



Unknown maker, possibly European 19th century / Pax with a Miniature of the Nativity, c. 1850/1875 / miniature painted on parchment / National Gallery of Art, Washington 1961.9.196

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

4:00 pm

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
2100 Hilton Avenue Columbus, GA 31906
Stthomascolumbus.org
706-324-4264

Welcome to this celebration of the Incarnation. We invite all children to take part in the pageant if they wish. Meet Mrs. Erin in the parlor to receive a star and instructions. Children are welcome to stay throughout the service. A nursery is also available for young children if needed. Please sit where you are comfortable, spacing yourselves out as much as you are able. Spacers are available at the doors to use in the pews as you wish. The service may be heard in the narthex if you prefer to sit there.

Musical Prelude

Divertimento in D (1st movement)

Franz Haydn

William Slater, *cello*

In the bleak mid-winter

Greg Howlett

Prelude (Third Suite)

J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

Tristan Dempsey, *cello*

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

Welcome

Hymn in Procession 83 O come, all ye faithful (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6)

Adeste Fidelis

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,

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;

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;

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;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

All standing

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of Mary, his mother: 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 forever. **Amen.**

Carol of Praise 96 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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lessons

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah: Isaiah 9:2-7

RCL 8

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 as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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!”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pageant Carols

Hymn 102 Once in royal David’s city (*vss 1, 2, 6*)

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.

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.

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.

Hymn 87 Hark the herald angels (*vss 1, 2*)

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as one with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Hymn 109 The first Nowell (*vss. 1, 6*)

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Hymn 115 What child is this (*vss. 1, 2*)

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.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: John 1:1-14

RCL 13

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospel Response Hymn 99 Go tell it on the mountain *children are seated with their parents while we sing*

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
 watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.

Repeat Refrain

Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901) Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935) Copyright ©1984, Horace Clarence Boyer. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Prayers of the People *please join the cantor on the responses*

Lord, have mer - cy. To thee, O lord our God. A - men.
 you,

Celebrant For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy. . . .**

Celebrant In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People **To you, O Lord our God.**

The Peace

The Offertory Duet

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Addison Walton, *mezzo-soprano*; Tristan Dempsey, *cello*

Let the stable still astonish
Straw-dirt floor, dull eyes,
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls;
No bed to carry that pain,
And then, the child,
Rag-wrapped, laid to cry
In a trough.

Who would have chosen this?
Who would have said: Yes,
Let the God of all the heavens and earth
Be born here, in this place?"

Who but the same God
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts
And says, "Yes, let the God
Of Heaven and Earth
Be born here – in this place."

Leslie Leyland Fields (b. 1957)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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 our thanks and praise.**

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All the baptized from any denomination are invited to the altar for communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the rail and hold out one hand to receive bread only or two hands to receive bread dipped in wine. If you prefer not to receive, cross your arms across your chest and a prayer of blessing will be offered. Gluten-free wafers are available on request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Music during Communion

Noel, Noel, Noel

On Christmas Night

Russian Carol of the Bells

Noel Nouvelet, arr. Robert J. Powell (b. 1938)

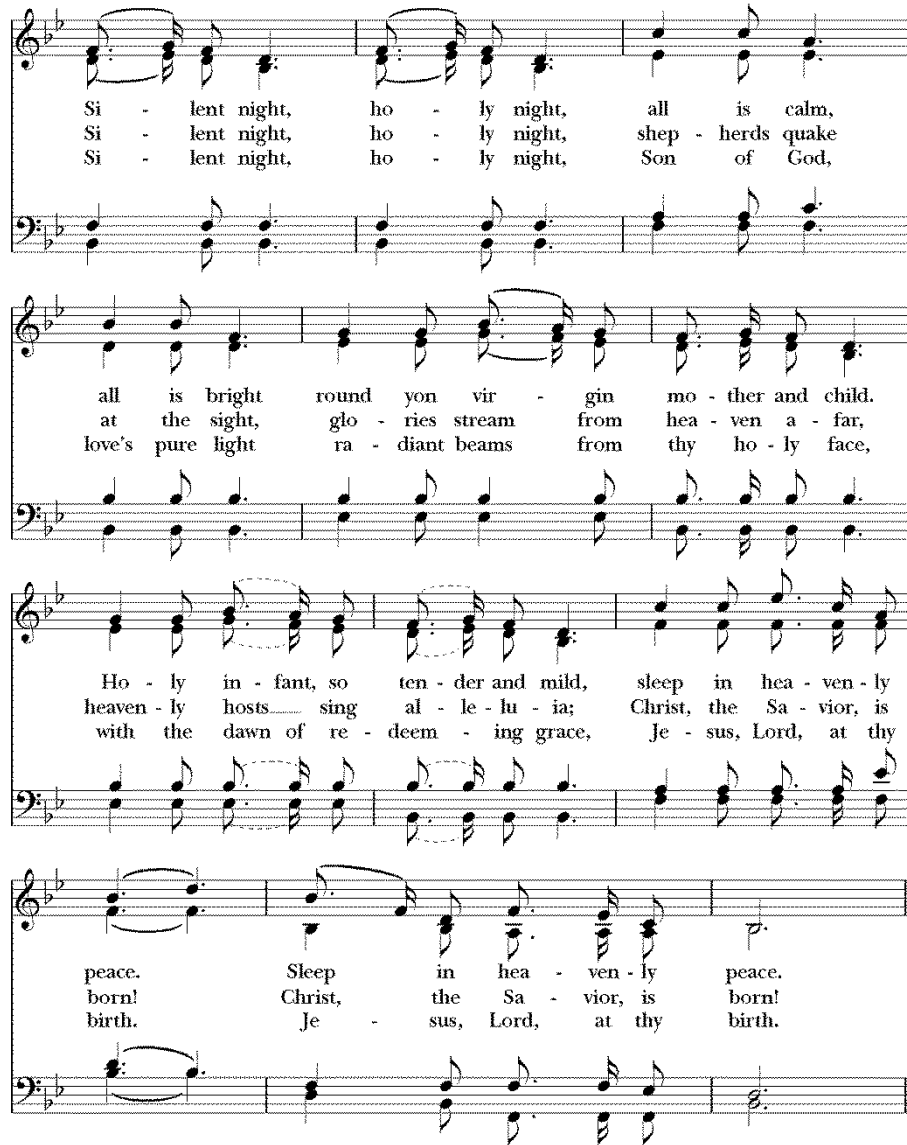
Sussex Carol, arr. Michael Burkhardt

Christopher Uehlein (1931-2019)

Hymn 111 Silent Night *kneeling*

Stille Nacht

Share the light by tilting the unlit candle toward the flame. Please use a candle snuffer to extinguish candles during the final hymn. Please do not blow the candles out indoors.



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.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Closing Prayer

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.**

Blessing

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.

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.

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

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

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,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Pageant participants

Chris Walton, *trumpet*

Robert Wadkins - Joseph

Kern Wadkins - Mary

Clementine Wadkins - Jesus

Episcokids and Friends - Angels, Shepherds and Stars

Announcements

Worship on Sunday, December 26: 10:30am. Christmas season continues! Join us for worship on the First Sunday after Christmas Day, December 26. We will offer ONE service of Morning Prayer with Carols at 10:30 am, led by Rick and Marquette McKnight. On the Second Sunday after Christmas Day, January 2, we will offer two services of Eucharist at 8:30 and 10:30 am as usual. Note that nursery and child care will not be available on either Sunday. Children are always welcome in worship at St. Thomas.

Church Office holiday schedule: The church office will be closed on December 27 and 28 in observance of the Christmas holiday and on January 3 in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Year-end Giving: St. Thomas welcomes your year-end gifts. Gifts for tax year 2021 must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2021. Thank you for supporting St. Thomas.

Epiphany Celebration: Join us for an Epiphany Celebration on Wednesday, January 5, at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We will share a simple dinner, take pictures with the Magi, receive kits for blessing our homes in Epiphany, watch the premier of the Episcokid Epiphany Pageant video, and celebrate Eucharist. Registrations are required. Please register at stthomasolumbus.org/parish-life-events by January 3 or write to office@stthomasolumbus.org.

Special thanks to Ralph Wimberly for designing and staging our Advent and Christmas Season decorations, Patty Slembariski for formatting and printing all of the bulletins, Rick McKnight and the St. Thomas Choir and Musicians for beautiful musical offerings, Sue O'Dell and the Altar Guild for preparing us for worship, Meg Olive-Allison for organizing service participants, Dan Ginter and our ushers for welcoming us, Erin Redden and Katie Holbrook for leading the Pageant, Frances Woolfolk for cleaning and preparing the facility, Seth Burgamy for opening the facility, Nick Williams for live streaming, all of our vergers, lectors, LEMs, and acolytes, and all who are joining us for worship.

Cover art for our bulletins was selected by Dr. Jonathan Frederick Walz, Director of Curatorial Affairs & Curator of American Art at The Columbus Museum.

About the cover art

Possibly Florentine 15th Century (pax frame), western European 19th Century (miniature). Medium: gilded silver, copper, brass, enamel with pearls and glass bead, containing a miniature painted on parchment (?); glass cover, cloth inner lining. Overall: 23.6 x 13.1 x 6.7 cm (9 5/16 x 5 3/16 x 2 5/8 in.). Samuel H. Kress Collection