

St. James's Episcopal Church Christmas Pageant



December 19, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Christmas Pageant

Prelude: Joseph est bien

Marié Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

Please remain seated throughout the pageant.

Carol: Once in royal David's city

Soloist: Berkeley Crane

Solo 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.

All 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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above,
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing round,
we shall see Him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround;
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within Richmond.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

Collect

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your living 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 forever and ever. *Amen.*

Verse and Response

Verse The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

Response And we beheld his glory.

Verse The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

Response And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:1-7, 11-16, 9:6-7

The birth of Christ is foreshown.

Carol: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol: The angel Gabriel from heaven came

All 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!

Gabriel "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!

Mary 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!

All 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!

Anthem: A la ru Spanish carol, arr. M. Whitmire
Soloists: Gavin Greenawalt, Maggie Head

Solo Duérmete, Niño lindo, en los brazos del amor
mientras que duerme y descansa la pena de mi dolor.
A la ru, a la mè ...

All Oh, sleep now holy baby with your head against my breast;
meanwhile the pangs of sorrow are soothed and put to rest.
A la ru, a la mè ...

Solo No temas al rey Herodes que nada te ha de hacer;
en los brazos de tu madre y ahí nadie te ha de ofender.

All You need not fear King Herod, he will bring no harm to you;
so rest in the arms of your mother who sings you a la ru.
A la ru, a la mè

Third Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol: 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 hopes 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!

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-21

The shepherds go to the manger.

Anthem: Shepherds awake!

Michael Jothen

Shepherds awake! rise up this morn;
in Bethlehem a babe is born!

Refrain: Jesus is born! Emmanuel!

Shepherds awake, rise up this morn;
go and see this babe who's born! *Refrain*

Mary, Mary, watching o'er the baby, sleep, Emmanuel.
Cattle lowing round the manger, sleep, Emmanuel.
Sleep tiny baby, wise men are coming,
coming with praise from afar.
Sleep, tiny baby, praise they will sing you
led by a shining star.

Shepherds awake, rise up this morn;
the Son of man to us is born! *Refrain*

Carol: Go tell it on the mountain

Soloists: Rose Harbach, Gavin Greenawalt, Hynson Marvel

Soloists sing all verses. Congregation sings all refrains.

Refrain Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Solo While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Solo The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angels chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. *Refrain*

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

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Carol: We three kings

Verses 2-4 are sung by soloists. Congregation sings Verses 1 and 5 and all refrains.

All We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain
following yonder star.

Refrain O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

1st Wiseman Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again.
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. *Ref*

2nd Wiseman Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. *Ref*

3rd Wiseman Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb. *Ref*

All Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Ref*

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14, 16-18

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol: Angels we have heard on high

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

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? *Ref*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Ref*

Anthem: Away in a manger Ralph Vaughan Williams
All Children

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Anthem: Silent Night Franz Gruber
All Children

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.

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

Carol: On this day earth shall ring

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us.
Him the Father gave us.

Refrain Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o!
Ideo! Gloria in excelsis deo!

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, Heaven's King, born on earth to save us,
Peace and love he gave us. *Ref*

Greeting and Announcements

Offering of Gifts and Praises

Anthem: Jesus Child

John Rutter

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem,
Have you heard the story of the Jesus Child?
How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?
Mary was his Virgin Mother, pure and mild.

Refrain Sing alleluia, brothers, Sing alleluia, sisters,
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.
'Glory to God on high!' the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Have you heard the story of the poor, humble shepherds,
Sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night?
Suddenly the angel tells them: 'Hurry to Bethlehem;
Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light.' *Refrain*

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,
Sleeping safe at Mary's knee,
Save my soul and bring me to paradise,
let me join the angels singing glory to thee.

Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child;
Sisters, come and welcome him, the newborn King;
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmas time;
Young and old and rich and poor, his praise sing. *Refrain*

Hymn 380 (v.3): *Old 100th*, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

Christmas Prayer

Officiant

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.*

Carol: Joy to the world

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.

Postlude: Joy to the world

Hugo Gehrke

Pageant Cast

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Narrators | Grace Harbach, Olivia Sibley |
| Isaiah | Harrison Baxter |
| Gabriel | Elisabeth Eckstein |
| Mary | Taylor Sibley |
| Joseph | Alan Watts |
| Innkeeper | Camille Kidwell |
| Herod | Celia Acey |
| Chief Priest | Lauren Watts |
| Gaspar, 1 st Wise Man | Tyndall Hopper |
| Melchior, 2 nd Wise Man | Thomas McGetrick |
| Balthazaar, 3 rd Wise Man | Sarah Hopper |
| Stable Animals | Carolina Morris, Austin Tribble, Emma Turner |
| Stable Hands | Jake Acey, Mason Acey |
| Camel | Charlotte Baxter, Caroline McGetrick |
| Lead Shepherds | 4 th & 5 th Grade Boys |
| Lead Archangels | 4 th & 5 th Grade Girls |
| Shepherds | 2 nd & 3 rd Grade Boys |
| Heavenly Host | 2 nd & 3 rd Grade Girls |
| Flock of Sheep | 1 st Grade Children |

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|---|--|
| Angels | Three & Four Year old class Pre-K and Kindergarten Children |
| Tech Crew | Stuart Baxter |
| Townspeople | Congregation |
| Cover art | Allie Adamson |
| Pageant Director | Jaime Gordon |
| Interim Director of Children's Ministry | Ashlee Ligon |

Musicians

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|
| Cherub Choir | Dewey Gottwald, Miles Greenawalt, George Head, William Hurt, William Ligon, Mary Frances Mazzenga, Ella Mock, Aubrey Raigins, Rhett Raigins | |
| Children's Choir | Sam Carter, Lora Cropp, Sybil Cropp, Gavin Greenawalt, Rose Harbach, Maggie Head, Henry Marvel, Hynson Marvel, Virginia Wright, Meriwether Wright | |
| Choir Mothers | Cristi Head, Tarran Turvey | |
| Accompanist | Jeanne Lapierre | |
| | Youth Choir Trebles | |
| Georgie Ascoli | Julianne Eckstein | Thomas McGetrick |
| Victoria Carter | Sarah Hopper | Taylor Sibley |
| Berkeley Crane | Tyndall Hopper | Sarah Townsend |
| Elisabeth Eckstein | Muriel Lewis | |
| Organist | Virginia Ewing Whitmire | |
| Director of Music | Dr. Mark Alexander Whitmire | |

Service Participants

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|-------------|--|
| Officiant | The Reverend Dr. John McCard |
| Assisting | Lay Chaplain Blake Singer |
| Acolytes | Annalise Rider and Isabelle Rider, Torch Bearers |
| Videography | Annika Cline and Jay Sandusky |

Altar Guild Group 2

Alice Campbell
Staige Grymes

Sally Watters
Vann Williams

Debbie Meigs, Altar Guild Co-Chair
Lucy Meade, Altar Guild Co-Chair

Usher Team 5

Billy Baxter
Ralph Cummins
Mike DeCamps
Jay Jordan

John Leitch
Jim McVey
David A. Stock
Julien Williams

T.A. Hickman, Team Leader
Harry Turton, Chief Usher

Christmas Services at St. James's

Please join us at St. James's for one of these Christmas Services:

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist*
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist
10:30 p.m. Choral Prelude: Handel's *Messiah*
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist

*Nursery provided

Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 26 - Christmas I

10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 2 - Christmas II

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II