



The Brick Church Christmas Eve Family Service

The Christmas Pageant is a joyful service of worship and an opportunity to hear the Christmas story. The children have worked hard to prepare their parts in this service. Since this is a worship service and children need to concentrate on their roles, please refrain from using flash photography, applauding, or waving to your children. May the readings, carols, lights and stories of this pageant help your family to welcome Christ on this Christmas Eve.

Prelude

“A Nativity Suite”
Keith S. Tóth, *organ*

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Welcome and Invitation

Kiah Baxter

Ringling of the Christmas Bell

Damon Penna

DECEMBER 24, 2019 | FOUR P.M.

“Once in Royal David’s City”

All:

Once in royal David’s city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and His shelter was a stable,
 and His cradle was a stall:
 with the poor, oppressed, and lowly
 lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern;
 Day by day, like us, He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 through His own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle,
 is our Lord in heav’n above,
 and He leads His children on
 to the place where He is gone.

THE GATHERING

*** CALL TO WORSHIP***Eloise Widerner*

Leader: The singing of angels; the light of a star;

People: the love of a simple family around a manger call us to this place.

Leader: For here we gather, to celebrate the good tidings of Christmas!

People: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Leader: And so it is that our hearts are full of love and our lives are changed forever!

People: Let us worship the giver of this great gift!

All: Let us worship God on this special day.

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41**

Adeste Fidelis

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

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!

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

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, all glory in the highest!

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE FIRST ADVENT READING

Ann Higgins

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. *Advent* means *coming*. We are preparing ourselves for the days when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations shall not threaten each other, nor will the people learn war anymore.

THE SECOND ADVENT READING

Bodie Lanning

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall blossom and rejoice with joy and singing.

THE THIRD ADVENT READING

Hunter Rosseter

At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they will be my people. I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful.

THE CANDLE IS LIT

Campbell Coleman

INVITATION TO HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Lulu Mangriotis

Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem. Come adore on bended knee, One whose birth the angels sing. Come away, come away, from your noisy celebration, to a place of quietness and peace. Come with wonder, come with awe. Take your place among sheep and cattle. Sing with joy! Praise God! For the time of promise has come. Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God with us! The Christ has come! Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

Listen now to the story of Christmas. It begins long ago, long before we were born, long before our parents were born. The story of Christmas begins with the very creation of the world, at the beginning of all things. Listen now to this sacred story.

THE WORD: THE CHRISTMAS STORY

SCENE 1:
The Prophets Foretell the Coming of the Christ

SCENE 2:
The Angel Visits Zechariah

SCENE 3:
Elizabeth Learns About the Angel's News

SCENE 4:
The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

SCENE 5:
Mary Visits Elizabeth

SCENE 6:
Joseph Learns What Will Happen

SCENE 7:
Caesar Augustus Calls for a Census

SCENE 8:
Mary and Joseph Come to Bethlehem

HYMN 60

Stille Nacht

“Silent Night”

Duet: Mary and Joseph:

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.

All:

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 the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

SCENE 9:
The Angels Visit the Shepherds and Cows and Lambs

SCENE 10:
A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Appears

HYMN 23

Gloria

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

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 newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SCENE II:

The Shepherds and Animals Look for the New King

HYMN 50

African-American Spiritual

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up, shepherd and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s words, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd and follow.

SCENE I2:

The Shepherds Find the New King

SCENE I3:

The Magi Follow the Star of Bethlehem

HYMN 66

Three Kings of Orient

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

All: We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Magi Solo 1:

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.
All: *O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

Magi Solo 2:

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshipping God Most high.
All: *O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

Magi Solo 3:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, Breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in a stone cold tomb.
All: *O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

All: Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Bodie Lanning

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

16th Century Plainchant, arr. R. Ramsey

“Puer Natus Est”

Puer natus est nobis, alleluia. Unde gaudet Jerusalem. Alleluia!

A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia, therefore rejoice, Jerusalem. Alleluia!

Puer natus est nobis, alleluia. Deo dicamus gratias. Alleluia!

A Son is given on that day, alleluia. Rejoice before the Lord and pray, alleluia!

The Junior and Youth Choirs

*DOXOLOGY 592

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bodie Lanning

HYMN 25

Mueller

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

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 Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

THE RESPONSE

A Christmas Prayer

Eloise Widener

A Christmas Charge *(poem by Howard Thurman)*

Ann Higgins

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the Magi and the shepherds have found their way home, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost one, to heal the broken soul with love, to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food, to feel the earth below and the sky above, to see God’s children everywhere!

THE SENDING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 40

Antioch

“Joy to the World!”

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 Savior reigns! Let us our 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 Benediction

Hunter Rossetter

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Wilbur Held

“Improvisation on Joy to the World”

Keith S. Tóth, *organ*

All children must return to the Youth Floor to turn in costumes and meet their parents.

Thanks for being a part of the pageant!

THIS YEAR'S PAGEANT

Once a year we gather together to hear the familiar story of Christ's birth as told through the voices of our children and youth. Storytelling has the power to make the familiar unfamiliar to us. Even if we know the words by heart, the act of watching the ancient drama unfold transports us back to the first time we learned of the baby who was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn. Together, we are caught up with Mary and the Angel Gabriel or the Shepherds and the Magi who behold the shining star. Together, we are once again transformed by the light that the darkness cannot overcome. Together, we re-tell the story of our faith and answer the call to worship from our God made flesh who has come to live among us. Together we proclaim the Good News that hope is alive and peace will come.

Many thanks to the children and youth who have worked hard to lead us in worship this evening. Thanks also to George Thomas, Christiane Ramirez, German Trivino, and our whole facilities crew for helping us with staging, lighting, and sound. Many thanks as well to Jeffrey Shayne for all the administrative and program support he provides to this event. Thank you to our usher team this morning. We greatly appreciate and thank all the adult volunteers who have helped with costuming, chaperoning, snacks, music, and scripts and our Children's Ministries Committee for its support. Finally, thanks to Keith Tóth, Minister of Music and Organist at The Brick Church, for his beautiful leadership on the organ.

Kiah Baxter

Director of Children's Ministry

Peter J. Manning

Elder and Volunteer Stage Director

Amanda Page Smith

Director of Children's Music Ministries

Worship Leaders in the 2019 Brick Church Christmas Pageant

ANGELS

Anya Bell
Eleanor Bell
Ainsley Blott
Sage Caraher
G.G. Caspersen
Greer Chepiga
Sophie Christon
Avery Coleman
Brooke Coleman
Harrison Darst
Marguerite Dowling
Pascale Dowling
Oona Elmiger
Zara Fontana
Mila Gayle
Ingrid Gower
Pia Grambling
Nancy Hope
Charlotte Ingle
Helen Ingle
Knowles Johnson
Kaia Romero Krauss
Tiggy Mangriotis
Charlie Matter
Alexander Oberbeck
Alina Oberbeck
Christina Oberbeck
Elle Peers
Katherine Pettker
Parker Pitz
Piper Pitz
Chloe Robinson
Kira Smith
Abby Tedesco

LEAD ANGELS

Leah Adams

THE ANGEL GABRIEL

Riley Thompson Wordsman

THE ANGEL TO JOSEPH

Blu Belle Bradley Bota

THE ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS

Evelyn Anderson

BELL RINGER

Damon Penna

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

Andrew van Dyke

CANDLE LIGHTER

Campbell Coleman

CHRISTMAS COWS

Jasper Burger
Leo Chiang
John Curran
Bea Weber

INNKEEPER

William Leung
Damon Penna

JOSEPH

Anders Caspersen

LAMB

Dmitry Soogrim

MARY

Charlotte Rose

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Jacobsson

ZECHARIAH

Justin Chiang

NARRATORS

Robert Giuffra
Gracyn Lanning
Lulu Mangriotis

CHOIR - OFFERTORY

Blu Belle Bradley Bota
Bud Bradley Bota
Elise Cameron
Eleanor Caspersen
Toby Elder
Norah Jin-Rodriguez
Luciana Rodriguez
Charlotte Rose
Lilly Taylor
Alex Van Dyke
Riley Thompson Wordsman

PROPHETS

Margaret Anderson
Toby Elder
Camille Henderson
Elise Henderson
Alexandra Ingle

READERS

Ann Higgins
Bodie Lanning
Hunter Rossetter
Eloise Widener

LEAD SHEPHERD

Norah Jin-Rodriguez
Dean Veltre

SHEPHERDS

Charles Anderson
Magnus Caspersen
Casian Grambling
Taft Moses
Will Polisi
Jett Powers
Margo Steen

SINGING MAGI

Waverly Moses
Sawyer Smith
Lilly Taylor

CHRISTMAS STAR

Charles Anderson

WALKING MAGI

Camille Auth
Eleanor Caspersen
Kate Higgins

SOLDIERS

Bud Bradley Bota
William Jacobsson
Alex van Dyke

SPEAKING SHEPHERDS

Ethan Cameron
Ryan Chiang
Campbell Coleman
Adeline Polisi
Torrey Rossetter

STARS

Samantha Bell
Addison Blott
Vincent Cali
Henry Elder
Annabelle Harman
Josie Johnson
Athena Koh
Kaia Krauss
Pax Phillips
Eliana Saint Pierre
Ashton Wu

TOWNSPEOPLE

Elise Cameron
Sophie Christon
Luciana Rodriguez
Emma Soogrim

COSTUME AND STAFF SUPPORT

Jeffrey Shayne

LIGHTING/PROPS

Helena Burger

STAGE MANAGER

Sarah van Dyke

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Amanda Smith

ORGANIST

Keith S. Tóth

Ushers

Officer-in-Charge:
Kent McKamy
Team Captain:
Christopher L. Allen
Townsend Baldwin
John J. Batten III
David Berkman
Horace I. Crary, Jr.
Helen T. W. Elmiger
Kevin R. Greene
Charles C. Higgins
Michael F. Magsig
Christopher M. Mason
Paul F. Mercurio
Jennifer D. Morton
Christopher L. Randall
John W. Steen II

The Brick Presbyterian Church

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