

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Eve Pageant
with Holy Eucharist



December 24, 2021
5:00 P.M.

St Paul's Episcopal Church
Newnan, Georgia

The Opening Hymn

O come, all ye faithful
Hymnal 83

The Bidding Prayer

The Presider says

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Presider continues

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise

Angels we have heard on high
Hymnal 96

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson — Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Sequence Anthem

O come, little children

Natalie Sleeth
St. Cecilia Choir

The Children's Pageant

The pageant is based on the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

SONG:

"That Stable Home in Bethlehem"

Rev. W. Grime

*That stable home in Bethlehem was home to friendly beasts
And it was home to God's own Son, the King of all our feasts.
The stable there in Bethlehem made Thee, dear Lord a home.
O make our hearts thy dwelling place, O come Lord Jesus come.*

SONG

" Away In The Manger"

by the children

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 in the hay.

Congregation please stand and join in singing

Hymn

Go tell it on the mountain
Hymnal 99

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor says

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honouring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns within the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Good News

Natalie Sleeth

Good news! Good news! News of great joy!
For unto us in Bethlehem is born now a boy!
Good news! Good news! Joyfully sing!
For unto us in Bethlehem is cradled a King!
Come, come be of good cheer!
Christ our Savior is here!
Good news! Good news! Welcome the morn!
For unto us in Bethlehem, Lord Jesus is born!

The Presentation Hymn

Hark! The herald angels sing
Hymn 87

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 128

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 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;**

The Celebrant continues

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 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.

The Great Amen

Hymnal S-146



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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Communion Anthem

“Only a Baby Came”

Natalie Sleeth

*They waited for a King with crown of gold,
to save the world as was foretold,
a Sovereign wise, a ruler bold but only a baby came.
They waited for a Prince to gain the throne,
a Savior sent by God alone,
a Lord with Kingdom yet unknown but only a baby came.
Twas but a babe who came that night the wonder to proclaim;
with brightest star to shed its light and set the world a flame!
They waited for a word of truth divine,
a heavenly dove a Sacred sign,
a living branch from Jesse’s line but only a baby came.
Only a babe to bear the shame,
only a babe with love His name,
Only a lowly, Holy baby came.*

Communion Anthem

“I wish I’d Been In Bethlehem”

Natalie Sleeth

*I wish I’d been in Bethlehem when Jesus came to earth,
To greet Him with a gift of love and celebrate His birth!
I wish I’d looked up in the sky to see the shining star
that showed the way to wisemen three who came from afar.
I wish I’d been in Bethlehem to hear the angels sing to shepherds watching in the field
“Fear not! Good news I bring!”
I wish I’d seen the holy Child upon a bed of hay,
and shared the joy and wonder of what first Christmas day.*

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Silent Night - [Sung by candlelight while kneeling]

Hymn 111

**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**

**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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.
Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the world! The Lord has come
Hymnal 100

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 Saviour reigns;
Let men their 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 Dismissal



The Christmas flowers and music are given to the glory of God by:

Flowers: Given by Mark and Wendy LeVan in memory of Donald K. LeVan , Glenn, LaVaughn and Jacqueline Eaton and Brent Pahl. Given by Mark and Wendy LeVan in love and appreciation for Hazel.

Music: Given by Mark and Wendy LeVan in thanksgiving for Joan LeVan, Nicholas, Megan, Ryan, Eaton and Gaby LeVan and Karen Pahl.

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, in memory of her brother, Turner.

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, in thanksgiving for our Senior Warden, Jennifer Thomasson, and all who have lead, supported, adapted, and volunteered at St. Paul's especially during these last two years.

Gordon and Linda Ramsey, in memory of Tommy Lanier and Nell Lanier.

Gordon and Linda Ramsey, In memory of Hal and Lorna Ramsey.

Dawn and Bill Harrison, in thanksgiving for their children and for the marriage of Rea Robles and Mark Harrison.

From the Hendricksons and Wendelburgs in memory of Jim Hendrickson, Audrey Chamberlain and Dick Wendelburg

Parish Notices

Upcoming Schedule:

Rector's Annual Epiphany Open House
52 Mosswood Lane.
January 6, 2022
5 - 8 p.m.



O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Epiphany, BCP p. 214)

Please join us as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany which centers on the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. You're invited to drop in or hang around the fire for a while.



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

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Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, Rector; **Mason Copeland**, Organist and Choirmaster; **Charmaine Morris**, Parish Administrator; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Elisabeth Copeland**, Director of Children's Ministry; **Mary Margaret Stewart**, Youth Director; **Kimberly Stokes**, Bookkeeper; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate.

Vestry

Jennifer Thomasson, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Nicole Edwards**, Outreach Liaison; **Philip Hand**, Stewardship Liaison; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life Liaison; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Liaison; **Renee Powell**, Health and Healing Liaison; **Heather Turner**, Welcoming Liaison; **Virginia Williams**, Compliance and Documentation Liaison.