

Pageant Service 2022

Call to Worship

Greeting

A: Beloved of God, who are called to be saints: grace and peace be with you from the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: And also with you.

Prayer requests

Brief Order For Confession and Forgiveness

Stand

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us.

C: Amen

P: As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

Silence for self-examination

P: Righteous and merciful God,

C: we confess that we have strayed from your ways and walked our own paths. We fall asleep to the needs around us, yet our anxieties jar us awake. We are bound up in systems of unrighteousness and injustice. Restore your people, O God; renew your creation; and have mercy on us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

Candle Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer

All: All-loving God, break into our world and our hearts again. Magnify your love in us until it overflows to our neighbors. Renew our faith to relive the wonder of your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may shine the light of your compassionate love. Come, God of Love, come. Amen

Hymn: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW #240 vv 1-4

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway

for the King of glory.

4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

Prayer of the Day:

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 MSG

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus--'God saves'--because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic sermon to full term: Watch for this--a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Emmanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us"). Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BEGINS:

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to Bethlehem! Let us open our eyes and ears and listen to the story of when Christ was born. We need a Mary and Joseph for our pageant– who would like to be Mary? Joseph?

Part I: Mary and Joseph

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem. ELW #279

(Mary & Joseph with baby take their places up front during song)

- 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 wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!**

- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still**

the dear Christ enters in.

**4 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;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

Narration:

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.
So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright.
Sickly or dying? What was the matter?
“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!
“My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.
There’ll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.
But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.
I couldn’t avoid them, so I tried a good deed.
I cleaned up the stable: Rachel cooked up a meal.
We helped all we could, at least, that’s how I feel.
For we noticed that Mary was expecting – and soon!
So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.
The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light.
As if God had shone God’s presence so bright.
Joseph said softly. “It’s Jesus, my friend.”
God sent him among us to bring to an end fear and
hatred, darkness, and sin.
Instead God gave light, to let God’s love in.

Part II: The Animals (*All of the animals come forward*)

Song: The Friendly Beasts: Mia Mendenall

Narration:

My animals were calm, quieter than normal.
They often were noisy, and never too formal.
They always were eating, or else they were sleeping.
The stable required continuous sweeping.
But on Christmas night, they were strangely in awe at the sight of the
babe and all that they saw.
It's as if they were aware that God had just hushed them,
Had fed and watered and carefully brushed them.
They knew, I believe, that God had been able to work a miracle there in
that stable.

Song: “Away in a Manger” ELW #277 vv 1 & 2

(Angel with star goes and stands behind Mary and Joseph during this song)

- 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Part III: The Angels

Song: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW #270 vv.13

(All the other angels move to the front)

- 1** **Hark! The herald angels sing,**

**"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain****
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **Refrain****

Narration:

We don't often see angels in flight.
But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.
They appeared to the shepherds and, boy, were they scared!

“Angels!” cried one. “Will any lives be spared?”
“Are they here to destroy us? Is our time on earth up?
Have we seen our last day? Have we drunk our last cup?”
But “Peace on earth; goodwill to all” was the angels’ sweet song; that
was their call.
With a light show that dazzled all who did see, the angels hallelujahed
and sang out with glee.
“To Bethlehem, shepherds!” the angels directed.
“To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected.”
“Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.
And you’ll find Christmas joy for all of your days.

”Part IV: The Shepherds

Song: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW #283, vv1&2

(All shepherds move to the front during the singing of this Carol.)

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

**2 The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Narration:

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned.
“Too much hard work or too much hot sun!”
That’s what they thought; that’s how they explained.
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.
But the angels’ song calmed them, and then they believed.
They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved.
They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.
Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

Part V: Wise Persons and Star

Song: “We three Kings”
(Pres. Hymnal #66 vv 1 & 5)
(Wise persons make their way forward)

**We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

**O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Narration:

The star that shone brightly led Wise Persons at night
To Bethlehem's stable, to the manger's strange light.
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love, praising God for God's
wonders from heaven above.

The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on my straw.

It was the oddest of things that ever I saw.

If kings bring him treasure, then maybe you, too, can worship with
pleasure the person of Jesus, who
came to us all.

So worthy of praise, for he brings us God's call."

"I am the way, the truth, and the life,

Come to God for healing from strife.

Come unto me, all you who labor,

And I'll give you rest forever to savor."

Part VI: Conclusion

Narration:

T'was the very first Christmas and there in the manger,
The Christ-child was born; it couldn't have been stranger.

Shepherds saw angels; Wise Men, a star.

They came to see Jesus; they came afar.

They knew he was special – God's very own son,

He came to the earth to love everyone.

He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord,

To be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored.

So now at Christmas we all take delight.

In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.

In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,

Let us never forget, it's in Christ that we live.

Song:

“Joy to the World” ELW #267 vv 1 & 2

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Prayers of Intercession:

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International (*others may be named*).

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (*especially*).

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

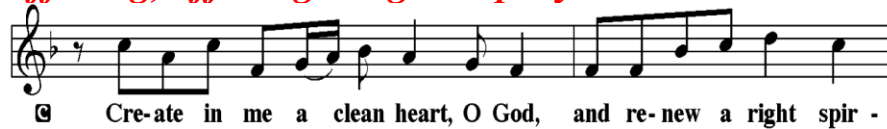
Sharing of the peace:

A: The peace of the Lord be with you all

C: and also with you

(Extend a word or gesture of peace to those around you)

Offering, offering song and prayer:



P: Let us pray...

C: **Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need to your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen**

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Words of Institution:

Lord's Prayer:

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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, forever and ever.
Amen**

Distribution:

Come to the Lord's Table, for all is ready and all are welcome.

Blessing and Post Communion prayer:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Q: Amen

P: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benediction:

**P: Rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.
When he comes again in glory,
may he bring you to everlasting life.
Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.**

C: Amen

Announcements:

Sending Song:

“Joy to the World” vv 3 & 4

**3 No more let sin and sorrow 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, wonders of his love.**

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God