



**Family Service for Christmas Eve + 4pm
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, NJ**

Opening Carol: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* vv.1,4,7,8

Hymnal 1982, 56

The Prophecy of the Coming of Christ the King

Rector: Long before the birth of Jesus, ancient prophets told of a wonderful event, the coming of a prince of peace, who would be the son of God and would bring a beautiful message of love and hope to the whole world.

Reader 1: For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be on his shoulder. And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* vv. 1,3**

Hymnal 1982, 66

The Appearance of the Angel before the Virgin Mary

Rector: Many years passed before the words of the prophets were fulfilled. Then to a simple maiden of the city of Nazareth came the greatest honor and glory yet bestowed upon a woman.

Reader 2: And in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee, called Nazareth. To a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in to her and said:

Angel Gabriel: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you!

Reader 2: But Mary was much perplexed by these words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Mary: You are the Angel Gabriel, I know. But I am frightened.

Angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you will name him Jesus.

Mary: Here am I the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word

***The Angel Gabriel* vv. 1,4**

Hymnal 1982, 265

The Birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Rector: The first Christmas, nearly two thousand years ago, was a seemingly unimportant event - the birth of a child in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

Reader 3: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was Governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for them to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Away in a Manger, vv.1,2

Hymnal 1982, 101

The Worship of the Shepherds

Rector: Among the few who first heard of the birth of the Christ-child were some humble shepherds in the hills near Bethlehem.

Reader 1: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified.

Angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

Reader 1: And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

Reader 1: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

Congregation: Let us go now to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has done.

Carol: Go Tell It On the Mountain vv.1 with refrain

Hymnal 1982, 99

The Worship of the Three Kings

- Rector: Poor shepherds were not the only worshippers at the cradle in Bethlehem. Great Kings also came, bearing fine gifts.
- Reader 2: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking....
- Congregation: Where is he that is born King of the Jews?
For in the East we have seen his star and we have come to worship him.
- Reader 2: When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him. And he secretly called for the Wise Men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem saying...
Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and worship him.
- Reader 2: When they heard the king, they set out; and there ahead of them, went the star until it stopped over the place where the child was.

We Three Kings, v1 with refrain, vv2,3,4 no refrain, v5 with refrain

Hymnal 1982, 128

Peace and Announcements

Offertory Carol: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hymnal 1982, 87

The Liturgy of the Altar

The Lord be with you/ *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts/ *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *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 the Virgin 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us 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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

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 this holy Sacrament and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph her Spouse, St. Martin of Tours, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name...

The Fraction

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

The Holy Communion

Communion Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Hymnal 1982, 111

Post Communion Prayer *(Please kneel or stand)*

BCP, 365

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World*

Hymnal 1982, 100

Serving Today

Crucifer: Delaney Swain Eucharistic Ministers: Br. Philip Muniz, Kathy Picazio

Nativity Play Cast: Sean Hawley - Joseph Nora O'Malley - Mary Audrey Richton - Angel Gabriel Annarose & Leo Zazzali - Angelic Host. Readers: Brynn Hawley, Colin Hawley, Natalie Kellam.