

# Children's Christmas Pageant

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Organ Prelude

**Processional Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful # 83 (Please stand)***

## **Words of Welcome**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Leader: We light the candles hope, peace, love, and joy this Christmas Eve to remind us of God's gifts to us through Jesus the Christ - the light of the world.

*People: Jesus is the son of Mary and the son of God, one with us, our Lord, our Saviour, our brother and our friend.*

Leader: The Son of Mary brings us the hope of God.

*People: He calls us to share this hope with others.*

Leader: The Son of God brings us the peace of God.

*People: He calls us to share this peace with others*

Leader: Christ our Savior brings us the joy of God.

*People: He calls us to share this joy with others.*

Leader: Christ our Lord brings us the love of God.

*People: He calls us to share this love with others.*

Leader: Jesus our Lord brings us the love of God. We light the candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love to remind us of the gifts that the light of the world has brought us.

## **The Lighting the Christ Candle**

L: We light the Christ candle to remind us that the light of the world was born this night.

*P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.*

L: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

*P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.*

L: His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*P: He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.*

L: Let us Pray. Most Loving Father, thank you for this night and for all it represents.

Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lit the way for the wise men. *Amen*

## **The Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

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.*

## **The Pageant: *Luke 2:1-20 (The people sit.)***

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.

**Hymn - *O Little Town of Bethlehem # 79 (Remain Seated)***

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.

**Hymn - *Away in a Manger* # 101 (Remain Seated)**

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!"

**Hymn—*Angels we have heard on high* # 96 (Remain Seated)**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn—*Go tell it on the mountain* # 99 (Remain Seated)**

***Matthew 2:1-12***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Hymn—*We Three Kings of Orient Are* # 128 (Remain Seated)**

**CARING AND SHARING**

**The Exchange of the Peace**

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

*People* And also with you.

*(The People may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

**The Sharing of God's Blessings (The Offertory)**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts.

**Organ Anthem**

**Presentation Of Offerings: Doxology Hymnal 380 verse 3**

**The Christmas Prayers (Please kneel as you are able)**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.***

It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

*But that did not stop the birth.*

They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

*But that did not stop the birth.*

They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

*But that did not stop the birth.*

And today we are still sometimes cold and fearful, certainly poor in many ways. We often feel that we have no place and are unclear about what God wants of us. But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then, nor will they now.

*Lord Jesus be born in us today.*

Like Mary and Joseph, who trusted in your grace, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you. Bless our offering and hallow our every thought and our every action, that Christ may be revealed through them to the world that is yet in darkness. *Amen.*

### **The Lighting of the Candles**

**Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night" Hymnal 111 *Congregation remains seated.***

### **The Blessing & Dismissal**

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.*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*Thanks be to God.*

*Please extinguish your candles.*

**Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World* # 100**

**Organ Postlude**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Eve

**WELCOME & MERRY CHRISTMAS** Thank you for celebrating the gift of Christmas with us this evening. We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas Season!

**NEW RECTOR** Prince of Peace is pleased to announce that The Reverend John Major has accepted the call to be our new Rector. Father Major is also the Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church, West Pittston. Father will be

gin his ministry with Prince of Peace on Sunday January 4.

**SEVICE SCHEDULE CHANGE** Beginning on the first Sunday in January we will be returning to one Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am. This change will allow us to worship as a family together. It will also permit Father Major to officiate here at 9:00 am and in West Pittston at 11:00 am.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** The Church Office will be closed for the holiday and vacation until Tuesday January 6. In case of emergency you may contact Jennifer at 675-9528.

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** Please remember that according to IRS regulations, all contributions and pledge payments must be received in the church office by **December 31** in order to be credited towards 2008.

**FATHER STEVENSON** is a patient at Geisinger Hospital where he will undergo open-heart surgery. Please keep Father Jim, his family and his caretakers in your prayers.

**2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available Sunday, December 28.

**NEXT SUNDAY**, December 28, our 10:00 am service will be a Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols.

**SECOND SATURDAY @ SEVEN SERIES** continues in January with a service of Evening Prayer on January 10, 7:00 pm.

## *The 2008 Christmas Flowers*

*In loving memory of:*

*Virginia Ritter, by Jeff & Lois Townsend*

*Louis & Ruth Becker and George E. Gwilliam by the Gwilliam Family*

*John D and Emily W. Jillson by their daughter, Mary Jillson-Stout*

*Henry & Bernice Todd and Lorimer & Miriam Wriglesworth by the Todd Family*

*William Cushner, Frances Sharp, Rose Meneeley, Gloria Hill by Beverly A Cushner*

*Jean Monk by the Monk Family*

*Anna & August Strazdus by Sandy & Lynn Sheehan & Family and Karen Spudis*

*John Sheehan and Verna & Jack Sheehan by the Sheehan Family*

*The Arch and Eppley Families by Mr & Mrs Raymond Eppley*

*Carl Goeringer, Sr. by Grace Goeringer & Family*

*Justine & Deatra Martin by Terry, Jennifer, Jessica & Andrew Martin*

*Emery & Cornelia Havrilla and Willard Sutton by Chris & Dave Sutton*

*Edwin T. Roth by Pauline & Jim Roth*

*Loretta Reese by Kim, Kelly & Lindsey Jacobs*

*Martin, Anna Russell, May, Katharine and Mary Ann* by *The Wenrich Family*

*Estelle Kelley* by *Hugh Kelley*

*Grandma Frey, Grandma Kasarda and Aunt Pat* by *The Kasarda Family*

*Dorothy & Sydney* by *Diana Dreher*

*In loving honor of:*

*My children Cori, Tara, Ryan, and Minda* by *Therese Gwilliam*

*Sarah Welker Schneider* by *Her Loving Children & Grandchildren.*

*The Holy Season* by *Chris & Dave Sutton*

*Our Family* by *Bonnie & Rick Hiscox*

*In thanksgiving:*

*For my entire family, especially George, my husband* by *Therese Gwilliam*

By *George & Edna Yatsko*

*The Altar Flowers are dedicated to*

*the glory of Almighty God in memory of*

*Dale Jones and Ethel & Robert Riemensnyder*

by *Carol Jones.*