

St. Mark's Christmas Pageant

December 24th; 5:00PM Pageant and Holy Eucharist (Rev 12/2012)

VOLUNTARY

Innkeeper, Baby Jesus, Mary's Handmaiden, and Readers take their place in the front right pew.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83 (VERSES 1-3, 6) O Come All Ye Faithful

Canterbury Choir proceeds down the aisle

Mary, Joseph, Donkey; Shepherds and Animals; Angels; Star of Bethlehem and Kings, Dove take places in the rear of the Nave after the Canterbury Choir clears the Narthex.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

A BIDDING PRAYER (*ends with: The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to fellowship of the citizens above, may the King on Angels bring us all. Amen.*)

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

NARRATIVE I- Christ's birth is foretold.

READER 1: Tonight's Christmas Pageant invites us to re-enter the wonderful events of the nativity of our Lord. As we draw near to Bethlehem, we remember the deepest hungers of an ancient Hebrew people as they look forward to the birth of a king who will save them.

"For the Lord has spoken by the prophet, Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel which means, 'God with us'."

(Matthew 1:22 ff)

Canterbury Choir moves out of the choir to the Pageant set while singing Hymn 56

HYMN 56 (Verse 1) O Come, O Come Emmanuel

NARRATIVE II: The decree of Augustus.

READER 1: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be counted, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (Luke 2:1 ff.)

HYMN 79 (Verse 1) O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mary, Joseph, and Donkey make their way slowly up the aisle. Stop near the first pew.

Innkeeper moves from the first pew to stand on the first step.

NARRATIVE III: Mary and Joseph set out.

READER 2: As Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem, they found the trip to be long and tiring.

And when they arrived, they found that there was no place for them at the inn. (Luke 2:7)

HYMN 112 (Verse 1) In the Bleak Midwinter

*Innkeeper shakes his head as **Mary, Joseph, and Donkey** slowly approach him. The **Innkeeper** escorts **Mary, Joseph, and Donkey** to the Manger, making them comfortable. **Innkeeper** lights the lantern and leaves it next to Joseph and Mary.*

NARRATIVE IV: Jesus is born.

READER 2: As Mary and Joseph settled into their temporary lodgings, it felt good to get under shelter after the long journey. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger.

(Luke 2:6)

*Mary's Handmaiden presents the **Baby Jesus** to **Mary**, remaining nearby to attend to the baby's needs.*

ANTHEM: Joseph Dearest- Sung by the Canterbury Choir

NARRATIVE V: The shepherds and the angels

READER 3: And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them:

LEAD ANGEL: Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

(Luke 2;8)

HYMN 109 (Verse 1) The First Nowell

*The **Shepherds** and **Animals** move slowly down the center aisle seeking the baby Jesus. They bow to Him (front center), and then move to the right and sit down on the steps.*

NARRATIVE VI: Gloria in excelsis.

READER 3: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host, praising God and saying:

ALL ANGELS: Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace among those with whom He is pleased! (Luke 2:13)

HYMN 96 (Verse 1) Angels We Have Heard On High

*The **Angels** move slowly down the center aisle toward the Manger. They bow to Jesus, move to the right, and sit down on the steps or floor. Older Angels may stand near the Holy Family.*

*During Hymn 96 the **Donkey, Cow, and Sheep** move up the side aisle to the Narthex and join the **Dove** to prepare for the Friendly Beasts.*

NARRATIVE VII: Friendly Beasts.

READER 3: As we celebrate the wonder of the first Christmas, let us listen to the Friendly Beasts recalling their own gifts on this very special night.

ANTHEM: The Friendly Beasts- Sung by the Canterbury Choir

*The **Donkey, Cow, Sheep and Dove** make their way slowly down the aisle during the solo verse for each animal.*

NARRATIVE VIII. The gifts of the magi.

READER 4: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, Wise sages from the East came to Jerusalem saying:

THREE KINGS: Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.

READER 4: They offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HYMN 128 (Verse 1-All; Verse 2,3,4 - King Solos; Verse 5-All) We Three Kings

*On the first refrain "O star of wonder, star of night..." the **Star of Bethlehem** proceeds slowly up the aisle, walks around behind the Manger, and stands behind the Holy Family.*

*On Verse 2, 3, 4, **The Kings**, proceed to the Manger. They each kneel before the Holy Family and present their gift to Jesus. Remain kneeling until all **Kings** are there.*

*On Verse 5, the **Kings** move to the left and remain standing.*

NARRATIVE IX: Behold the holy family.

READER 4: Before we leave the Manger, as we prepare to gather as the Family of God for the Holy Eucharist, let us pause in peace, and sing to the little Lord Jesus.

HYMN 101 (Verse 1) Away in a Manger

***All participants** look at the baby Jesus and sing.*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

THE PEACE

During the PEACE: ***All participants** exit up the **SIDE** aisle. Proceed to the classrooms to change out of costumes and then return the Nave for the Holy Eucharist.*

**** Joseph and Innkeeper** replace the plain cloth on the straw bales with the gold cloth. **Innkeeper** places the lantern on the gold cloth where it will remain throughout the rest of the service.

(REVISED 12/2012)