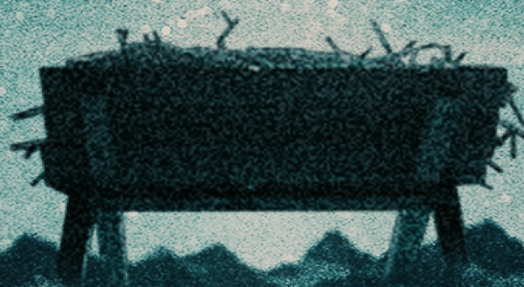


FOR
UNTO US
A CHILD
IS BORN

Isaiah 9:6

*St. James' Episcopal Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021
6:30 pm*



Christmas Prelude

A Christmas Combo

arr. by Michael Larkin

Welcome

Opening Carols

Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel

arr. by Michael Larkin

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Those who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
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
Far off shines the Infants light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all who praise us
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Come have Your way among us

We welcome You here, Lord Jesus
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In His temple will appear
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all who praise us
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Christmas Offering

arr. by Michael Larkin

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your
throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You

Clergy
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Clergy
People
Clergy

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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 him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives

and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song

The Word

For the Word of God lives here
Deep in our hearts
And is sharper than the blade of any sword
Grasses fade, flowers fall
But God's love endures
Please guide us
O Lord to Your will
This is God's Word.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. 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. 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, "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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 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.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him

all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Sisters and Brothers, on this most holy night, when the word of God is made flesh among us, let us pray for ourselves, for those in need of our prayers, and for God's people everywhere. At the close of each petition, you are invited to respond "Hear our Prayer."

Almighty and everliving God, bless your holy Church, the community of believers throughout the world, that it may faithfully proclaim the Good News of salvation to the ends of the earth.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of conflict and war may be replaced by the light of your peace and love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of the nations and peoples of the world that they may put aside their own ambitions, and strive for justice, promoting the dignity and freedom of all people.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors, nurses, and aides; police officers, firefighters, and those in the armed forces; For all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

On this most holy night, we commend to your loving care all those in need: the victims of war, violence, injustice and oppression, the poor, refugees, the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, and those who are alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit, for those we now name, either aloud or in our hearts [*pause*] and for those whose needs are known to you alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those whom we love but see no more, commending them to your merciful care, especially those we now name [*pause*]. Grant that we, like them, may come to that place where we may dwell in the glorious light of your eternal Word.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Clergy

God of silence and darkness, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh, the gift of your Son. Accept, we pray, our words of praise and petition; let us, and all your people be strong echoes of the Christmas word which you have spoken, that all might come to know the peace which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, this night and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Clergy

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

Clergy

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Clergy The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory

Christmas Is Here

arr. by Michael Larkin

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you loving God, for you did not stand far off but came in nearness with the tenderness of love. We praise you for the Word made flesh born of Mary, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song.

The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the outcast, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost.

And so we gladly thank you, joining our voices with saints and angels, we now say:

Sanctus (*sing*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Lord we sing your praise.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Lord we sing your praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Lord we sing your praise. Lord we sing your praise. Lord we sing your praise.**

Father, 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. On the night he 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, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Priest Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

Music at Communion

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. by Michael Larkin

Christmas Communion

arr. by Michael Larkin

Carol

Silent Night

St. James' Worship Band

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.

Postcommunion Prayer (*All*)

God of abundance you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another, and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of the Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

By way of Bethlehem lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;
By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;
By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;
By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action;
By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of your coming;
By the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you both now and forever. **Amen.**

Carol

Joy To The World

Blue Hymnal 100

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!

Dismissal

Clergy
All

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

A Christmas Combo Reprise

arr. by Michael Larkin

Special thanks to:

Dave Peebles (Trumpet)
Nick Tarrats (Trumpet)
John Helgren (Tenor and Baritone Saxophones)
Rory Edwards (Bass)
Marcus Oliver (Drums)

Rector
Deacon
Organist/Choirmaster
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology
Media Engineer
Media Engineer
Lector
Prayers of the People
Ushers

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper
The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart
Kip Coerper
Michael Larkin
Nick Kilkenny
Danae Hidy
Christina Stavenhagen-Helgren
Beckie Hidy
Christina Stavenhagen-Helgren, Chris & Brian Davis

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