



Christmas Pageant
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
10 AM, DECEMBER 7, 2025

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Special Thanks To Amy Shafer, Guest Soprano Soloist

Hymn 56 (v.1-2)

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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!

O come, 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!

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Second Sunday in Advent: Gracious God, fill our hearts with deep wonder for what that first Christmas means for us today. Awaken us to the beauty of your grace and mercy always offered to us. Let **joy** flood into our souls as we lean on you to be our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace! Help us to look with expectation to what you will do this day and always.

We light this candle trusting that even when the path to Bethlehem is unfamiliar you fill our hearts with joy. Amen

Processional Hymn 66

“Come, thou long - expected Jesus”

*Stuttgart***Opening Acclamation**

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**Collect of the Day**

Presider God be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray.

A Dramatic Retelling of the Christmas Story

In this story, we testify to the miracle of Jesus' birth through the eyes of a common shepherd who recounts the events he witnessed, which offers a different perspective on the ancient and beloved Christmas story according to the Gospel of Luke.

The puppets, which represent the Holy Family, were created by mentors and artists-in-residence in our Many Colors Art Collective. Portions of the script have been adapted from "Listen! A Shepherd's Testimony" written by Mitch Teemley.

Pageant Music led by the Choir. The congregation is invited to remain seated and join in singing these hymns.

Hymn 56 (v. 6-7) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Hymn 114 "Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime"

Tw'as in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain: Jesus your king is born!

*Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria!*

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: *(Refrain)*

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *(Refrain)*

O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heav'n
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *(Refrain)*

Hymn 96 (v. 1-2) *“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hymn 101 (v.1) *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 bright sky looked down where he lay
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Hymn 83 (v. 1, 3, 4, 6) “*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;

*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*)

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; (*Refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing; (*Refrain*)

The Nicene Creed

Bcp 358

Responsive Prayers of the People

Intercessor Glory to God in the highest,
People ***and peace to God’s people on earth.***

Intercessor Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!
Hail, Hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh.
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing;
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due. Be forever, Lord, to you.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

***Dying, you destroyed our death,
Rising, you restored our life,
Christ Jesus, come in glory!***

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saint Augustine of Canterbury, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.
People Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.
Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

We invite those who are unable to physically receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, in bread and wine, to pray the following prayer:

Lord Jesus,
I believe that you are truly present
in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things,
and long for you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you.
Let me never be separated from you. *Amen*

Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people on heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn 76

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Winchester New

Come to McMaster Hall for a joyful Christmas sing-along with Kris at the piano. Enjoy festive tunes and delicious hot chocolate as we gather to celebrate the holiday spirit!

John Harrell is the Vestry Person of the Week (VPOW). Please consider staying a little longer to assist with the coffee hour clean-up. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

*If you would like to give to Holy Comforter
text 73256 message HCGIVE*

Holy Comforter Choir

*Denny Brown, Tom Cagle, Dennis Endicott, John Harrell, Mary Lois Monroe, Michael Paul, Roy Paul,
Jan Pope, Annette Taylor, Jeri Tippit*

Vestry

John Harrell, Michael Paul, Steven Speaks, Hannah Williams, Jeri Tippit

Senior Warden: Paul Hard Junior Warden: Stephen Roberts

Treasurer: Mark Semler Clerk: Jan Pope

Hybrid Ministry

Michael Paul, Randy Woodland

Ushers

Roger Brewer, Lyn Frazer, Scott Lollar, Nelya McKenzie, Rand Neeley, Terry Seanor,

Mark Semler, Jamie Taylor Head Usher: Alden Monroe

Altar Guild

Leanne Barber, Libby Bryan, Trish Clark, Dorothy Gidiere, Melanie Kelley, Carol Kendrick,

Rose Lollar, Mary Lois Monroe, Zola Powers, Julie Speaks, Jeri Tippit

Flower Guild

Kathy Albree, Roy Paul, Zola Powers, Jeri Tippit

Holy Comforter Staff

Accompanist/Choir Director: Kristofer Sanchack Finance Administrator: Sandra Kelly

Parish Life Coordinator: Terri Via, Missy Via Assistant to the Rector: Angela Sherbine



The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter

Montgomery, Alabama