

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

2016 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 24, 2016

3:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Mary's! We are glad to be worshipping together with you on this Christmas Eve. You are welcome here, wherever you are on your journey of faith.

We invite everyone to participate in our re-telling of the story of the first Christmas and to celebrate the hope and joy a baby brought to the world on an extraordinary night in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. Please join in the singing and the prayers.

Please turn your cell phones off. Please do not take pictures during the service. There will be an opportunity to take photos at the end of the pageant.

PRELUDE

Please stand as able, all singing

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal, # 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, 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*

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

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

OPENING SENTENCES

Officiant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

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 him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Hymnal, #421

All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
and God's good will unfailingly be to all people given.
We bless, we worship you, we raise for your great glory thanks and praise,
O God, Almighty Father.

O Lamb of God, Lord Jesus Christ, whom God the Father gave us,
who for the world was sacrificed upon the cross to save us;
and as you sit at God's right hand and we for judgment there must stand,
have mercy, Lord, upon us.

You only are the Holy One, who came for our salvation,
and only you are God's true Son, who was before creation.
You, only, Christ, as Lord we own and, with the Spirit,
you alone share in the Father's glory.

THE FIRST GOSPEL

The Very Rev. Dr. Donald G. Brown

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

All **Glory be to God. We have seen the glory,
the glory of the only child from God.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remain standing

Leader Let us recall the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night, saying "God, hear our prayer."

That the Child born in a stable might find in our hearts warm welcome by our awareness of the needs of the homeless and hungry, let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and wherever there is violence, let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, especially those we might name, silently or aloud. Let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader That the blessed hope we celebrate on this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader For all the blessings of this life, especially those you might name at this time
Let us pray to God:

People **God, hear our prayer.**

Leader God of darkness and silence, may our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas Word, Jesus, who is God this night and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH

Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL The angel Gabriel from heaven came *Hymnal, # 265*

verses 1 & 2

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said, he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria.

“For know, a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady,” Gloria.

THE ANNUNCIATION

Reader In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

Angel Gabriel

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

Reader But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

Angel Gabriel

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Reader Then Mary said,

Mary Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

Reader Then the angel departed from her.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL The angel Gabriel from heaven came *Hymnal, # 265*

verse 3

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

THE VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH

Reader In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child (who became John the Baptist) leapt in her womb.

Elizabeth

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL The angel Gabriel from heaven came *Hymnal, # 265*
verse 4

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say –
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria.

MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE

Mary My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Reader Mary remained with Elizabeth for three months and then returned home.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Reader 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Once in royal David's city

Hymnal, # 102

verse 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.

Reader 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hymnal, # 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 thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Reader 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,

Angel of the Lord

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.

Reader And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host.

Seraphim Angel

Angels! Our Savior is born! Join me in praising God and proclaiming to heaven and earth....

All Angels

Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, goodwill to all!

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal, # 96

verse 1

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPOND

Reader When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Head Shepherd

Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal, # 96

verse 3

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

Reader 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Away in a manger

Hymnal, # 101

verses 1 & 2

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

MARY RESPONDS TO JESUS' BIRTH

Reader But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Silent night, holy night

Hymnal, # 111

verses 1 - 3

Please kneel as able.

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.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY DURING THE FINAL VERSE

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND OFFERTORY

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal, # 87

The congregation remains seated

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born 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 new-born 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 us 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

Please stand.

PRESENTATION HYMN

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Hymnal, # 107

verse 1

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today.

THE BLESSING

Officiant May Christ our infant savior give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the awe of the worshipping sages and the humility and love of the holy family. May you become as little children and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you forever.

All **Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Joy to the world!

Hymnal, # 100

verses 1, 2 & 4

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.

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.

Officiant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Merry Christmas!



PAGEANT CAST, CREW & PARTICIPANTS

Narrator/Reader	Sylvia McCleary
Prayers of the People	Alexandra Grover
Prophet Isaiah	Mike Stafford
Prophet Jeremiah	Alan Pendergast
Angel Gabriel	Noelle Winn
Mary	Sophia Gnuse, Kelly Napolitana
Elizabeth	Charlotte Winn
Joseph	Jack Pendergast
Baby Jesus	William Turkovich and Claire Hallowell
Angel of the Lord	Caroline Stafford
The Seraphim Angel	Stella Tsai
Head Angel	
Angels and Shepherds	Harry Gnuse, Laurel Werner, Adele Yu, Rutledge Yu, Walter Yu, Rebecca Stafford, Carson Lotfi, and Flash Mob participants
Head Shepherd	Buddy Pendergast
Animal wranglers	Seda Perry, Beckett Fishburne
Crucifer	Ginny Woodworth
Directors	Natalie Hala, Max Colter, and Ginny Woodworth
Costume Mistresses	Anna Sylvester and Pam Sauer
Officiant	The Rev. Dr. Deborah White

And the story continues...!

Join us for the **Feast of the Epiphany and Visit of the Magi**

Sunday, January 8, 2017

9:00 a.m.



LITURGICAL STAFF

The Very Rev. Dr. Donald G. Brown
Interim Rector

The Rev. Dr. Deborah White
Interim Co-Rector

The Rev. Claire Dietrich Ranna
Associate Rector

Eric Choate
Interim Director of Music

Marla Perkins
Interim Children's Choir Director

Natalie Hala
Verger & Liturgist

The Rev. Tim Smith
Deacon

The Rev. Nancy Bryan
Deacon