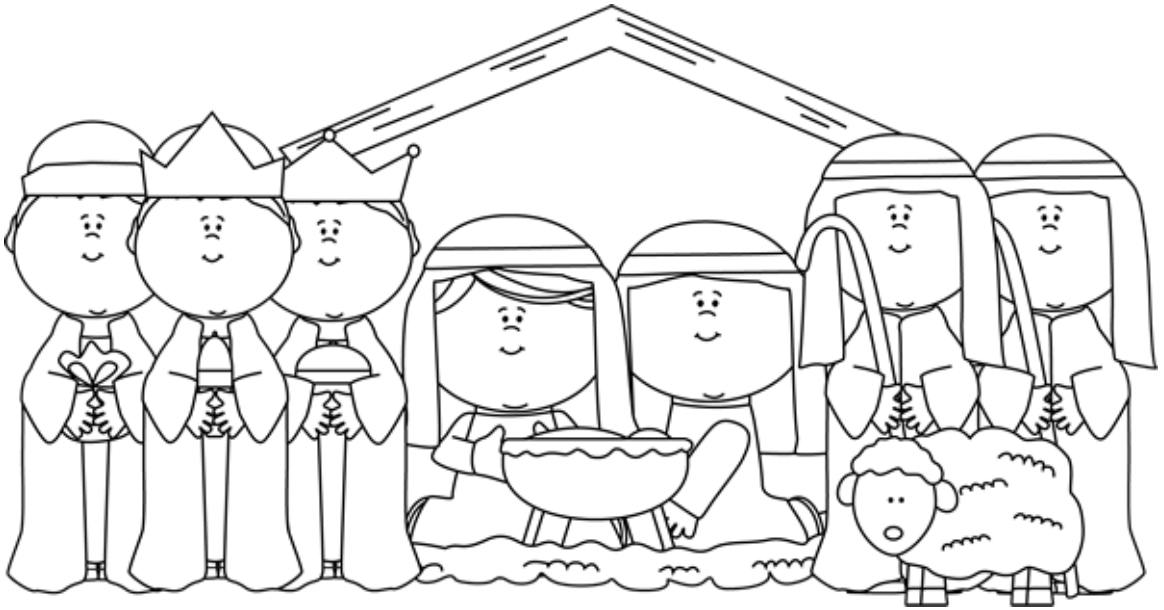


A CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

WITH

A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



ST. PETER'S CHURCH (UPPER GULLIES)

DECEMBER 24TH, 2016

St. Peter's Anglican Church (Upper Gullies)
CHRISTMAS EVE
Children's Liturgy / The Holy Eucharist

Return of the Holy Family

(Keith Pack.....)

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

(Daniel Greene and his family)

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of love. We light it and the candles of hope, peace and joy again as we remember that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace, love, joy and hope. (a person lights the candles of love, hope, peace, and joy)

Reader: The fifth candle of advent is the candle of Jesus Christ, the son of Mary; the son of God is born this night. God's word has been made flesh among us.

Reader: The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth!

Reader: The bible tells us that Jesus is the "*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" He is our Lord and Savior.

Reader: God's word has been made flesh among us. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.

Reader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

Reader: Jesus is the light of the world who came into the world to teach us unconditional love and forgiveness. We light the Christ candle to remind us of Jesus, the light of the world and our Lord and Savior. (a person lights the Christ candle)

Reader: Let us pray: Thank you God for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

("A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.)

The Gathering of the Community

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Almighty God,

All **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Priest Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

Godly Play in Church:

The Christmas Story

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.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

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.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect Light

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Gospel Proclamation

Luke 2:1-20

Prayers of the People

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn:

(CP#135) **Shepherds in the Field Abiding**

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Tell us, when the seraph bright
Greeted you with wondrous tiding
What you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Choristers on high were singing,
Jesus and his virgin birth
Heavenly bells the while a-ring,
"Peace, good will to all on earth."
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

We beheld it (it is no fable),
God incarnate, King of bliss,
Swathed and cradled in a stable,
And the angel strain was this:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Thanks, good shepherd, true your story,
Let us go to Bethlehem;
Angels hymn the King of glory,
Carol we with you and them.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

*When the gifts have been prepared, the celebrant may say the Prayer over the Gifts, following which the people say, **Amen.***

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Priest Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **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.

Priest We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Priest and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Priest And now, as our Saviour 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says the following words:

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion with the following words:

The gifts of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament regardless of age or denominational affiliation.

If you wish to have the body of Christ dipped into the chalice, please indicate this to the Eucharistic minister.

If you do not wish to receive from the chalice, indicate this to the Eucharistic ministers by crossing your arms over your chest. Likewise, parents who do not wish their children to receive the sacrament are asked to have them cross their arms over their chest.

After all have received, silence is kept.

Priest Let us pray.

The community stands as the celebrant prays the following words:

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Priest Glory to God,
All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

The celebrant blesses the people with the following words:

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The people are then dismissed with the following words:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn:

(CP#138) **Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

Hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"