



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

Sacred Space Pilgrimage Christmas Eve, 2020

The primary purpose of your pilgrimage inside the nave of St. Paul's is for prayer and meditation in our sacred space. It is not intended to be a worship service, but instead a time for individual prayer and reflection as you are surrounded by the music of the season.

Opening Music

Collect for Christmas (Book of Common 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.

Music Selection(s)

The Birth Narrative from the Gospel of Luke, King James Version

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 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 Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 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, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Silence

Music Selection(s)

A Poem by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...

Brilliance in a package,

something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.

Something to take out in times of darkness,

something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:

God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world. But
stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.

But I can wish you life

as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love

that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.

Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

Silence

Music Selection(s)

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

Closing Music Selection

Please exit through the sacristy.

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Lessons and Carols Virtual Service

Featuring Youth Readers

December 27, 2020

Broadcast on Facebook and Website at 10:30 a.m.