

# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2023, at 5:00 PM



A No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant for kids, families, and all ages.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
432 Van Buren Street Herndon, VA 20170  
703-437-3790

## MERRY CHRISTMAS and WELCOME to ST. TIMOTHY'S

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I welcome you all to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church during this Christmas Season. Together, we celebrate God's Incarnation by welcoming the Christ Child into our hearts and souls. Whether you are returning to church after a time away or are new to the faith; whether you are looking for a new church home or simply seeking a place to experience community; we are glad you are here with us at St. Timothy's.

**For this service, I hope that your child has grabbed a costume piece for our Christmas pageant. During the appropriate song for their part, they are invited to head up to the altar and join the nativity scene. (Parents are invited also if their children are too shy!) Please note that there will be a special opportunity to take pictures of the children at the end of the pageant while we sing 'Go tell it on the mountain'.**

If you are new or visiting us, I invite you to fill out a Welcome Card in the pew rack in front of you or on the podium in the Narthex. Please place the completed card in the offertory plate or give it to an usher.

On Sunday mornings, we gather for worship at 8:00a (Holy Eucharist I, spoken) and 10:00a (Holy Eucharist II, with music). During our 10:00a service, we offer Godly Play for those ages 3-9 downstairs (simply follow the children after the reading of the Collect). For your convenience, there are also rocking chairs located at the back of the sanctuary to soothe little ones and worship bags with quiet activities in the Narthex. All are welcome to join us for Coffee Hour immediately following the service.

God be with you during this holy season and beyond!

Blessings,

CHARLES+

[priest@saint-timothys.org](mailto:priest@saint-timothys.org)



**Piano Prelude**

*Joy  
At the tolling of the bell, all stand.*

Bach/Winston/Qualey

**Entrance Hymn (83 v 1-3,6)**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste fideles

**Welcome**

**Opening Acclamations**

Celebrant: Grace and peace to you from God. In the name of the Christ child, whose birth gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, welcome.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.

**People: Amen.**

*Please be seated during the pageant and the singing of the hymns.*

**CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PAGEANT**

**\*\* As readers introduce and narrate the Nativity,  
we invite all children to participate at the appropriate time.\*\***

**Hymn 101 (v 1)**

*Away in a Manger*  
**(ANIMALS)**

Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 87 (v 1)**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
**(ANGELS)**

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Hymn 109 (v 1)**

*The First Nowell*  
**(SHEEP & SHEPHERDS)**

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they  
lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

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

**Hymn 128 (v 1)**

*We Three Kings*  
**(WISE MEN)**

Three Kings of Orient

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

**\*\* Adults are invited to take pictures of the children while we stand and sing  
'Go Tell It on the Mountain'. \*\***

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn (99)**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

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

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

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

### **The Peace (BCP 360)**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Welcome/Announcements**

### **Offertory Sentence**

### **The Offering**

### **Anthem**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

arr. Martha S. Kelsey

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Presentation Hymn (380 v 3)** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Old 100th

## **Holy Communion- Eucharistic Prayer A**

### **The Great Thanksgiving (BCP 361)**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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, our only Son, to be for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive the power to become your children.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the Chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

## **Sanctus (S125)**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Richard Proulx

*Please stand or kneel, as you are able.*

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with Timothy and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

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

**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.**

## **Fraction Anthem (S164)**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert/Proulx

## **The Invitation (BCP 364)**

Celebrant: 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.

*Please be seated.*

## Administration of Communion

Communion Hymns (78)	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Forest Green
(101)	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Cradle Song

*\*\*\*Lights will dim and candles will be lit at this time.\*\*\**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**\*\*\*An usher will come to each pew and share the light of Christ. To receive, tilt your unlit candle over the flame of a lit candle which is held upright. Please assist small children.\*\*\***

Post Communion Hymn (111)	<i>Silent Night</i>	Stille Nacht
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## Postcommunion Prayer (BCP 365)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*\*\*Carefully extinguish your candle. As you depart the sanctuary, please place the unlit candle in the baskets provided.\*\*\***

## Blessing

Celebrant: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (100)	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Antioch
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## Dismissal (BCP 366)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude	<i>Three Carols</i>	arr. Carol Tornquist
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