



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE
NATIVITY PLAY



Manger, Liz Valente, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2023

WELCOME!

On behalf of all the children and families at St. Michael's, I want to welcome you to this Christmas Eve liturgy - we are so happy that you are here!

The Nativity Players have been working hard on their parts, and they are doing their very best to project their voices - but just in case you don't catch every word, the complete play is printed in the bulletin. We invite you to remain seated throughout the Nativity Play, even when singing the Christmas hymns that are included in the play. We will stand for the processional and the recessional hymns.

Please enjoy a time of fellowship at the festive reception in the Parish Hall directly after the service. Again, welcome and thank you for sharing your Christmas Eve with us!

Leslie Sackett

Associate for Ministry with Children & Families
St. Michael & All Angels Church

St. Michael & All Angels, located in Multnomah County, rests on the traditional homelands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Molalla, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya, and many other indigenous nations of the Columbia River. We acknowledge the ancestors of this place and understand that we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. By recognizing these communities, we honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants.

St Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church acknowledges the gifts of sacred music written by African Americans, indigenous peoples and all people of color. This music enriches our liturgies, and we are grateful for these musicians. Music of oppressed cultures has been appropriated by the dominant culture without an appreciation of the pain and suffering experienced by its creators. We repent and commit to the work of racial justice and ending racism.

Cover: Valente, Liz. Manger, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59334> [retrieved December 14, 2023]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.

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THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Noel: Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

HYMN 83 (STANZAS 1 & 3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

A WELCOME

Presider Blessed be the one, holy and living God

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

standing, said together

All glory to you, gracious God,
for the gift of your Son,
the one you sent to save us.

With the angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that every person may believe, rejoice,
and proclaim your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All are seated. The congregation remains seated throughout the play.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

In this holy season we celebrate good news of great joy: God has sent his Son to live among us and fulfill his purpose. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, foretelling the birth of the Messiah and the coming of his Kingdom. There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

The birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Gabriel: Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary: How shall this be, since I have no husband?

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born of you will be called holy, the Son of God. For with God nothing will be impossible.

Mary: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

Narrator: And the angel departed from her.

HYMN 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Narrator: In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

Caesar: I, Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome, decree that all citizens of my kingdom are to go to the town of their birth. There they shall have their names entered into the record books so that I might collect taxes from everyone!

Narrator: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to have the baby.

Joseph: Look, Mary! I see the lights of David's city.

Mary: Thanks be to God. I can scarcely go another step.

Joseph: Take heart, Mary. Here is an inn. We will ask for lodging.

Innkeeper 1: Who's there?

Joseph: Two travelers, seeking lodging.

Innkeeper: What can you pay?

Joseph: We are poor people; we ...

Innkeeper: I have no room for such as you!

Mary: Is there some other inn, please?

Innkeeper: Try over that way! Perhaps they may take you!

Joseph: Come, Mary. This must be the place.

Innkeeper 2: Papa says the inn's full up! No lodging to be had!

Joseph: I beseech you ... my wife's time is upon her.

Innkeeper 2: Oh, no! Oh, my! What can I do for this poor woman? I know! Come, I'll put you in the stable. It isn't much, but it's warm and dry. Will that do?

Mary: You are very kind.

Narrator: And she gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN 112

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what can I give him? Give my heart.

Narrator: Now in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Shepherds: Oh, it's a cold one tonight.
Yep, that it is. That's true enough. You can say that again.
Whose turn is it to watch?
Tobias and I did it last night.
That's right. It's your turn, Ebenezer.
All right. The rest of you get some rest.

Narrator: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them.

Shepherds: Look! – What's that? – Lord have mercy on us! – Heaven defend us! – Help! – It's a ghost! – It's a demon!

Angel of the Lord: Be not afraid: for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Angels: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Go Tell it on the Mountain

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

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

Refrain

Shepherds:

The Messiah is born! Did you hear them? They said the Messiah is born! Praise the Lord! They said he's lying in a stable, in Bethlehem! Let's go right now and find him!

Narrator:

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds went with haste and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN 96 (STANZAS 1–3)

Angels We Have Heard On High

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. 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.

Narrator:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. For they had seen his star in the East and had come to worship before him. And lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

1. 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!

Narrator: And going into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh.

King 1: Hail, King of Kings. I offer you this gift of gold.

King 2: Hail, King of Kings. I offer you this gift of frankincense.

King 3: Hail, King of Kings. I offer you this gift of myrrh.

Narrator: And Mary his mother kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

THE PEACE

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

ANTHEM

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy

West Indian traditional,
as sung to Edric Connor by James Bryce in 1942

Sung by the St. Michael's Choristers

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain:

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer!
Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

The shepherds came where the baby born,
the shepherds came where the baby born,
the shepherds came where the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

1. 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.
2. 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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
4. For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ADAPTED FROM IONA PRAYER

Presider God is here.

People **We praise God together.**

Presider Let us say thank you to God

People **who has done so much for us.**

Presider God, you made us, and the world, and everything in it. All that is good comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to be born among us, to show us how to live, and to guide us back to you.

Jesus gave us his life so that through your Spirit we can all be your people, loving you and one another. And so with thanks we praise you.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Land of Rest*, adapt by Marcia Pruner. ©1980 Church Pension Fund.
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Presider We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. “This is my body,” he said. “Do this, and know that I am with you.”
Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them and said “This is my blood, that brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you.”
And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life, and is now alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him.
Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine so that they may nourish us with the life of Jesus and, through this food, give us strength to live as your people.
We pray you’ll help us spread your light and share your love throughout the world. We pray you’ll comfort and heal those who hurt, and lift up those who are down. We pray you’ll hold close to you those who have died and help us to remember them with thankful hearts.
Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you and say:

People: **We praise you. We thank you. We bless you.**

All **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Presider As Christ teaches us, we are bold to pray:

All **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

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion.
Please come in two lines
to receive the bread; then go to the left or right to receive the cup.
Return to your seat by way of the side aisle.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM

Ding! Dong! merrily on high

Charles Wood
& George Ratcliffe Woodward

Sung by the St. Michael's Choristers

Ding Dong! merrily on high	Pray ye dutifully prime
In heav'n the bells are ringing	Your matin chime, ye ringers
Ding, dong! verily the sky	May ye beautifully rime
Is riv'n with angel singing	Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis	Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.
E'en so here below, below	
Let steeple bells be swungen	
And i-o, i-o, i-o	
By priest and people be sungen	
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis	

HYMN 115

What Child is This?

1. 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?

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

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

3. 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

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel 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.

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

2. They lookéd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Silent Night

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, tonight you have brought earth and heaven together in sending Jesus to be born in a manger. May we who have tasted heavenly things tell of God's love wherever we go. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE PRESIDER BLESSES THE PEOPLE

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace; and the blessing of the one, holy and Triune God be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Joy to the World

1. 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.
2. 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.

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2023

In thanksgiving for our family, by Joe & Sherri Afryl

In gratitude for all the years of happy family Christmases, by Carl & Cheryl Braginsky

In memory of all those killed in Gaza, Ukraine, Russia and Israel, and in thanksgiving for my health recovery, by Jan Clark

In memory of Victor & Mary Curtin, and Elizabeth "Liddy" Curtin, by Bill Curtin

In thanksgiving for the 38th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, by Scott Dolph

In memory of Steve Evans, Fred & Elizabeth Evans, and Shig & May Horio, by Patti Evans

In thanksgiving for the life and sheer goodness of Janet Kneeland, by Lynda Garner & Amy Valentine

In memory of the Belgian merchant seamen who perished in WWII, by Jean-Rene Goslain

In thanksgiving for Emily, Maya, Jacob & Kate, by Jack & Sue Harper

In thanksgiving for my family and the wonderful people I have met in Portland, by Sally Harrison

In memory of my parents, Bill & Lavina Hoeffler, and my beloved sister, Janice Hoeffler McMullen, by Bev Hoeffler

In loving memory of Nell Adele Rehm, by Terrie Ingram and the Rehm family

In memory of Gladys & Lee Jacoby, by Lee & Pam Jacoby

In memory of Joann Muntzel, and in thanksgiving for Soryn Lee, Joanne's great-granddaughter, by Jan Jenkins

In memory of Dorothy Fisher, by the Kallen family

In memory of Carol Lovelock, Penny's sister, and my sister, Carol Hoffmeyer, by Bob Kreinberg

In thanksgiving for new beginnings and new adventures, by Gary Lawrence & Marla McGarry-Lawrence

In thanksgiving for Brian Litzenberger, by Caroline Litzenberger

In memory of Don Johnson, and in thanksgiving for St. Michael's friends, family, Adam & Hannah Jo, by Hjalmer Lofstrom

In memory of Mickey Harnage, by Virginia Malone

In memory of Mary & James Boswell, by Virginia Malone

In thanksgiving for St. Michael's parishioners, by Joan Meyerhoff and Bruce Collins

In thanksgiving for family and friends, by Stuart & Gayle Morris

In thanksgiving for the friendship of Kitt Patten and Karen Schrader, by Jean Morrison

In thanksgiving for the mission and ministry of St. Michael's, by the Rev. R. Scott Painter

In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the Rev. Dennis j. Sagun Parker, by Michael S. Parker Sagun

In memory of Sue's mother Nell Rehm, and in thanksgiving for our granddaughter Revna, by JT & Sue Quanbeck

In memory of Kelly Schleigh, by Roberta Recken

In memory of Shelby Reilly and Tommy Green, by Marili Green Reilly & Dave Reilly

In thanksgiving for our family in good health, by Marion & Jim Robbins

In thanksgiving for family and community, by Ed & Virginia Rouffy

In thanksgiving for all of the children in our lives – young and grown, by Stephen & Elizabeth Rouffy

In thanksgiving for Cheryl Howard, by Ed Rowe

In loving memory of Alice Updike Scannell, by John Scannell

in memory of Ken & Margie Spiers, by Bob Spiers

In memory of David Scruggs, by the St. Michael's staff

In memory of my wife Pat, my mother Florence and my son-in-law E. Dale Rushton, by Gerry Wilson

NATIVITY PLAYERS 2023

Narrators	Ewan Barnett, Joplin Henry
Gabriel	Isabella Matus-Borges
Caesar Augustus	George LeBaron
Mary	Gioia Russo
Joseph	Charlie LeBaron
Baby Jesus	Esther Heater-Sackett
Innkeeper 1	Ben Bleckmann
Innkeeper 2	Acadia Henry
Shepherds	George LeBaron, Tom Mols, Landon Portugal, Raleigh Siegwarth
Angel of the Lord	Adelaide Blumhardt-Braga
Angels	Alice Bagwell, Avalyn Lang, Evelyn Mols, Amelia Seetin, Josephine Seetin, Beatrice Smith, Caspian Smith
Star Angel:	Diego Esteban
Kings	1. Miles Lohuis 2. Wesley Whiting 3. Ben Bleckmann
Animals in the Stable	Neve Barnett, Mimi Blumhardt-Braga, Evelyn Mols, Robert Rowett, Lily Siegwarth, Barack Holt Newton

SERVING AT 4:00 PM TODAY

Presider	The Rev. R. Scott Painter
Assisting Priest	The Rev. David Perry
Music	St. Michael's Choristers Organist, Hannah Brewer Choir Director, Brian Fairbanks
Crucifer	Lucy Shields
Ushers	Amy Valentine, Karen Oglesby, Rick & Nancy Parker
Eucharistic ministers	Tim Shields, Becky Tooley
Altar Guild	Stephanie English, Richard Hartman Josh English, Jeanne Pace
Communion Bread	Charlene Sabin, Dave Reilly

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SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS DAY	10:00 am	Eucharist with Carols
DECEMBER 31	10:00 am	Alternative Readings & Eucharist



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