

*The Church of the Holy Trinity,
Rittenhouse Square*

CHRISTMAS EVE
Pageant Service

CHRISTMAS EVE
A Very Zoomy Christmas Pageant
4:00 p.m.

Prelude Pastoral Symphony (Messiah)

George Frideric Handel

The Opening Hymn

*O come, all ye faithful,
Adeste Fidelis*

Hymnal 83



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,

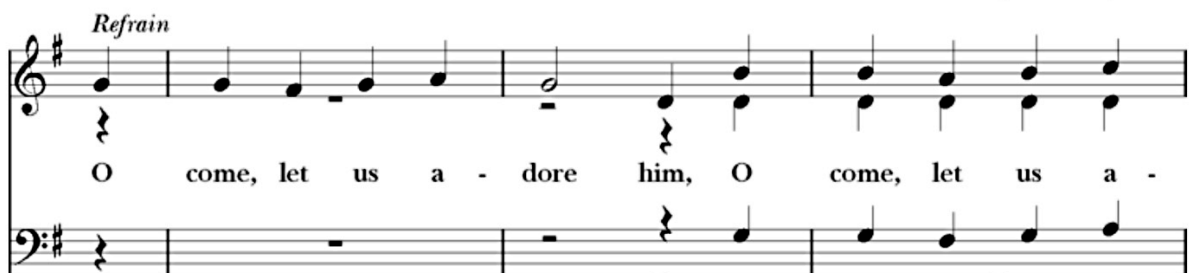


1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;



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 -



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

Refrain

The Christmas Prayer

Officiant God of heaven and earth, whose Son was born for all the world as a child in Bethlehem; we praise you for the shepherds in the fields, who with the animals and angels greeted the Word made flesh with wonder and joy. Through the telling of the Christmas story, may we join with the shepherds and angels in singing and praising the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Henry L.
Age: 8

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: A reading from Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

The Christmas Pageant (Zoom Style)

Luke 2:1-14

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!"

Recitation of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* on Zoom

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” was written by Phillips Brooks (our second Rector) for the Sunday School at The Church of Holy Trinity in 1868, after he had visited Bethlehem in 1865. The fourth stanza was not included in the hymnal until 1940 and is still missing from many hymnals. Brooks’ organist, Lewis H. Redner, wrote the original tune for these words. The hymn was first published in 1874 and the tune was named St. Louis.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

Anthem

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so.

(Refrain) Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. (Refrain)

Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills. (Refrain)

*Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.
(Refrain)*

Christmas Eve Prayers of the People

Leader God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of recreation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Leader In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith, especially for those in whose memory our church is adorned. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

People **God of love, grant our prayers.**

Officiant Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfill your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word.

People **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant 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 Prayer of St. Chrysostom (modified)

All Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time to share together all the prayers we have for our world and for ourselves. You have also promised through Jesus Christ, who you love beyond measure, to be with us whenever we gather together with others. Grant our prayers the way you know is best for us, those we say aloud and those we say to ourselves; helping us to know your truth while we are alive, and to find eternal life thereafter. *Amen.*

The Christmas Blessing

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.

People **Amen.**

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

Officiant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People **Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

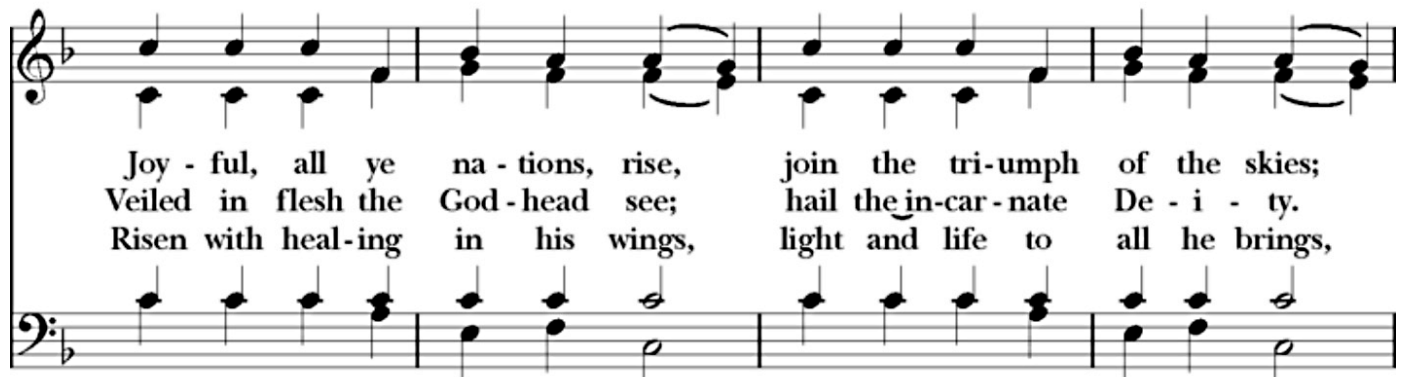
Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**



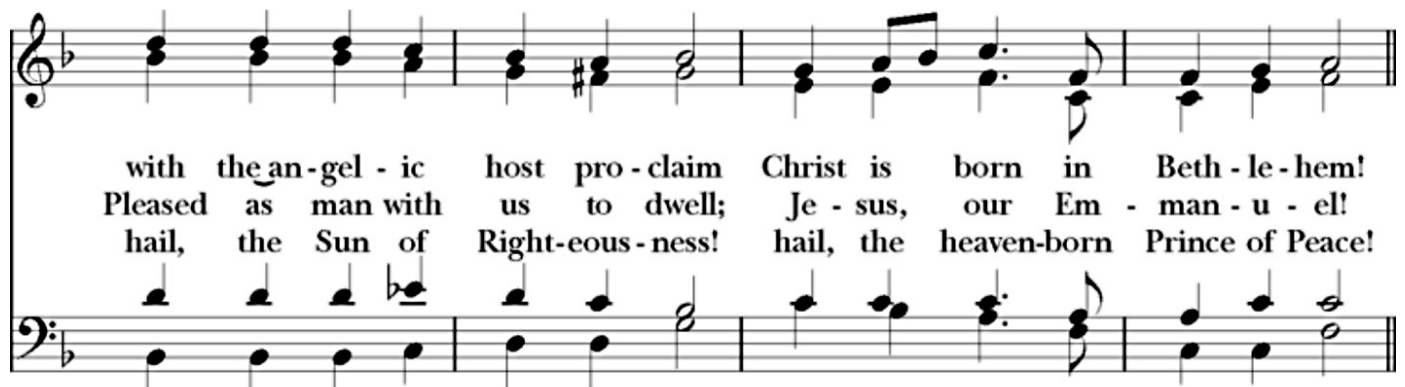
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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!

Postlude: Fantasia - In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Join our E-List: Sign up at www.htrit.org

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

A Very Zoomy Christmas Eve 2020
“The Birth Plan”
Children’s Christmas Zoom Pageant
Cast (as of 12.20.20)

Nativity Artwork

Henry L., 8

Background Music in Recitation of O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jason, 14 (piano)

Gage, 13 (piano)

Violet, 12 (vocal)

Henry S., 8 (vocal)

Announcer Hostess

Raina, 12

Narrator

Quinn, 9

Angel Gabriel

Lucy, 7

Mary

Willa, 7

Joseph

Joel, 7

Donkey

Freddie 2, (2018 Baby Jesus)

Star

Louisa, 3

Baby Jesus

Charlotte, 19 weeks and 5 days on Christmas Eve

Baby Jesus Understudy

Noelle, 6 months, 2 weeks, 6 days on Christmas Eve

Kings

Connor, 8
Henry S., 8
Aiden, 6

Angels

Audrey, 6
Estelle, 6 (past Baby Jesus)
Brooklyn, 3
Rosalind, 1

Shepherds

Robert L., 10
Jon, 10
Cole, 9
Jackson, 4 (past Baby Jesus)
Davy, 4

Sheep

Henry L., 8
Larsen, 2 (Last year's baby Jesus and 2018 Baby Jesus Understudy)
Wendell, 1

Chicken

Rosie, 5 (past Baby Jesus Understudy)

Family Pets as Other Animals

Cat played by Lucy Cat (Uftring/Hoffmann family cat)
Cat played by Pixi (Loffer family cat)
Dog played by Molly (Rankin family dog)
Sheep played by Petunia Louise (Lipscomb's family dog)
Donkey played by Rosie (Stromberg family dog)

Christmas Bells

Everett, 3

Stage Crew

Sienna, 13
Gage, 13
Nick, 13
Kate, 13
Emily, 12

Robert R., 12 (past Baby Jesus)
Ethan, 12
Ava, 11
Abby Haueter, Sunday School Leader
Felicia Woods, Sunday School Leader

Parent Volunteers

Every household!

Master Zoom Video Editor

Rev. Rachel Gardner

Director

Soozung Rankin, CHT Staff

OFFICIANTS

The Reverend Rachel Wenner Gardner

The Reverend John Gardner

PRAYERS

Gage and Boyden

READING

Emily

STAFF

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner & The Rev. John Gardner, Rectors

Soozung Sa Rankin, Program Director

Margaret DiPinto, Director of Operations

Leda Milazzo, Administrative Receptionist

Ella Christy, Rentals Manager

Sarah Mammano, House Manager

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. Benjamin Leiby, Organist/Choirmaster *pro tempore*

Dr. John French, Organist/Choirmaster *emeritus*

Choral Singers: Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Carl Ellinwood, Andrew Gutknecht, Kate Hoffman, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Ellen Peters, Aimee Pilgermayer, and Kelly Rubinsohn

Kile Smith, Composer-in-Residence
Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

Vestry

Rectors' Warden – Oscar Gunther

Accounting Warden – Michael Uftring

Clerk – Nancy Rasmussen

Vestry Members - Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Gordon P.

Henderson, Simson Hui, Jim McElwain, Madelyn Mignatti, Amy
Perkins, and Emily Stromberg