



CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 PM, DECEMBER 24, 2025



All Saints Episcopal Church

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

"Upon this holy night a star appears and floods the Earth with light."

As we gather together to celebrate this Christ mass I am reminded of these words from the song Carol of the Birds. Tonight the earth is flooded with light. The light that casts out all darkness. The light of Jesus himself. And so it is that we hope that this light finds you, and fills you with the love of God made known this evening in Jesus Christ.

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus tonight it is not just about tonight. Like any birthday it isn't just the birth that we celebrate. What we gather to be reminded of and proclaim is the power that this life has in our lives and in the life of the world. You can feel this impact all around us. During Christmas the world just seems to be a better place. We begin to reach out to one another. We begin to reach out to those less fortunate. We feed the homeless, cloth the naked, befriend the friendless. We draw closer to family and loved ones to tell them what they mean to us. In each one of these actions we spread the light of Christ into the corners of our lives. This is a holy, life giving, and blessed task.

It is our sincerest of hopes that tonight is the beginning of something exciting in your life. Please know that we want to be part of that excitement. We want to walk with you as you discover where this baby Jesus is calling you to place your light. We want to rejoice with you as you do his holy work. We want to mourn with you when the people that have been inspirations to you go to be with God once again. We want to lift you up when you fall, encourage when you are discouraged. We want to be there when you rejoice, cry, and everything in between.

So it is that we wish you the most glorious Christmas and invite you to join us weekly as we seek to transform the world and ourselves into the people that God believed we could be!

Peace and Merry Christmas,

Fr Sean+

PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prelude: *Let Heaven and Earth Sing Gloria!*

Arr. Dan R. Edwards

Opening Hymn: "Hark! The herald angels sing"

Blue Hymnal 87



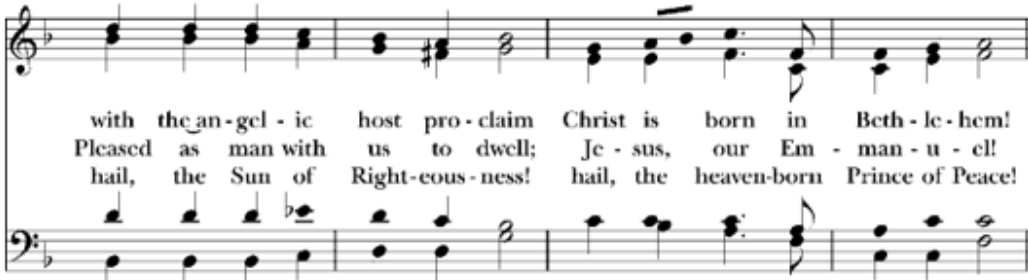
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!



Refrain
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant The people who walk in darkness

People have seen a great light.

Celebrant Behold I bring you good news of great joy to all people

People unto us a Savior is born: Christ the Lord.

Celebrant His name will be called wonderful, counselor

People mighty God, the Prince of Peace.

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest

People and peace to his people on earth.

Hymn 96: *Angels we have heard on high (verse 1)*

Tune: Gloria

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant : Together let us pray.

The Christmas Collect

○ 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.



Welcome to our telling of the Christmas Story. Before each scene, our choir will be singing a verse of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, written to set the scene, but we would love it if everyone could join in on the refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Narrator: Our pageant begins with song...

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen HYMN #105, v.1

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay; Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

FIRST ACT: THE WORD

Narrator: A reading from John, Chapter 1, verses 1-5.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

When Gabriel to Mary came with news from heav'n above, He told her she would bear a child, The Savior of God's love. Then Joseph too was shown the truth, in dreams sent from above.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

SECOND ACT: THE ANNUNCIATIONS

Narrator : The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman who was engaged to a man by the name of Joseph. The woman's name was Mary. The angel came to her.

Gabriel: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. 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.

Mary : How can this be, since I am not yet married?

Gabriel : The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

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

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

With faith, sweet Mary bowed her head, And humbly said, "I see; According to the Lord's own will, So shall it come to be." She trusted in the holy plan, For all the world to see.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Narrator: When Mary was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

Gabriel: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Joseph: Let it be according to your word.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Then Mary went to see her kin, Elizabeth with grace, And when she entered in her home, Joy filled the dwelling place. The two embraced with quiet smiles, In peace and warm embrace.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Narrator: The Angel Gabriel had told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, had conceived a son in her old age, as proof that nothing was impossible with God. So Mary set out to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

Mary: Dear Cousin! I've come to visit!

Elizabeth: Mary! Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of the Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes! Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Narrator: Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then went back home.

THIRD ACT: THE BIRTH

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

A decree went out from Caesar's hand, That all should be enrolled; From ev'ry town and countryside, The message clear and bold. To register in ancient lands, All traveled, young and old.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Joseph: I am glad that you are home, for I have heard that there is a decree from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be counted. We must go now to Bethlehem, for my family is of the house of David, and we will register for the census there.

Mary: But I am with child, and Bethlehem is so far away. How will we manage?

Joseph: We have a donkey to carry our things and if you tire, you can ride on him. We can travel slowly, and I will help you.

Narrator: And so they set out on their long journey.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

To Bethlehem, through hills and plains, young Joseph traveled slow; From David's house, he took his bride, By donkey they would go. With weary hearts, they journeyed on, Through night, the stars did show.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Narrator: Because of the census, all of the Inns were full when Mary and Joseph arrived.

Joseph: Excuse me, Innkeeper, we have traveled all day, and the night is coming. Do you have a room for us?

Innkeeper: I'm sorry, but NO.

Mary: But we have been to all the other Inns, and no one has a room. Is there no place we can stay?

Innkeeper's Assistant: There is room in the stables, with the animals. It's not much, but it is shelter...

Innkeepers whisper back and forth.

Innkeeper's Assistant: It's something...

Innkeeper: If you want, you can stay in the stables.

Joseph: Thank you. We will stay there.

Innkeeper: Very well, I will lead you to the stables and get you a blanket.

Innkeeper's Assistant: And I will go warn the animals you are coming..

Joseph: I'm sorry I could not get us a room in the Inn.

Mary: Don't be sorry. We have shelter, and the animals will help us to stay warm. It is enough.

Innkeeper: Come now, for I am busy!

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

As shepherds watched their flocks by night, a wondrous light did show. An angel host appeared to them, and joy began to grow. The sky was filled with heav'nly song, A sign for all below.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Narrator: That night, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Shepherd: LOOK!

Shepherd: The stars are so bright tonight!

Shepherd: But it is so cold!

Shepherd: Have you noticed that we have more than just sheep in our flock tonight?

ANIMALS and the Parish MAKE NOISES- all animal noises

Shepherd: That does sound unusual. We should probably check it out. Can all of the animals come forward and join us on the steps?

All children dressed as animals should come forward at this time.

Shepherd: Our flock is crazy!

Shepherd: You are right! We have all kinds of animals in our flock.

Narrator: While the shepherds tried to sort out their flock, angels of the Lord, with a multitude of angels, stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and the shepherds were terrified.

All children dressed as angels should come forward at this time.

Angels: Hark! We are angels 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. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth...he is lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest! and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Glory to the newborn king!

Shepherd: A star is rising in the East!

Shepherd: Lo! He is right...a star is shooting across the sky!

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Above the humble stable shone a star both clear and bright, It led the shepherds to the Child, Who filled the world with light. They knelt before the Holy One, In awe of Heaven's sight.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

FINAL ACT: THE LIGHT

First King: When wise men from the East saw the star rising, they rejoiced, for they had heard of the prophecies of the birth of the Messiah and they set out at once to follow the star.

Second King: For it was said, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them." They traveled many miles to see him. But that is a story for another day.

Third King: The Christmas story is not about a baby who grows up to be God, but about the God of Israel who enters creation as the helpless child of Mary, becoming like us, so we may become like him, the Beloved Children of God.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen HYMN #105, v.4

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and charity Each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas Doth bring redeeming grace.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Sermon

The Rev. Sean Maloney

The Nicene Creed

Spoken by all, standing.

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 the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People—

All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in His light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the churches, which united they may be faithful in witness to your Son come among us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations, that they may turn from ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor of the earth, for victims of violence and tyranny, that their suffering be ended, and that they may come to know joy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all families, that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation, that we may be renewed by the light and grace of your incarnate word. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, that their efforts continue to inspire our action and they may rest in your care until the day when all shall rise again in your new Creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem:

Words: Robert Herrick, Music: *Linden Lea*, R. Vaughan Williams (arr. Mark Schweizer)

What Sweeter Music (Robert Herrick)

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly king,
The birth of this our heav'nly king?
We see him come and know im ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

So we will give him, and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor who's our king

And Lord of all this revelling.
Dark and dull night, fly hence away
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turn to May,
That sees December turn to May.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room.
To welcome him the nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart.
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
What sweeter music can we bring
To sing the birth of this our king,
The birth of this our heav'nly king?

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

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.

FRACTION Anthem: *Christ our Passover*

Blue Hymnal S 155

S 155

The Holy Eucharist

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

The Communion

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome to receive the communion of Christ.

Non-wheat bread is available at communion for those who are gluten intolerant. Please ask the server for a rice wafer host.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. 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 Lord. Amen.

The candles will be lit



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Christmas Blessing(respond "**Amen**" after each sentence)

May the radiance of the Father's splendor shine upon you, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with the light of divine holiness. **Amen.**

May Christ, the Word made flesh, Jesus the Son, who forever joins heaven to earth and earth to heaven, mold you into his image. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, by whose power Mary submits to be the bearer of God, make us all heralds of the tidings of peace and joy. **Amen.**

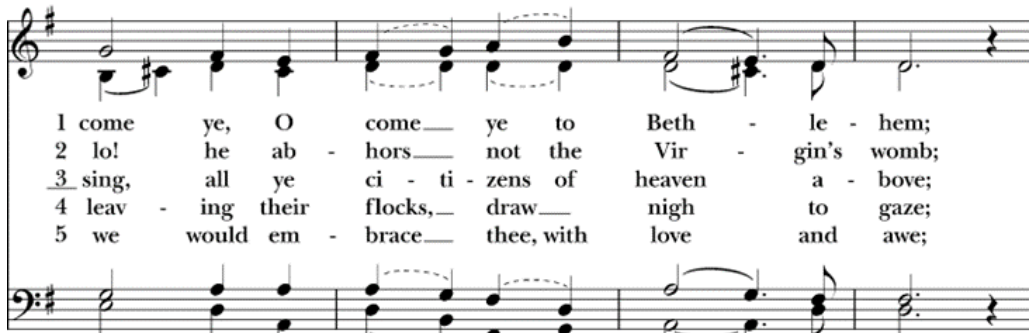
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "O come, all ye faithful"

Blue Hymnal 83 (vv.1-3)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

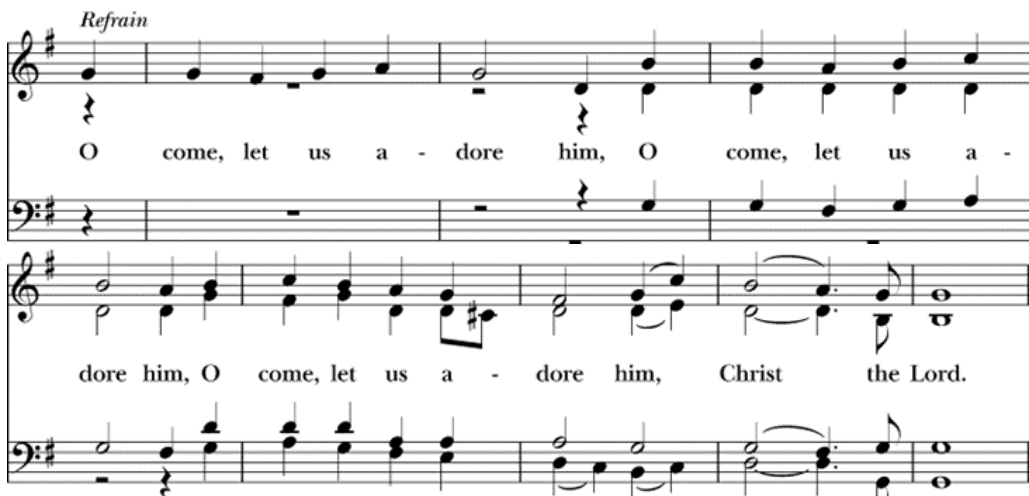


1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Dismissal

Postlude: Voluntary in D Major

William Croft

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CAST & CREW

Crew: Charlie Strunk, Lilly Felzani, Jackson Crafts

Assistant Director: Matthew Gauvin

Animal/ Angel Wrangler (for little ones): Lena Felzani, Samantha Crafts

Backdrop Crew: Dowd Family

Narrator: Mela Bevington

Mary: Julia Hannaford

Joseph: Teddy Bevington

Baby Jesus: Isabelle Adams

Donkey: Jack Dettman

Gabriel: Omowonuola Obafemi

Gabriel's Posse: Desmyn Maloney, Tommy Shields, Maeve Ward

Gabriel's Junior Posse: Leah Quintin, Molly Loder, Alana Loder, Margaret Raney

Elizabeth: Olivia Baxter

Innkeepers: Paige LaRochelle & Fiona Ducharme

Speaking Shepherds: Dideoluwa Obafemi, Henry Strunk, Adam Prunier, (maybe Henry Winder), Grace Dettman

Shepherds: Henry & George Winder, Grace Dettman

Dancing Angels: (all of Gabriel's posses) and Isabel Baxter, Emersyn Adams

Animals: Hudson and Jacob and any friends who join in...

3 Kings: Ava Mae Gauvin, Anna Hudson, Natalie Leach

Running Star: Pearl Dettman

Thank you to the All Saints' Choir and John Pierce for their musical support!

Christmas Offering

If you would like make a special Christmas Offering above and beyond your pledge, there are special envelopes in the pews or on the table in the narthex. This is a wonderful way to show God's love for others and share your blessings.

Year End Contributions

To have your contributions to be recorded for the 2023 tax year, they must be received in the office or be postmarked by the post office by December 31, 2024.



STATEMENT OF INCLUSION FOR ALL SAINTS' PARISH

All Saints' Episcopal Church welcomes all people who seek the love of God without regard to ability, age, color, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation.

We promise to "seek and to serve Christ in all persons ...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (From the Baptismal Covenant).

<https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org/>

978-256-5673