

**One Night in Bethlehem**

**Welcome to St. John’s Episcopal Church. We are glad that you have come to join us as we prepare our hearts and mind for the coming of Jesus, during this Advent season.**

**HYMN - Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

**1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come and behold him born the king of angels:**

***Refrain:***

***Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!***

**2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,**

**Lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;**

**Only begotten Song of the Father**

***Refrain***

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:**

**Refrain**

**4. See how the Shepherds summoned to his cradle,**

**Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;**

**We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps.**

**Refrain**

**5. Child for us sinners poor and in the manger,**

**We would embrace thee, with love and awe;**

**Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?**

 ***Refrain***

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**

**Reader:** One night in Bethlehem, it finally happened: God’s promise was fulfilled!

One night in Bethlehem, Jesus was born—for me, for you, for everyone! Because of one very special night in Bethlehem we celebrate Christmas!

**Congregation:** “**God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**.”

**HYMN - Of the Father’s Love Begotten**

**1. Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,**

**He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,**

**Of the things that are that have been, and that future years shall see**

**Evermore and evermore!**

**2. O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin full of grace,**

**By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of the our race;**

**And the Babe, the world’s redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,**

**Evermore and evermore!**

**3. Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;**

**Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;**

**Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,**

**Evermore and evermore**

**4. Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to thee,**

**Hymn and change and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;**

**Honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,**

**Evermore and evermore!**

**Reader:** “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration whenQuirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.” Joseph and Mary were from the family of King David. So, they traveled back to Bethlehem. It was a long journey, and Mary was about to have the baby! After travelling all day, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem at night. So many people came to town that it was almost impossible to find a place to stay. God provided for his Son who would be born that night in Bethlehem. It was a stable, a lowly shelter for animals. It was there that Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN - Away in a Manger**

**1.Away in a Manger, no crib for his bed,**

**The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.**

**The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,**

**The Little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,**

**But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.**

**I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,**

**And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay**

**Close by me forever, and love me I pray.**

**Bless all the dear children in they tender care,**

**And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

**Reader:** Just outside of town on that night in Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep. It probably seemed just like any other night, but then . ..

“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

**HYMN - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**1. 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!**

**Refrain**

**Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!**

2. **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 man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Refrain**

3. **Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,**

**Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.**

**Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,**

**Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Refrain**

**Reader:** On that special night in Bethlehem,God put a new star in the sky. Wise men from the East saw the star and knew what it meant: A special King was born! They followed the star and found the Christ Child.

**HYMN – We Three Kings**

**1. We three kings of Orient are,**

**Bearing gifts we traverser afar,**

**Field and fountain, moor and mountain,**

**Following yonder star.**

***Refrain:***

***O star of wonder, star of night.***

***Star with royal beauty bright;***

***Westward leading, still proceeding,***

***Guide us to thy perfect Light.***

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,**

**Gold I bring to crown him again.**

**King forever, ceasing never,**

**Over us all to reign.**

***Refrain***

**3. Frankincense to offer have I;**

**Incense owns a Deity nigh;**

**Prayer and praising, gladly raising,**

**worship him God most high.**

***Refrain***

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume**

**Breathes a life of gathering gloom;**

**Sorrow, sighing, bleeding, dying,**

**Sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

***Refrain***

**5. Glorious now behold him arise,**

**King and God and Sacrifice;**

**Heaven sings alleluia:**

**Alleluia the earth replies.**

***Refrain***

**Reader:** Jesus was born for me. He was born for you, too! In Jesus, all of our sins are

forgiven. Jesus gives us power to live as his children. In Jesus, our Savior, we can be sure that one day we will live with him in heaven. God’s promise of salvation came true! It all happened one very special night in Bethlehem.

*People:* **Rejoice! Christ is born!**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

*People:* **Blessed be God for ever.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Offertory anthem: Jesus our Brother, Kind and Good** (Bell choir)

**Offertory hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hymnal #56**

**Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B** *BCP 367*

*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.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Preface**

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:

**Sanctus**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Hymnal #S-130**

**heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* 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 before he died for us, 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;**

*Celebrant:* 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. John 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. A**men.**

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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Agnus Dei Hymnal #S-164**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:**

**give us your peace, give us your peace.**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night Hymnal #60**

**The Post Communion Prayer** *BCP* 365

*Celebrant and People:* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously**

**accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Closing hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;**

**from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.**

2. **Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;**

**dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

3. **Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,**

**born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

4. **By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;**

**by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Liturgical Participants**

**Celebrant:** Rev. Elizabeth Sipos+

**Readers:** Anne Leland & Jacob Johnson

**Server:** Terry Roe

**Music Director:** Nancy Heinold

**Bell Choir:** Karen Smith-Manar, Nanci Rosendale,

Rev. Elizabeth Sipos, Elizabeth Healey, John Stevens,

Janine Stevens, Ty Schwenk and Camy Schwenk

**Christmas Eve Services**

4:00 pm - Family Service

8:30 pm - Hymn Sing

9:00 pm - Choral Eucharist

**Christmas Day**

9:00 am - Rite I (spoken)

**Sunday, December 26**

8:00 am - Rite I

10:30 am - Christmas Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist

**Office will be closed the week of December 27th,**

**and reopens Monday, January 3, 2022.**