



## 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”

*Wilbur Held (1914-2015)*

### **Welcome and Invitation**

*Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Evans*

### **Bell Ringer**

*James Smith*

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DECEMBER 24, 2020 | FOUR O’CLOCK P.M.

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# THE GATHERING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Torrey Rossetter*

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.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### THE FIRST ADVENT READING

*Alexander van Dyke*

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

*Emma Thorpe*

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

*Brooke Gonzalez*

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

### INVITATION TO HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY

*Hunter Rossetters*

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

“Silent Night”

*Stille Nacht*

**Mary**

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.

## SCENE 9:

**The Angels Visit the Shepherds and Cows and Lambs**

## SCENE 10:

**A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Appears**

HYMN 23

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Gloria*

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!*

## SCENE 11:

**The Shepherds and Animals Look for the New King**

## SCENE 12:

**The Shepherds Find the New King**

## SCENE 13:

**The Magi Follow the Star of Bethlehem**

HYMN 66

*Three Kings of Orient*

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

- Magi 2 Solo:** We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
- Magi 3 Solo:** O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!
- Magi 1 Solo:** Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again. King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.
- Magi 2 Solo:** Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, we are raising, Worshipping God Most high.
- Magi 3 Solo:** Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, Breathes a life of gathering gloom. Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in a stone cold tomb.
- Magi 2 Solo:** O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

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 RESPONSE

**A Christmas Prayer**

*Emily Butkow*

**A Christmas Charge** (*poem by Howard Thurman*)

*Oceane Sidtis*

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

**The Benediction**

*Torrey Rossetter*

**HYMN**

*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.**

## 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, and the parent volunteers who helped make it possible.*

Kiah Baxter  
*Director of Children's Ministry*

Cristina Soto  
*Director of Children's Music Ministries*

# Worship Leaders in the 2020 Brick Church Christmas Pageant

## BELL RINGER

James Smith

## ANGELS

Margaret Blais

Vincent Cali

G.G. Caspersen

Greer Chepiga

Renner Chepiga

Leo Chiang

Harrison Darst

Betts Doswell

Claire Fadale

Ingrid Gower

Pia Grambling

Annabelle Harman

Kyle Johnson

Willoughby Johnson

Josie Johnson

Eloise Matter

Charlie (Charlotte) Matter

Elle Peers

Vivienne Peers

Katherine Pettker

Naomi Pipkins

Piper Pitz

Parker Pitz

## THE ANGEL GABRIEL

Lucy Thorpe

## THE ANGEL TO JOSEPH AND SHEPHERDS

Camille Auth

## CHRISTMAS COWS

Harrison Blais

Magnus Caspersen

Harris Doswell

Avery Gower

Brooks Hamilton

James Smith

## INNKEEPERS/ TOWNESPEOPLE

Emily Butkow

Brooke Gonzalez

## JOSEPH

Teddy Gonzalez

## LAMB

Samantha Bell

Eleanor Bell

Casian Grambling

Asher Wright

## MARY

Riley Wordsman

## ELIZABETH

Lilly Taylor

## ZECHARIAH

Damon Penna

## NARRATORS

Hunter Rossetter

## PROPHETS

Norah Jin-Rodríguez

Kendall Johnson

Knowles Johnson

Isla Sidtis

Bea Weber

## READERS

Emily Butkow

Alexander van Dyke

Brooke Gonzalez

Torrey Rosseter

Oceane Sidtis

Emma Thorpe

## MAGI

Eleanor Caspersen

Alexander van Dyke

Emma Thorpe

## CAESAR AUGUSTUS

Robert Giuffra

## SOLDIERS

Oceane Sidtis

William Jacobsson

## SHEPHERDS

Ryan Chiang

Nicholas Pettker

Dean Veltre

## STARS

John Curran

Oona Elmiger

Owen Smith

Kira Smith

## DIRECTOR

Kiah Baxter

## VIDEO EDITOR

Michael Shayne

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cristina Soto

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Jeff Shayne

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