

CHRIST CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

"Growing by God's Grace as a Family of Faith, Fellowship, and Ministry"



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Pageant & Holy Eucharist December 24, 2022 | 4:30 PM

Diocesan Purpose Statement

*"We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus
as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church gladly welcomes all people. Our clergy, staff, and parishioners are delighted to assist you in learning more about our worship and our community. Restrooms are located in the Parish House to the left of the church. Ushers are available to assist you as needed. If this is your first time visiting with us today, please complete a visitor card (*located in the pew*) and place it in the offering plate. Clipboards containing materials for children are available in the Narthex.

Christ Church is an active and vibrant parish in the heart of Downtown Macon since its founding in 1825. We are a forward-looking parish that values our heritage, liturgy, and outreach to the greater community. To learn more please visit us online via our website at www.christchurchmacon.com. The Parish Office is open from 9a–4p Monday through Thursday. You can reach us by calling (478) 745-0427.

We Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ Church welcomes all people and no matter where you are on your faith journey, you have a place here. We hope to see you again soon.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

ACOLYTES

GINNA ROSS, *crucifer*
ANNIE BUZZELL, *clergy cross*
RAY ROSS, *torch*
LILLY HILL, *torch*

ALTAR GUILD

LOUISE HAZLEHURST
KATIE POWERS
NAN SOLOMON
NAN HARPER

FLOWER GUILD

All Guild Members

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

JED HILL
BLAIR SUMRALL
WALKER STEWART

USHERS & GREETERS

EVAN AND CHRIS HAIR
ELIZABETH AND DAVID MCCAIN
DERRILL AND WILL MCDavid
SUSANNAH AND TRIPP MADDUX

THE ENTRANCE RITE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Christmas Carols for Organ

William Lloyd Webber (1914–1982)

HYMN IN PROCESSION: O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 83, vv. 1-3, and 6

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,
Christ the Lord.
2. God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore 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;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

WELCOME

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

(Remain seated throughout Pageant.)

Narrator: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be counted, each to his own city. So Joseph went also from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem because he belonged to the family line of David. Joseph went to be counted and pay a tax. With him was Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal, 79 v. 1

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.

Narrator: The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal, 79 vv. 2 and 3

2. 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 all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Narrator: As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. They are Mary and Joseph from Nazareth! The time has come for Mary's baby to be born. They have walked for many days. It is late, and Mary is so weary.

Innkeeper: I am sorry, my brother, but I have no more room. Every room in Bethlehem is filled.

Joseph: We have been looking for hours. I had hoped to find Mary comfortable quarters for the night.

Innkeeper's wife: There is a place in the stable. It is not being used. It is nothing but a stall, but there is protection from the cold, and the hay is clean and sweet.

Mary: You are very kind. We cannot thank you enough.

Joseph: I must accept since Mary cannot travel any longer. How much will I owe you?

Innkeeper: It is nothing. Come, I shall light your way.

HYMN: Once in royal David's city

Hymnal, 102 v. 1

1. 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.

Narrator: Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in swaddling clothes and lays him in the manger filled with straw.

HYMN: Away in a manger

Hymnal, 101 vv. 1 and 2

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 thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

Narrator: In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep by night. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter. The angel of the Lord appears to them. The Glory of the Lord shines over them and they are so afraid. The terrified shepherds then hear angels singing, and a voice says clearly,

Gabriel: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you. You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and saying:

Angels: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to everyone.

HYMN: Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal, 96

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Narrator: The angels leave them and go back to heaven, and the shepherds say to one another:

Shepherds: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about."

Narrator: The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the stable behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find the baby lying in the manger, in the center of all that love.

Shepherd 1: We have come to worship the wonderful baby born here in the stable of the Inn.

Shepherd 2: An angel appeared to us and told us of his birth.

Shepherd 3: The angel said we would find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Shepherd 4: We came quickly to see this child who would change the world forever! Oh come, let us adore Him!

HYMN: What child is this

Hymnal, 115 vv. 1 and 3

1. 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?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him:
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Narrator: Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry the Three Kings, the Wise Men, the Magi. They are following the wild star to the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King. When they see the star they are filled with joy. When they arrive they see the child and his mother, Mary. They bow down and worship him. Then they open their treasures.

Magi #1: Gold and precious jewels I bring to the greatest King of all.

Magi #2: I bring rare and delicate frankincense.

Magi #3: I bring fragrant and costly myrrh. Come, let us all worship the newborn King.

HYMN: We Three Kings of Orient Are

Hymnal, 128 v. 1

1. 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!

Narrator: The kings' journey ends in finding a new kind of king. They have found what they have been seeking and more. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

As we approach Christmas and the giving and receiving of gifts, we remember the greatest gift, the gift of God's son, through which God's love is made known to the world. Gracious God, show us the way into the mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy and filled with overflowing peace and joy.

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.

(All pageant participants join their parents.)

The People kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Please add your own prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God either silently or aloud.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: fill our hearts with joy as we come into your presence in worship. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that all people and nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of this city and region to yourself. May all of the distractions and struggles of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your loving arms with healing and comfort to the sick and the lonely. We pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Alice, Bailey, Bebe, Bill, Charlie, Dennis, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Emory, Gail, George, Griffin, Helen, James, JB, Jeff, Joe and Robin, John, Katy, Kelly, Ken, Lawrence, Libby, Linda, Lowe, Malcolm, Marcello, Margaret, Marquis, McKenzie, MarKisha, Matthew, Nancy, Pammy, Pete, Phil, Rodney, Shelia, Sue, Thomas, Tommy, Trisha, and Walter.

We also pray for those serving in the military, especially Austin, Cameron, Connie, George, Georgia, Joe, John, and Rose.

Please add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Silence is kept.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You came to dwell among us with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. The flowers throughout the church are given in memory of our loved ones and to the glory of God.

Silence is kept.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 360

THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We come together as the Body of Christ, we partake in the Body of Christ, to go out into the world to be the Body of Christ. All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you do not wish to partake, you are invited to receive a blessing by crossing your arms at the altar rail. If you are unable to come to the altar, please notify an usher and the elements will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The people stand and sing.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Hark! the herald angels sing Hymnal, 87

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP, p. 361

THE SANCTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord Hymnal, S 125

The people kneel.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION BCP, p. 362

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION BCP, p. 363

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD BCP, p. 364

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION BCP, p. 365

The people kneel.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

THE BLESSING

The people stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Joy to the world!

Hymnal, 100

THE DISMISSAL: *The Celebrant dismisses the people.*

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: *Noël Suisse*

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

PAGEANT CAST

MARY

Caroline Stewart

JOSEPH

Will Buzzell

GABRIEL

Mary Evelyn Hill

INNKEEPER

Charlie Sumrall

INNKEEPER'S WIFE

Anna Clark McCain

SPEAKING SHEPHERDS

Fuller Bacon

Hank Greer

Robert Schorr

Henry Hill

THE MAGI

Brooks Buzzell

Kate Butler

Evan Kemper

NARRATORS

Ella Kemper

Kathryn Sumrall

Parker McCain

Ellie Joy Bacon

Ella Stewart

ANGELS

Arbor Hair

Kitty Maddux

Maren McNeil

Emory Obermeyer

Marilyn Schorr

SHEPHERDS

Clark Fennell

Luke Fennell

Anderson Jones

Henry Maddux

Jack Sherman

Peter Sherman

ANIMALS

Cesia Gordon, *lamb*

Buck Schorr, *donkey*

Thank you Elizabeth McCain and Jane Kemper, and to all the parents who helped "herd" our shepherds, angels and farm animals into the church. God Bless You!

CLERGY & STAFF

The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, *Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*

The Reverend Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*

The Reverend Andrew T. Gordon, *Curate*

Mr. Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*

Mrs. Ellen Bunker, *Director of Finance*

Ms. Lynn Waggoner, *Interim Director of Communications*

Dr. Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*

Mr. Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*

Mrs. Markisha Styles, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Tripp Maddux, *Senior Warden*

Roger Marxsen, *Junior Warden*

Malcolm Burgess, *Treasurer*

George Greer, *Clerk*

Chris Blake
Harry Groce
Kelli Hill
Dawn Key

Laurie Minette
Katie Powers
Meg Sutherland
Duncan Walker



CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL