



Free CHURCH OF THE
ANNUNCIATION

an Episcopal Church founded in 1844

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2021 ✦ 7:00 P.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST ✦ RITE II ✦ YEAR C

ALTAR MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God and in Honor or in Loving Memory of:

Annunciation Altar Guild Honor Roll:

***Varney R. Rannells, Edith West DiGiovanni,
Dorothy (Dottie) Everett, Gloria Gardiner,
Lillie "Peggy" Margaret Burch, Helen Pool Chalstrom,
Louise Morgan, and Helen Jeffries***

by Suzanne Fontan

***Marc and Lucille Antony, Jim Antony,
Joyce Barefield, Louise Morgan, Leslie Graf
Marion Ramsey, Jasbir Jhita, Jay Sibley
Ned Rannells***

by Marcie Courtney

***Lloyd Christen, Sr., Lloyd Christen, Jr., Marion Christen,
Hilda Pizani, Terry Pizani, Charlie Pizani,
Clarence Cobert, Sr., Clarence Cobert, Jr., Merrilyn Cobert***

by Traci Christen

***Harold and Joyce Barre, Arthur and Nellie Escalante,
Henry Able and the Able Family***

by Kathy and Arthur Escalante

***Kevin Benjamin, Otterly Constantine, Kurt Benjamin,
Anya Hoffman, Jerald Constantine***

by Roland and Jerroldyn Hoffman

Lindsay Laws, Brian Sentman, Amy Laws, Nick Binet

by Pam Merideth

Jason T. Pettigrew, Phyllis Hartley, Joe Hartley

by Cliffie Pettigrew

and by Tom & Ellen Prewitt

Welcome to Annunciation

Celebrant

The Reverend David P. Casey, O.P., Priest-in-Charge

Please remember to silence your mobile phones

Welcome & Announcements

Father David Casey

FOR VISITORS

If you are visiting, we would love to know! Complete a CONNECT card found in the pew rack and drop it in the offertory plate, or hand it to a vestry member. To receive our weekly newsletter or to learn more about us, visit AnnunciationEpiscopal.com or call the church office at (504) 895-8697. You can also find us on [Facebook.com/AnnunciationNOLA](https://www.facebook.com/AnnunciationNOLA).

ABOUT THE SERVICE

All are invited to God's table for Communion. **Words in this bulletin in BOLD, we say or sing together.**

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Masks are required, regardless of vaccination status. We have masks at the entrance should you need one. Non-contact greetings should be offered to those outside your household at the peace or before/after the service. Please continue to practice rigorous hand hygiene. Anyone with symptoms of a potentially contagious illness should stay home. We continue to livestream our 11:00 AM Sunday service.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Liturgy of the Word will be enacted by the children of the parish. Please enjoy this reenactment as we journey together to Bethlehem to pay honor and worship to the Christ Child, a singular and unique sign from God of hope for our world. The text of the narration is below for your convenience. Please feel free to enjoy our travels together by singing some Christmas carols.

[Narrator's 1 and 2 start in the back of the church]

Narrator 1:

Welcome to Annunciation's Christmas pageant! The Scripture Lessons this evening will be acted out by our children; you are invited to sing along with the hymns. Our musicians will play a few bars of introduction and then we will all sing.

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah and join with those throughout the world who celebrate the coming of Light and Life with us:

Narrator2:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Narrators 1 and 2 walk to the front of the church and take their places as Mary and Gabriel while the song begins to play.

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung
It came, a blossom bright amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere
True man, yet very God from sin and death now save us
And share our every load.**

As Narrator 3 begins near the lectern, Mary stands in the front of the church alone, the angel waiting off to the side

Narrator 3:

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And she came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by her words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Mary and the Gabriel walk down the center aisle to the back of the church

Once in Royal David's City

The first verse is a solo. The congregation is invited to join on the remaining verses.

Soloist

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 was her little child.

All

**He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of All
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall
With the poor the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at least shall see him, through his own redeeming love
For that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round
We shall see him but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround
Christ revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.**

As Narrator 4 reads, Mary and Joseph walk up the aisle. They sit by the manger. Mary brings the baby out from behind the manger, holds him and then places him in the manger.

Narrator 4:

In those days a decree went out from the Emperor that all the world should be registered. This was the first census and was taken by the governor of Syria. All went to their own towns for the census. Joseph also went from his home town to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family of David. He went 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.

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay**

**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.**

**Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by my forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Shepherds walk halfway up the aisle. Angels join them from behind.

Narrator 1:

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!'

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing 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!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King!
GLORIA! In excelsis Deo!
GLORIA! In excelsis Deo!**

Angels go towards back of church, shepherds walk towards manger

Narrator 3:

When the angels had left, 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.

What Child is This

**What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whose 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
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**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This! This is Christ the King! Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste! Haste to bring him laud! The babe, the Son of Mary**

Wise Men and Star meet at the middle of aisle

Narrator 4:

All this took place in the time of King Herod. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to honor him.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

We Three Kings

**We three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star!
Oh! Star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright!
Westward leading, still proceeding! Guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice
Heaven sing alleluia! Alleluia the earth replies
Oh! Star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright!
Westward leading, still proceeding! Guide us to thy perfect light!**

Star leads Magi to the manger as the Magi bring the gifts for communion. Angels join star from sides.

Narrator 5:

Then Herod secretly called for the Magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and honor him.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Priest:

This is where our Christmas story ends, but it is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus' story continues to touch people of all backgrounds, just as it touched the people in Bethlehem and the Magi from far away. Jesus' story is a gift, not of gold nor wrapped in paper and bows, but of Light and life. The light that shone for the Magi shines for us still, guiding us towards Jesus, towards hope, towards new life.

Let us pray. We pray that for this community, all of Broadmoor and the surrounding neighborhoods, the City of New Orleans, and the entire nation that we may be your witnesses to bring peace on the earth. May we always bear the Good News of God's living presence among us. This evening we especially remember those of us who are lost in hostility and fear; those of us burdens by hunger and want. May your light shine in their hearts this night and every night. We remember those who are sick

and who suffer, and especially those who care for them. May the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross bless all this night with the gift of peace, of comfort, and joy.

All these things we ask in your name. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people may offer each other a sign of peace while maintaining distance between households, such as bowing, nodding, waving, smiling, or making a peace sign.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ has loved us, and gave himself for us, and offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The First Nowell, Hymn 109

As the celebrant and children prepare the altar, offering plates will be passed to collect gifts which go towards support of our common life and ministry. Electronic donations may be made by texting GIVE to 504-565-2682 or donating at AnnunciationEpiscopal.com/GIVE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

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 him thanks and praise.

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, 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 all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts,
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. Hosanna in the highest!

The Celebrant continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons; 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 LORD'S PRAYER

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

Celebrant and People

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Distribution of Communion: *All are invited to come forward to receive Communion. Please maintain a minimum 6-foot distance between households, waiting to step into the aisle until there is room to do so. To receive the host (Communion wafer) hold your hands out, one palm resting open on the other. The celebrant will place the host in your hand for you to lift to your mouth and consume. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please inform the priest when you come forward.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the host, cross your arms over your chest as you approach the Celebrant. After receiving the bread or blessing, the response is **AMEN.***

COMMUNION SOLO

Performed by Jessica Holl & Steven Kennedy

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymn 112

Post-Communion Hymn

Silent Night

Hymn 111

The Congregation will light their candles while the hymn is sung

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with 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.

Closing Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Hymn 87

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world proclaiming God's peace to all Creation.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All respond **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**