

S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH  
IN PROVIDENCE

# CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT & FAMILY MASS



SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2023

5:30 PM

## PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

### Children:

Mason Butler-Rose  
Noah Butler-Rose  
Elizabeth Drake  
John Drake  
Moirra Ellis  
Alannah Fernandes  
Analiah Fernandes  
Arianna Fernandes  
Keira Garmon  
Anden Johnson  
Delia Johnson

Tessa Johnson  
Tristan Kinloch  
Will Kinloch  
D.J. Latimer  
Elliot Randall  
June Randall  
Alice Smalley  
Lucy Smalley  
Precious Sylvia  
Jack Tessier  
Luke Tessier

### Adult participants:

Molly Ellis  
Katherine Drake  
Emily Dudek  
Nick Johnson  
Danielle Latimer  
Kaela Noel  
Luke O'Brien  
Travess Smalley

### Adult Directors:

Julia Steiny  
Soren Johnson  
Kate Lester  
Leana Hooks

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS  
& CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
5:30 PM

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

ENTRANCE HYMN – “O come all ye faithful”

*Adeste Fideles*

*Please stand.*

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. God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;  
only begotten Son of the Father;  
*O come let us adore him...*

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...*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The congregation is seated and remains seated throughout the Pageant.*

### THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Reader*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

*All join in singing*

HYMN – “O come, O come, Emmanuel” (*stanza 1 only*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Reader*

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

*Head Shepherd*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

*Angel Chorus*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*All join in singing*

HYMN – “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.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. 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...*

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...*

*Head Angel*

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another

*Shepherds*

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

*Head Angel*

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*Shepherds and Holy Family*

Thanks be to God!

## HYMN – “Away in a manger”

AWAY in a manger  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
lay 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.

3. 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.

## THE PROCESSION OF THE THREE KINGS

### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHILDREN

*Prayers written by the children are read aloud.*

## PAGEANT RECESSIONAL HYMN – “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

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:

### *Refrain:*

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2 From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name: *[Refrain]*

3 “Fear not, then,” said the angel,  
“Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan’s power and might.” *[Refrain]*

4 Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other new embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Doth bring redeeming grace: *[Refrain]*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Rector*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

### THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**



Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.  
Jesus, Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all  
who rest in you.  
Jesus, Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us,  
you share our lives and hear our prayer.  
**Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

*People* And also with you.

*After sharing a sign of Christ's peace, the congregation is seated.*

*During the following hymn, ushers take up the people's offering of money.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN – "O little town of Bethlehem"

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 wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men 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.

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;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!



## ORATE, FRATRES

*Please stand.*

*Celebrant* Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Father Almighty.

*People* **May the Lord receive this Sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

## SURSUM CORDA & PREFACE

*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 him thanks and praise.**

All glory and honor be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *(Please kneel if you are able.)*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of his kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ thy Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Please come forward to the altar rail and then return to your pew via the passageway on the right. If you are unable to come to the altar, communion will be brought to you. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist at the Lord's Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). If you are not baptized and feel drawn to receive the Sacrament, please speak with one of the clergy after mass. Baptism and life in Christ are open to all.*

## COMMUNION HYMN – “Silent night, holy night”

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.

2. 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!

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.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

## THE CLOSING RITE

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please kneel.)*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

## THE BLESSING *(Please remain kneeling.)*

Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING HYMN – “Joy to the world! the Lord is come”

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Thank you for worshipping with us! If you are visiting and looking for a church home, we would be glad for S. Stephen's to be that place. Come and join us on a Sunday morning for 8:00 spoken mass or 10:00 mass with music. All are welcome in this community of faith. We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas.*