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*a Christ-centered community of practice awaking to the abiding presence of God*

**The Christmas Pageant**

**with**

**Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

**Christmas Eve 2021 at 4:00 pm**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

*All stand to sing*

**Hymn in Procession 83** *O come all ye faithful**v 1, 3, 6*

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.

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 Acclamation**

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

  Blessed be God: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day**

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**

**Hymn 78** *O little town of Bethlehem*

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 hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

 **THE PAGEANT OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

*Congregation sits throughout the pageant.*

*At the conclusion of the pageant, the congregation stands and sings the hymn.*

**Hymn 100** *Joy to the World*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

 4 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, and wonders of his love.

**THE PEACE**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Presentation Hymn 115** *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 Christians, 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*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People****:* And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People****:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant praises God for God’s creation and love. Then all say the Sanctus together:*

**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.**

*The Celebrant recalls (and makes present for all) Jesus’ life and last supper. Then the Celebrant asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God’s holy food.*

**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,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Dear God, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you; never permit us to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

**Candlelight**

*Please light your candles wherever you are. Let us join in singing Silent Night.*

**Hymn 111**

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.

*Following the singing of Silent Night, we observe a period of silence. Then the congregation is invited to join in the following prayer.*

**Postcommunion Prayer**

**Blessed are you, O God,**

**for you have visited and redeemed**

**your people, coming to us in Jesus.**

**With this meal and your love**

**you have set us free to live in the light of a manger.**

**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 savior. Amen.**

**Blessing**

May God, who sent God’s child to take our nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness, and brighten your heart with light.

*People*  **Amen**

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.

*People* **Amen**

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

*People* **Amen**

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*People* **Amen**

*The candles are extinguished and all stand to sing*

**Hymn 87** *Hark! the herald angels sing*

1 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 new-born King!*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;

late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.

Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 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*

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

**An Extra!**

**Christmas Pageants of the Past Slideshow**

**Cast of Pageant**

Joseph   *Christian Olmstead*
Mary *Gemma Meima*Innkeeper *Leander Chapin*

Angel of the Lord  *Maea Chapin*Wise People *Ethan, Eleanor and Annabel Horton*Shepherds   *Elijah Warren; Liliana Saddler*Angels *Andrew Goodridge; Zhong Yi and Mei Yi Osborne*Baby John the Baptist *Astrid Huddleston-Jochems*

Baby Jesus *Beatrix Huddleston-Jochems*

**Readers and Stage Assistants:***Carter Lowe*

*Hazael Lowe*

*Zadie Olmstead*

*Asa Taggert*

*Hugo Taggert*

*Caroline Wojcik*

**Musical Assistants:**

*Jayne Fritz*

*Jonah Johnson*
**Film Crew:**

*Tian Ragle*

*Galen Robinson*

**Director:**

*Susan Dedell*

**ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN**

**As a Gift to the Glory of God:**

*From Janet Cramer*

*From Laura Lewis*

**In Thanksgiving for:**

*Our parish being in-person & Zoom from Christine Hart*

*Family & Friends from Judy Walker*

*Ruth Tilghman and the ministry of Loaves & Fishes from Cliff & Wylene Wood*

*The birth of Calista Good Chapin from Lise Sparrow*

**In Memory of:**

*Family from Doug & Ann Switzer*

*Samuel W. Meek, III from Fr. Nicholas & Dorothy Porter*

*Nancy & Halsey Hicks from Pamela & Paul Gallagher*

*Ed McGee, Charles & Evelyn Swift, and Marge Turek from Judy McGee*

*Leonard and Shirley Ely, Benn and Martha Ely, Benn M. Ely and Scott Ely from Tom & Ann Ely*

*Samuel W. Meek III from Fr. Nicholas & Dorothy Porter*

*Peter Davidson from Judy & Jack Davidson*

*Bruce Hesselbach from Carol Hesselbach*

*Poppies from his loving family*

*Madelyn Howard from Judith McBean*