



The Nativity in Scripture & Song

December 21st at 3 p.m.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

Lafayette, California

Merry Christmas & welcome to St. Anselm's!

Over 2,000 years ago, in a cave in Bethlehem, a family found shelter, and a baby was born who would change the world. 65 years ago, the people of St. Anselm's celebrated their first Christmas in this sanctuary, and ever since, we've been a spiritual home for seekers of all ages, a place and people committed to celebrating the life and teachings of Jesus so that, together, we too might change the world. Whether this is your first time or you have been here many times, please know you are warmly welcome, and we pray that you may find a home with us.

Restrooms are located next door in the Parish Hall. Children are a blessing and encouraged to participate in worship alongside their parents. On the left of the sanctuary is an area with toys, coloring sheets, and crayons.

The people's responses are in bold. All hymns can be found in the Blue Hymnal. This type of note, offering direction about the service, is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrics (red) - referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

The photo to the left was taken in April 2023 at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Narrator: The nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel writings of St. Luke and St. Matthew.

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus took place in this way: 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. And all went to their own towns to be registered.

H# 78 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!

*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,

5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dering love.
 3 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Mary and Joseph take the stage during the song

Narrator: 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 and family 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 her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

H# 101 "Away in A Manger"

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Acolytes take the stage and create the manger scene during the song

Narrator: And in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

H#99 "Go Tell it on the Mountain!"

Refrain
 Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and
 ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Shepherds take the stage during the song

Narrator: And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

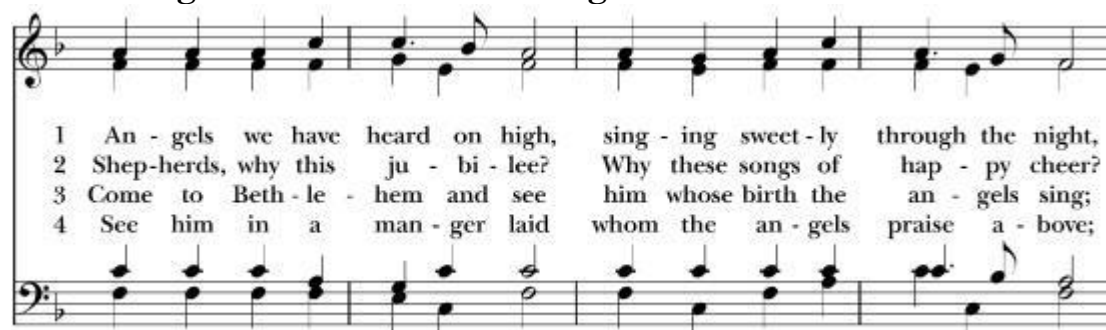
Gabriel runs down the aisle

Narrator: And the angel said to them, (*holds mic for Gabriel*)

Gabriel: Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people! To you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

H#96 “Angels we have Heard on High”



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;




and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Angels take the stage during the song

Narrator: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

H#115 “What Child is This?”

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in, such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

*Mary and Joseph hold the baby and greet the angles and shepherds
(Nobody takes the stage at this point)*

Narrator: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.”

H#128 We Three Kings

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,
 star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,
 still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The magi and the STARS take the stage during the song

Narrator: When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

H#100 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far -
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

*Arranged in 2013 by the Rev. Matthew Kozłowski
 for St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart, FL
 Text is from the NRSV with occasional modifications*

St. Anselm's invites you to join us in the Parish Hall next door for festive treats & a craft.
 Also joins us on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service at 5 p.m.



CHRISTMAS 2025 POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias that brighten our church in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ are given

In loving memory of:

John E. Allison & Wes Thomas
My husband Bradford Brown, stepson Joel Marks-Brown,
parents Nancy & Henry Chalfant, sister Verlinda Chalfant,
& grandmother Virginia Doyle
Bill & Janet Price
John Chamberlain & Paul Harris
Robert Crawford
The Zarro & Eddy Families
The Rev. Stanley B. Smith and Jason Ward McLaughlin
Sam Smith and Emmy Brassard
Ron Hillman
Diana, Bill, Pat & Jim, our parents
Howard & Margaret Nelsen, Andrew Matson, Connie Lacoste,
& Lois Foster
My grandparents Frank & Marteen Bean
Harry Pearce and Dorothy Blydenburg
Shirl Amber Hutton
Betty Mattimoe and Ned Mattimoe
Our grandparents
My family
Theodore and Alice-Jean Starr
Alan, my husband and father of our children, Alan, Shan & Mark

In thanksgiving for:

My family
Our grandchildren-Judah, Lilikoi, Caleb, Annabelle, Paige & Wesley
-our great joy!
Our family and our special community here at St. Anselm's
Our many blessings
The Hillman Family
Our family
Our wonderful children and grandchildren, family & friends
Family & Community
Tom's recovery
Our family
Family, friends, and my St. Anselm's community
Our family
The glory of God and in Thanksgiving for Mike Morf
Friends & Family

In honor of:

The ministry of Will Scott
Our parents
Alan J. Swimmer

Edee Allison

Anne Brown

The Burns Family

Naomi Chamberlain-Harris

Susan Crawford

Georganne & Bob Eddy

Jayne Hamel

Iris Hillman

Jon & Joan Martin

Peg Matson & Duane Nelsen

Audrey Miskelley

Keith & Joni Pearce

Kayce Rane

Sheila Riedy

Julie Rinkenberger & JP Zhang

Jill Schon

The Starr Family

Sara Swimmer

Edee Allison

Marty & Sally Fischer

Hank & Suzanne Gatlin

Hema & Dharmini Harichandran

Iris Hillman

Jon & Joan Martin

Peg Matson & Duane Nelsen

Marian Mulkey & John Powers

Vicki Pappas

Keith & Joni Pearce

Kayce Rane

Julie Rinkenberger & JP Zhang

Katie Taggart

Sylvia Williams

Keith & Joni Pearce

Julie Rinkenberger & JP Zhang

Sara Swimmer



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S PAGEANT:

Thank you to all the participants in tonight's pageant especially: Sage Balducci, Mary; Caleb McInerney, Joseph; Teddy Vickers-Webb, Angel Gabriel; Sarah Vickers-Webb & Keith Pearce, Narrators; Christopher Kula, St. Anselm's Director of Music; The Wehrley, Matson, Fischer and Vickers-Webb Families

Thank you to Peg Matson for all the help with this year's pageant, Sarah Vickers-Webb for production support, and to St. Anselm's Altar Guild led by Sylvia Williams for always making our sanctuary so beautiful.

STAFF: The Rev. Will Scott, Rector; The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon; Chris Kula, Director of Music; Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager; Steve Zimmerman, Bookkeeper; Holly Higgins, Preschool Director, Marian Mulkey, Treasurer

VESTRY:

Class of 2026: Bob Eddy, Peg Matson-Sr. Warden, Joni Pearce-Clerk, David Rowe

Class of 2027: Hank Gatlin, Dharmini Harichandran, Iris Hillman, Katie Taggart-Jr. Warden

Class of 2028: Pamela Green, Sheila Riedy, Maggie McCloskey, Julia Starr

DEANERY DELEGATES: Bob Eddy, Georganne Eddy, Marty Fischer

COMMISSIONS & MINISTRIES: Altar Guild-Sylvia Williams, Christian Formation-Anne Brown, Lay Eucharist Ministers/Lectors- Judy Peak, Parish Life-Sylvia Williams, Property-JP Zhang, Service/Outreach-Joni Pearce, Stephen Ministry-Vicki Pappas, Stewardship-Katie Taggart, Worship-Judy Peak

All are invited to make a gift to support St. Anselm's ministry of sharing God's love.

*As the plate is passed * Online at <https://stanselms.us/give>*

Thank you for your generosity.



Sign up for St. Anselm's Weekly Email News

Church worship services are livestreamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service you acknowledge that you may be visible on the live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please see an usher to be reseated in a more private area.

"St. Anselm's Episcopal Church is a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve."

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