

# The Liturgy For Christmas Eve



*Nico Long*

24 December 2023

4:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

# A Liturgy For Christmas Eve

*Celebrant and Preacher:* The Rev. Gary B. Manning

*Director of Music:* Dr. Curt Sather

**Processional Hymn 83....."O come, all ye faithful"**

*(vs. 1, and 3)*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest; [*Refrain*]

Opening Acclamation & The Collect for Purity.....p. 355, BCP

**For the Gloria: Hymn 96....."Angels We have heard on High"**

*(vs. 1 and 3)*

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight

*Refrain:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the new-born King. [*Refrain*]

The Collect of the Day

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 congregation is seated for the reading of the Story of Christmas as well as the singing of the accompanying carols. The Celebrant introduces the Story of Christmas with these words:

Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas Season, let it be our true delight to once again hear the message of the Angels, to journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Magi, to see the Good News of God made manifest in flesh and blood, Jesus, the son of Mary and the Son of God.

Hymn 56....."O come, O come Emanuel"  
(verse 1)

O come, O come Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

### Mary and Joseph



Dara Toro

Reader: In the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph. She lived in the city of Nazareth, and her name was Mary.

## Gabriel and Mary



Emerson Powell

Hymn 265 ..... "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

(v. 1)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary  
most highly favored lady," Gloria

*Reader:* And the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed are thou among women. Fear not, for thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

## The City of Bethlehem



*Jonah Paulsen*

*Reader:* And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. So all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went into Judea, to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, in the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

**Hymn 79..... "O little town of Bethlehem."**

(v. 1)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever lasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## The Babe in the Manger



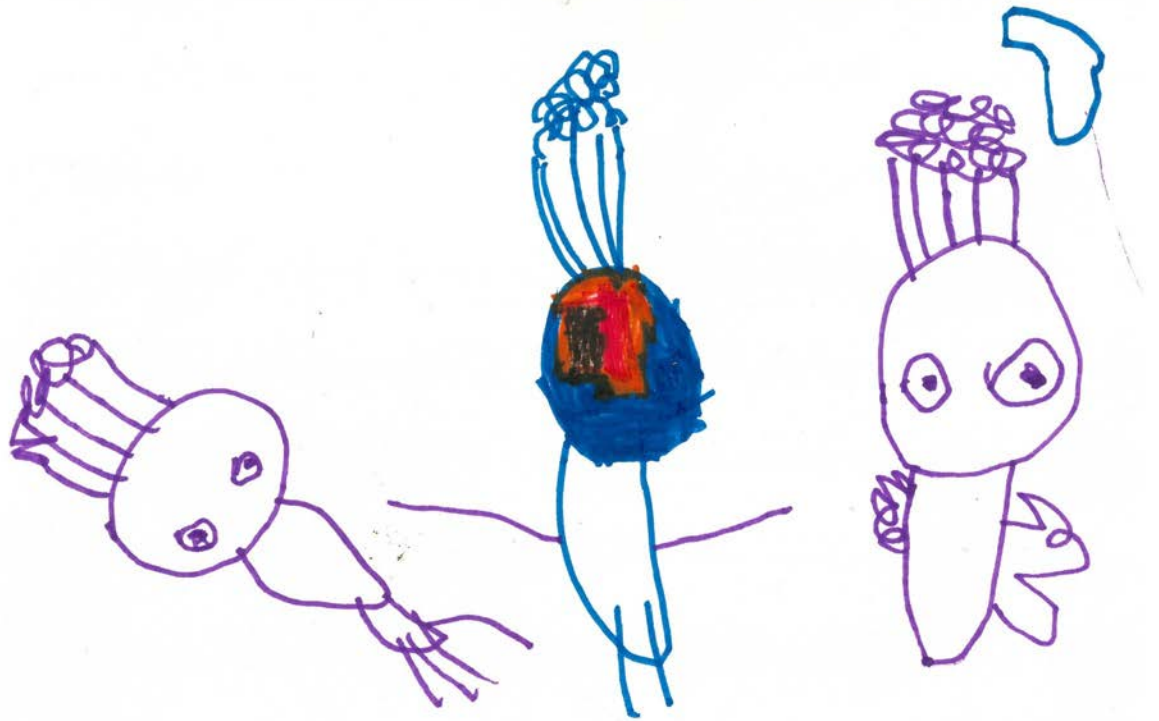
*Evelyn Andersen*

*Reader:* And Mary brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**Hymn 101....."Away in a Manger"**  
(v. 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.

Angels and Shepherds in the Fields



Winnifred Waites—Age 3

*Reader:* 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 angels 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 Savior, 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."

**Hymn 89....."It came upon the midnight clear"**

(v. 1)

It came upon the midnight clear, that  
glorious song of old, from angels bending  
near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
heaven's all gracious King," The world in solemn  
stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and animals at the Manger



Auggie Dorn—Age 4

*Reader:* As the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**Hymn 109....."The first Nowell the angel did say,"**

(v. 1)

The first Nowell the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.



## The Three Wise Men Pointing at the Christmas Star



*Milo Hermanson*

*Reader:* Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Wise Men Presenting their Gifts to Jesus (with Mary and Joseph)



Killian Cole

*Reader:* When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was. And they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country.

Hymn 115....."What child is this?"

(vs. 1 and 3)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with  
anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain:*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds  
guard and angels sing, haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come,  
peasant king, to own him; the King of kings  
salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. [*Refrain*]

Mary, Joseph and Jesus journeying away from Bethlehem



Athan Watkins

*Reader:* And behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt; for Herod will seek to destroy him." When Joseph arose, he took the child and his mother, and departed into Egypt. But when Herod was dead, Joseph took the young child and his mother, and returned to Nazareth.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit; and the grace of God was upon him.

**Hymn 99....."Go tell it on the mountain"**

(v. 3)

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and  
everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that  
Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [*Refrain*]

*The service continues with the Celebrant offering a Bidding Prayer followed by the exchange of the Peace.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B.....p. 367, BCP

The Lord's Prayer.....p. 364, BCP

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE



## All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

*There are two Communion Stations at this Liturgy. The "standing station" is located on the left (pulpit) side of the center aisle. Once you have received the Bread, if you desire to receive wine, please pick up a small, compostable cup located on the nearby stand, and the cruet bearer will pour wine into the cup. Once you've consumed the wine, please deposit the used cup in the receptacle at the end of the row as you return to your seat. If you wish to receive Communion at the Altar Rail, please line up on the right hand (lectern) side of the aisle. You may either stand or kneel to receive at the Rail. Once you've received the Bread, you can choose to either receive wine by "intinction" (touching the Bread lightly to the wine) from the ceramic chalice, or by drinking from the silver chalice. Once you and your family have received Communion, you may leave the Rail and return to your seat. If you require gluten free bread, please make your way to the Altar Rail, and notify the Celebrant if you've not already done so. You may need to cross the aisle to get to the Communion Station you prefer. This is perfectly acceptable!*



Communion Hymn III....."Silent night, holy night"

Prayer after Communion & Blessing.....p.365, BCP

Closing Hymn 87....."Hark! the herald angels sing"

(verses 1 & 2)

The Dismissal

## Wise Men Presenting their Gifts to Jesus (with Mary and Joseph)



Vanessa Cole