,</i>
<i>star with royal beauty bright;</i>
<i>westward leading,</i>
<i>still proceeding,</i>
<i>guide us to thy perfect light!</i>2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign.
<i>Refrain</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High.
<i>Refrain</i>4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
<i>Refrain</i>5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia
the earth replies.
<i>Refrain</i> |
|--|---|

STORYTELLER The kings’ journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with such love.

So now we all come, following the star, 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.

Come forward, now. Bring your gifts of stars and of yourselves to place around the manger. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy.

HYMN 99

Go tell it on the mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

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

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

3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

THE PEACE

BCP p. 360

HYMN 111

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. 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.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

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The Reverend David Henson Associate Rector

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Explore Faith • Embrace Community • Expect a Difference

Our Vision Statement

Trinity Church is a nurturing Christian community providing opportunities for worship, spiritual growth and commitment in a supportive and open atmosphere.