



# A Christmas Greeting to Our Visitors



"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD that He gave His onlybegotten Son." In the spirit of the Father's love for us, we welcome our visitors on this great Feast of the Incarnation.

It is the custom of this Church that all baptized persons who are communicants of their own church, and who come in faith and penitence intending to lead a new life, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

# THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## Nativity Pageant and The Holy Eucharist at Four o'clock

+ + +

#### *¶* The People stand

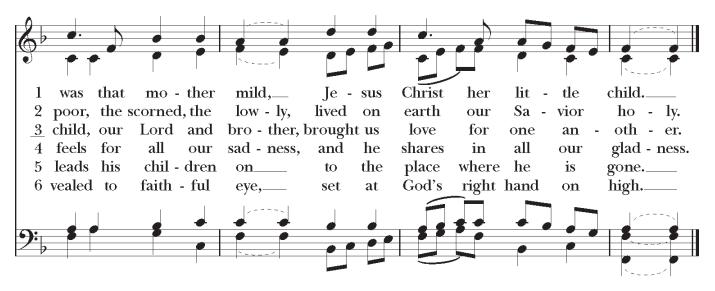
#### The Bidding

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture this tale of the loving purposes of God in the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us remember in His name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. Let us pray for the needs of the world, for peace on earth, for goodwill among all his people, and for unity and brotherhood with the Church He came to build, and let us make this Church glad with our carols of praise.

## Hymn

#### ¶ Verses 1 and 2 are sung by the Choir alone; all sing verses 3-6





Words: Vss 1-2,4-6: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895); vs 3: James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) Music: IRBY: Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876)

## The Collect for Christmas Eve

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.CelebrantLet us pray.

GOD, WHO HAST CAUSED THIS HOLY NIGHT to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *People Amen*.

*¶* Then all are seated

## The Nativity Pageant

J The People remain seated throughout the Pageant

## **Redemption Foretold**

#### Isaiah

OMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. *Isaiah* 40:1-3, 11

## Hymn *¶* Sung by all

- Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
- Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

#### Jeremiah

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their Fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. *Jeremiah* 31:31-33

#### Hymn Jung by all

- Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

## The Annunciation

#### Narrator

N THE DAYS OF HEROD, King of Judaea, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, *Luke 1:5, 26–28* 

#### Gabriel

Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be no end. *Luke 1:28, 30–33* 

#### Mary

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, for he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; for he that is mighty hath done me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath

put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree; he hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever. *Luke 1:38, 46–55* 

#### Hymn Jung by all

- The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
   "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!
- "For now a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

## The Incarnation

#### Narrator

ND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, in Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7

#### Hymn

| 1. | Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.              |
|    | 1.  |

- All 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- All 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray.Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### Narrator

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, *Luke 2:8–10* 

#### Gabriel

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:10-12

#### Narrator

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: *Luke 2:13* 

#### Angels

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. *Luke 2:14* 

#### Narrator

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

#### Shepherds

Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. *Luke 2:15* 

#### Hymn *¶* Sung by all

- The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
- They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

#### Narrator

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger; And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. *Luke* 2:16-19

#### Hymn Jung by all

- What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
   Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
   This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
- 2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

#### Narrator

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. *Luke 2:20* 

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him. When Herod the king heard these things he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ would be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. *Matthew* 2:1–9

## Hymn

All 1. 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!

Soloist 2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain* 

Soloist 3. Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High. *Refrain* 

Soloist 4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain* 

 All 5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.
 Refrain

#### Narrator

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy; and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him, and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *Matthew* 2:10-11

## The Heavenly Chorus

#### Narrator

A ND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGELS a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men. *Luke* 2:13-14

## **f** The People stand to sing the following

## Hymn

- Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King: let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
- Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.

## The Peace

- CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.
- **9** Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord; This may be done with a wave or a bow; please observe social distancing and refrain from physical contact with those from outside your household

## The Rector's Christmas Greeting

The Church of St. Michael & St. George is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who donate as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your donation in the collection plate or use the QR code below to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to our annual commitments from our parishioners.



- No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
- He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

## The Holy Communion

## Anthem at the Offertory

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring. News of great joy news of great mirth. News of our merciful King's birth.

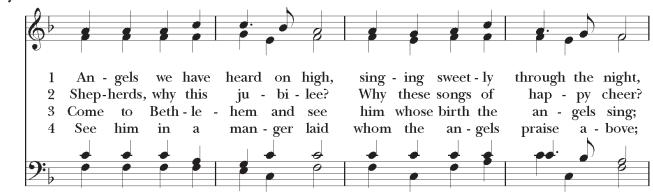
Then why should men on earth be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad.When from our sins he set us free. All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place.Angels and men with joy may sing. All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which makes the Angels sing this night. Glory to God and peace to men. Now and forevermore, Amen.

> Words: Traditional English Music: David Willcocks (1919-2015)

#### ¶ Following the singing of the Anthem, all stand to sing



#### Hymn at the Presentation



Words: French Carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt. Music: GLORIA: French Carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

## The Great Thanksgiving

| Celebrant | The Lord be with you.                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| People    | And with thy spirit.                  |
| Celebrant | Lift up your hearts.                  |
| People    | We lift them up unto the Lord.        |
| Celebrant | Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. |
| People    | It is meet and right so to do.        |

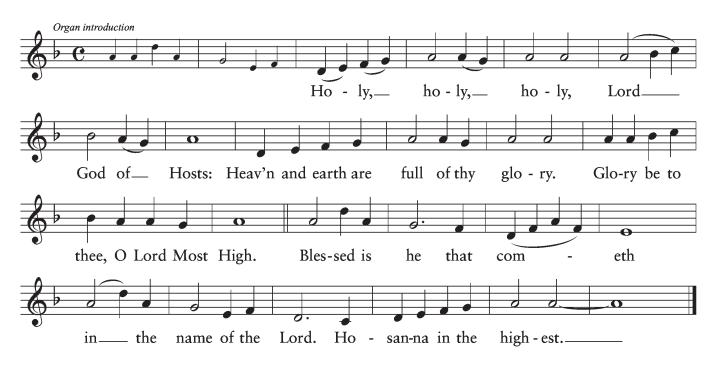
**9** Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

I T IS VERY MEET, RIGHT, AND OUR BOUNDEN DUTY, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit



**9** The People kneel and the Celebrant continues

LL GLORY BE TO THEE, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled + with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

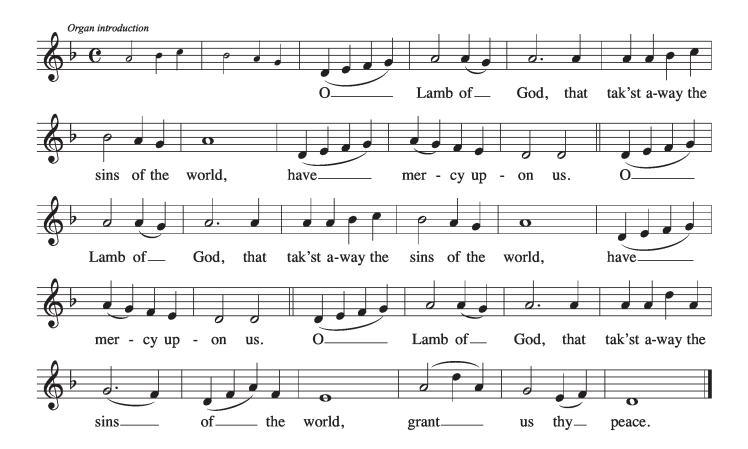
By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *f All* AMEN.

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

**9** The Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept; then is sung

## Fraction Anthem



## The Communion of the People

*¶* All Christians baptized with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the Ushers on when to come forward. Please continue to wear your mask and, to maintain distancing, form two single file lines down the center aisle, at six-foot intervals in household units. To receive the Bread, extend your palms, crossed and upward; then return to your seat, then consume the Bread.

J Holy Communion will be offered in one kind only.

*¶* Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing; please indicate this to the Priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

Carols at the Communion **9** Sung by the Choir

Lully, lulla, By, by. lully, lullay.

O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day? This poor youngling for whom we sing By, by, lully, lullay. Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy parting neither say nor sing,

> Words: Traditional Carol Music: Philip Stopford (2011)

Once for a shining hour, heaven touched earth, Hope was born a new, and peace reigned in the world.

> Words: Anon. Music: Roland Martin (b.1955)



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792–1848) Music: Stille NACHT: Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

## The Postcommunion Prayer **9** Said by all, kneeling

A LMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

## The Christmas Blessing

AY 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. *People 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. *People Amen*.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *People Amen*.

And the blessing + of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *People Amen*.

## ¶ All stand

The Dismissal

**f** The Deacon dismisses the People and they respond

 $\mathbb{R}$ . Thanks be to God.

¶ All join in singing the following Hymn

#### Hymn at the Retiring Procession

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

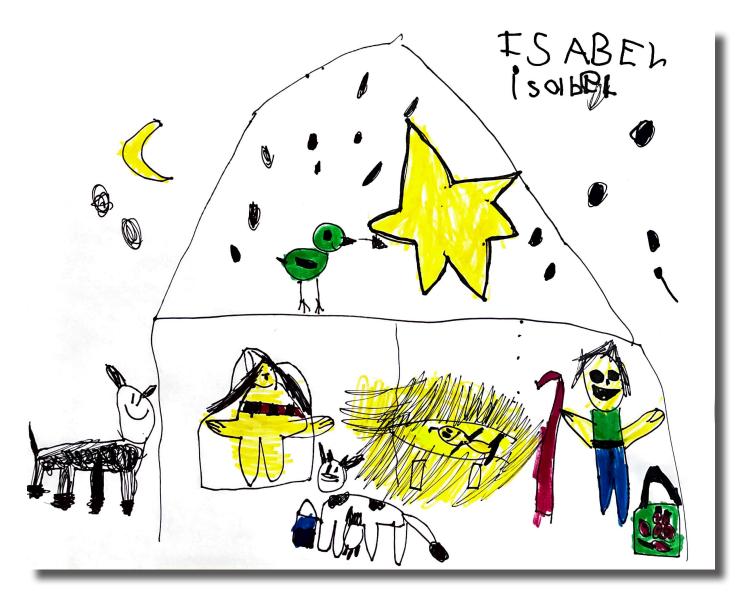


## Nativity Pageant Cast: Confirmation Class

| Narrator 1 | Agnes Smith       |
|------------|-------------------|
| Narrator 2 | Sophia Simanowitz |
| Isaiah     | Sophie Hagemann   |
| Jeremiah   | Fletcher Anderson |
| Mary       | Parker Anderson   |
| Joseph     | John Arneson      |
| Baby Jesus |                   |
| Gabriel    | Hadley Altvater   |
| Shepherds  | Isaiah Smith      |
| -          | Nathan Smith      |
| Star Angel | Kennedy Anderson  |
| Angel      | Sophie Hagemann   |
| C          | Virginia Portell  |
| Magi       | Marin Cline       |
| C          | Cecilia Warren    |
|            | Audrey Simanowitz |
|            | •                 |

The Rector, Clergy, and Staff of The Church of St. Michael & St. George wish you a very blessed and joyous Christmas.





by Isabel Springer



by Gabriel Smith

## Nativity Pageant and Holy Eucharist December 24, 2021

"Nativity" Ezekiel Smith



## THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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The Rev. Andrew John Archie Rector The Rev. Peter James Speropulos Assistant Rector The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson Assistant Rector The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey Priest Associate The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem Priest Associate Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler Acting Organist and Choirmaster, Music Director Kathleen Guilfoy Beyers Assistant Choirmaster