

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve Pageant with Holy Eucharist



*December 24, 2023
5:00 P.M.*

*St Paul's Episcopal Church
Newnan, Georgia*

The Opening Hymn

Once in royal David's city
Hymnal 102

Verse One sung by Mary Huskison

The Bidding Prayer

The Presider says

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Presider continues

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Gloria

Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

A Reading from the book of Isaiah 9:2 - 7

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hymnal 79

The Children's Pageant *The pageant is based on the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20*

Bethlehem Lullaby

arr. J. Linn

Sung by the Children in the Pageant

Long ago there was born, in the city of David,
A sweet holy Babe who was Jesus, our King.
Angels sang at His birth, "Lullaby, peace on earth"
Angels sang at His birth, "Lullaby, peace on earth"

That Boy Child of Mary

arr. Tom Colvin

Sung by the Children in the Pageant

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,
A manger his cradle in Bethlehem.
What shall we call him, child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem?

We'll Call Him Jesus

Karen Dean

We'll call Him Jesus, the name the angels whispered.
We'll call Him Jesus, come from heaven to be our friend.
We'll call Him Jesus, the sweetest name in all the world.
We'll call Him Jesus; He'll save us from our sin.

Bethlehem Lay A-sleeping

Polish Carol

Sung by the Children in the Pageant

Bethl'em lay a-sleeping long, long ago
Twinkling stars were peeping, long, long ago
Wande'ring shepherds left their sheep
To see their little Lord a-sleep, long long ago.

Angels sweetly singing, long, long ago
Sent His praises ringing, long, long ago
Children, too, their love may bring
To Him who came to be our King, long, long ago.

We Three Kings

John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Refrain Sung by the Congregation & Children; please remain seated

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Bethlehem Lullaby

arr. J. Linn

Sung by the Children in the Pageant

Jesus came as a child from His Father in heaven,
And has shown us the way to be loving and kind.
While the stars sang above, “Lullaby, God is love”
While the stars sang above, “Lullaby, God is love”

The Homily

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic

Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor says

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger. Draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God forever and ever. *Amen.*

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

O Lord our God, bless your Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honouring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

We pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night.

We pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

We pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

We pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

We give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem Sing, Children, Clap Your Hands James Pethel
St. Cecilia Choir

Angels sing of the birth of a King; sing Noel, all is well, there is good news to tell!
Joyful noise in the heavens ring; hear the sound all around, wondrous music
abounds!

Sing children, clap your hands, celebrating we sing with a joyful voice! God's
promise has come true, that is why you and I should all sing and rejoice!

In the sky shines a beautiful light; there you are brilliant star, guiding kings from
afar. Glowing light so bright in the night; shining bright in the night, what a
wonderful sight!

In a child lies the hope of the earth, little child, meek and mild, sweet adorable
child. Bow down low, don't you know of his worth? Bend your knee, reverently,
for our Lord now to see!

The Presentation Hymn

O come, all you faithful
Hymnal 83 vs 1,2,3,6

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.*

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever.

The Great Amen

S 146



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

People and Celebrant

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

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Anthem

We'll Call Him Jesus

Karen Dean

St. Cecilia Choir

We'll call Him Jesus, the name the angels whispered.
We'll call Him Jesus, come from heav'n to be our friend.
We'll call Him Jesus, the sweetest name in all the world.

We'll call Him Jesus; He'll save us from our sin.

But when your heart is full of joy, you'll call Him "Wonderful",
And when you've almost lost your way, you'll call Him "Counsellor", And in the
midst of your confusion, whisper "Prince of Peace", And when you're all alone,
He'll be "Immanuel."

Communion Hymn

The first Nowell the angel did say
Hymn 109

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Silent Night - [Sung by candlelight while kneeling]

Hymn 111

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

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

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

The 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. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

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

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

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the world! The Lord has come
Hymnal 100

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.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

The Dismissal

The Postlude

Postlude on "Joy to the world!"
arr. Christopher Dunkirk

Pageant Participants

Valentina Batista

Viviana Batista

Cora Borders

Edda Borders

Elijah Edwards

James Edwards

Cole Hankins

Peyton Lawson

Rowan Mattera

David Pape

Sydney Pape

Zach Reynolds

Tom Faust
Paul Foster
Anna Grace Hand
Matthew Hand
Wade Hand

P.J. Saintilus
Brandon Smith
Lucy Thrift
Tallis Wieda

Service Participants

Vestry Person	Mary Frances Honea
Vergers	Tony King, Brother Massenburg, & Katie McBride-Newman
Eucharistic Ministers	Michele Mattera & Elizabeth Pape
Acolytes	Kate Howell (1st); Lily Mattera (2nd); Mary Scott Fabrizi (Banner); Rowan Mattera & Pearl Borders (Processional Torches); India Camp (Clergy Cross); David & Sydney Pape (Clergy Torches); Adele Bulford (Thurifer)
Reader	Anne Graner
Ushers	Mike Colpoys, Stephen Camp, Dwight Ellison, Sarah Huxford, and Roy Reynolds



The Christmas flowers and music are given to the glory of God by:

Judy Aycock in memory of Dale Aycock, Vince, Hazel & Woody Hayman and in
thanksgiving for my family.

The Beerman Family in thanksgiving for St. Paul's.

Sam & Betsy Candler in thanksgiving for our family.

Rick & Jennifer Candler in thanksgiving for our grandchildren, Rudy, Margot,
Flint, Hubert, & Ruth.

Kurt, Nicole, Elijah, & James Edwards in appreciation for Canon John's spiritual guidance and Dawn & Bill Harrison for her work with the children's choirs and their support in church administration.

Lauren and Mike Gallagher in thanksgiving for our family, especially Mimi & Charlotte.

Philip Hand in thanksgiving for his loving wife Amanda and their children, Wade, Matthew, & Anna Grace.

Dawn & Bill Harrison in thanksgiving for our family and for Rhett Barnwell and our choir family.

Dawn & Bill Harrison in thanksgiving for the ministry of John Thompson-Quartey and for Nicole Edwards for her time and dedication to the parishioners of St. Paul's.

Susan & Hadley Heindel in thanksgiving for our family.

Tony, Patty, & Ethan King in loving memory of Elizabeth Anne Petrey and in thanksgiving for Dr. Paul Petrey.

Jeff & Marianne Lawhead in thanksgiving for Rhett Barnwell, Dawn Harrison and the St. Paul's Adult & Children Choirs.

Jeff & Marianne Lawhead with love and thanksgiving for Austin, Joslyn, Adeline, Caroline, Sarah, Dan, Wynne and our mothers, Aileen & Nancy.

Marie Miller to the glory of God and in memory of Eddie & Mildred Anderson; Dessie & Maybelle Miller; & Ford Miller.

Alice Jakubiak & Andra Morris in thanksgiving to God for our families both past and present, especially Levi, Declan, Rayna, & Asher.

Kay & Brian Lewis in thanksgiving for Sam, March, & Willa.

Tammy & Rusty Martin in thanksgiving for our loving family.

Katie McBride in thanksgiving for India & Moss and in memory of Billy.

The Sandlin-Pape Families in memory of our parents, grandparents, & great grandparents and Ellen & Rock Sandlin; Ruth & Blake Norris; and Barbara & Joe Pape. We love and miss you all so much.

David & Candy Waldron in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.

Parish Notice

Annual Epiphany Service and Party

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
January 6, 2024
5:30 pm Service in the Nave
6:30 pm Celebration in the Parish Hall

Please join us as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany which centers on the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. You're invited to attend the service at 5:30 pm and stay for the celebration in the Parish Hall.



O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.