Christmas Eve at Holy Apostles
The Feast of the Nativity

Thursday, December 24th - 9 O'Clock in the Evening

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;
And the government shall be upon his shoulder;
And his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Message **The Revs. Kimberlee Auletta & Sarah Kooperkamp**

Music Offering Ding Dong Merrily on High, The Holly and the Ivy sung by the Choir

Opening Hymn God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen **Sung by all**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!

"Fear not, then" said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Opening Acclamation & Collect of the Day

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom now, and forever. Amen**

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.**

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Christmas Pageant

The Pageant Reimagined: A retelling of the Christmas Story and interpreted by our Youth enacted by the youth of Holy Apostles. Songs include: "Joy to the World" & "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

The Lesson **Isaiah 9:2-7** **read by Peter Saghir**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn **Angels We Have Heard on High** (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Angels we have heard on high singing sweetly through the night
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Gospel **Luke 2:1-20** **read by Deacon John Musco**

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

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 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 bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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. But the angel said to them, "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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Candlelight Carol **sung by the Choir**

The Apostles Creed **said in unison**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offertory

We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:
https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website

Doxology **sung by all**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264 **sung by all**

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People **led by Ann Mellow**

My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From

grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: **Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.**

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized in every place of conflict and on every street of violence.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry and our willingness to nourish the growth of our souls.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, and to those who are seeking a better life for their families by fleeing the violence of their home lands.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship through the fellowship of the Church.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That the joy and the consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are sick or suffering.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That the angels may join in our chorus of gratitude and thanksgiving, especially for those who are gathered physically and virtually in churches around the world this Christmas Eve.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith.
Let the heavens rejoice; and let the earth be glad.

Remembering our most glorious and blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints,
let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
To you, O Lord our God.

Dear people of God, what else, and who else, should we pray for?

** *Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

Silent Night
We invite you, as with all of our hymns to sing along. If you have a candle that you can light and hold, please do so for this beloved hymn.

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
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

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven a far
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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

O Holy Night **sung by Sophie Delphis**

Concluding Prayer
Loving God,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with open hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The Blessing

May Almighty God, Who sent His Son to take our nature upon Him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of His holiness. **Amen.**

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.**

May God, Who in the Word made Flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you His peace and favor. **Amen.**

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 upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia!
All **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Closing Hymn Hark the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1 & 3) sung by all

Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Right-ous-ness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!

Special Parting Song

Passing of the Peace

Christmas Pageant Cast

Claudia DiGiambattista
John Harvey
Alice Kooperkamp-Lopez
Charlie Kooperkamp-Lopez
Harper Landau
Beckett Landau
Nico Masson
Mac McCormick-Jones
Liam McCormick-Jones
Conner Moritz
Halcyana Pasternak
Augustine Pastore

Writers & Directors
Ann Noling & Julia Gannon

The Holy Apostles Choir

(denotes guest musician)*

Hirona Amamiya, soprano & violin*
Alice Avouris
Ellie Berlyn
Shawn Chang, piano*
Borah Coburn
Linda Davis
Stani Dimitrova, violin*
Julia Gannon
Jan Hanen
Jerry Hanen
Janet Kaplan
Heather Kelly
Harper Landau, flute
*Nobuki Momma**
*Taiwan Norris**
Amy Sanusi
Jerred Sanusi
Asa Swain
*Motomi Tanaka**
Audrey Whitworth
John Wolfe, organ*
Tom Wool

Holy Apostles Music Director
Saya Callner

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