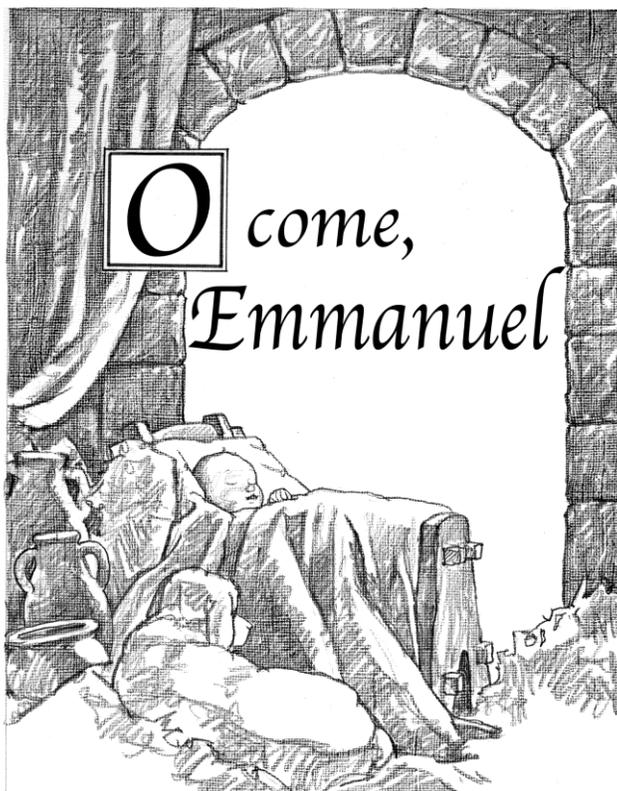


Saint Christopher Episcopal Church
Fairborn, Ohio
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

**The Celebration of Holy Communion
Four o'clock in the afternoon**



Christmas Eve Prelude Music:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Soloist) Theresa Turner

Carol: Congregational Choice

“For Behold Darkness Shall Cover the Earth” G. F. Handel (The Messiah)
(Soloist) John Ziegenhagen

Carol: Congregational Choice

“Wake from your Sleep” by Dan Schutte (guitar and vocal: Fr. Greg Sammons)

“Christmas Grace” by Ruth Elaine Schram
(Trio: Judy Brainard, Susan Brainard, John Ziegenhagen)

Carol: Congregational Choice

“Gesù Bambino” by Pietro Yon
(vocal duet: Ofoname Eguaroje and Amanda Elrod)

“He Is Born” (Soloist) Barry Kelley

Carol: Congregational Choice



The Liturgy of the Word

All as are able, standing

The Processional Hymn: # 83..... “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1-3, 6

The Procession to the Manger

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

People **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day Holy by the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the Christmas feast, and may rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant Unto us a child is born. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People **Come, let us adore Him. Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Collect for Purity *(in unison)*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise: # 96..... “Angels We Have Heard on High” vs 1-3

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 Reading **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 96 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
 bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
 let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 before the Lord when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All as are able, standing

The Gradual Hymn: # 79 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1-2

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gradual Hymn: # 79 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 5

The Homily **The Rev. Gregory Sammons**

The Nicene Creed *All as are able, standing.*

**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

All as are able, standing.

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray: "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: Make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Invite the congregation to add their thankgivings, followed by silence.

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely; especially for those we remember this day:

Judy, Thom, Carol, Toni, Daphne, Florence, Warren, Pat, Sandi, Joe, Frank,
Nikki, Jim, Zada, Vicky, Jim and Ann, Camden, Kelly, Jan, Bob and Doris,
and for all those who lost their health and freedom through addiction

Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence.

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Silence

Glorious Lord,

Grant us your peace.

The Celebrant proceeds (preface: Incarnation)

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(sing in unison)

The Sanctus

S-130 "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

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

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na' and 'in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'



The Celebrant continues

All as are able, kneeling, or standing.

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 and for many 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 Mary and Joseph, shepherds and Wisemen, Christopher, and 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. **Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

A period of reflective silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem: S-164 "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Administration of Communion

The Celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

~ All are welcome to the Lord’s Table: open to all who come, so all may be fed. ~

- The Communion Hymns:**
- # 101..... “Away in the Manger”
 - # 102..... “Once in Royal David’s City”
 - # 89..... “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
 - # 87..... “Hark! The Herald Angels sing”

The Post Communion Prayer

All as are able, kneeling.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray *(in unison)*

**Good and Gracious God,
 who chose the Blessed Mary
 to be the mother of the promised Savior:
 fill us your servants with your grace,
 that in all things we may embrace your holy will
 and with her rejoice in your salvation;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All as are able, kneeling.

Candle Lighting: Hymn # 111..... “Silent Night”
 (guitar: John Stauffer)

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

The love of God enfold you,
 the light and joy of Christ encompass you,
 and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit strengthen and encourage you
 this holy night and forever.
Amen.

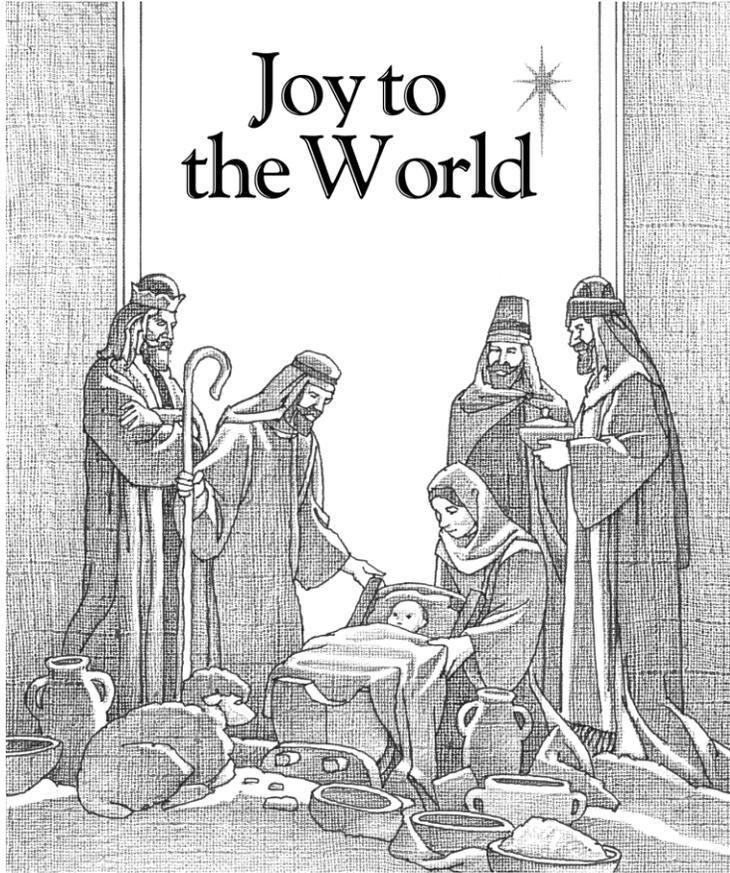
The Recessional Hymn: # 99 “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

The Dismissal

Celebrant Unto us a Child is Born, Alleluia, Alleluia
People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The Postlude Special Music

Joy to the World



Christmas Eve December 24, 2017:

*The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary
were given by*

Alice Baldwin	In memory of Steve
Betty Crichton	In memory of Paul and our parents.
Frank & Iyabo Eguaroje	In thanksgiving for family
Lois and Bob Garner	In memory of Mary Couch & Mary Johnson
Hayward & Telesa Learn	In memory of our parents and Telesa's sister.
Kay Mitchell	In thanks for family & friends
The Nelsons	In thanks for Children & grandchildren
Rick & Millie Roach	In thanksgiving for our family and for the St. Christopher's community.
Dan & Deb Snavely	In memory of Antoinette
Theresa Turner	In thanks for family & friends

Today's Altar flowers were given by Theresa Turner
in celebration of Colin's 16th Birthday.



MISSION STATEMENT ~

**“Living the Great Commandment by Ministering to
Our Neighbors in Body, Mind and Spirit.”**

Celebrant	The Rev. Gregory Sammons
Worship Leader	Toni Olgeaty
Chalice Bearer	Cindy Feltz
Acolyte	Kathy Smith
First Reader	Mary Donnellan
Second Reader	Alan Haberecht
Ushers	Eleanor and Becky Wood
Greeters	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	tbd
Altar Guild	Mel Bigi, Andrea Haberecht
Tellers	Susan Brainard, John Stauffer
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 937-478-3687 (C)

ST. CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE REV. GREGORY P. SAMMONS, SUPPLY PRIEST

Contact Information: gpsammons@gmail.com

**For Pastoral emergencies only (hospitalizations, etc.)
419-350-9518**

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 2 PM