

# *Children's Christmas Pageant*



Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 10:15 am  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
West Des Moines, Iowa

## Prelude

## Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

### Opening Carol

### God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Hymnal 105

1. 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.

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. 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.

Refrain

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior  
of a pure virgin bright,  
to free al those who trust in him  
from Satan's power and might."

Refrain

4. 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.

Refrain

Please be seated.

# The Christmas Pageant

## The Good News Flash

Written by Kendra Smiley, One Rehearsal Christmas Plays, Copyright ©2004

Note: Our pageant today combines the past and the present. We invite you to use your imagination... for although the times have changed,  
Jesus Christ is present and is the same "yesterday, today, and forever."

### Carols During the Pageant

### The First Nowell

Gather 388, v. 1-2

1. 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.

2. They look-ed 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.

Refrain

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Gather 361

1. **Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the Mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song.**

Refrain

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Refrain

### What Child is This

Gather 387

1. **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?**

Refrain:

**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 Christan, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

Gather 357

1. **O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of  
angels;**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord!**

2. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

Refrain

3. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

Refrain

Please stand for the singing of "Joy to the World" as the pageant participants depart to rejoin their families in the congregation.

### Joy to the World

Gather 353

1. **Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

2. **Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us, our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

3. No more let sin and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## The Peace

Priest The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
People And also with you.

# Liturgy of the Table

## Offertory

## A Shoot Shall Come Forth

Horn

Please stand as you are able.

## Doxology

to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

*Celebrant*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

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 (say):

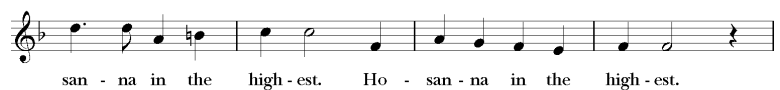


## Sanctus

## Hymnal S125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the  
Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**



*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

*The Celebrant continues*

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## **Communion**

*You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to receive communion.*

*To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The wine is received by intinction, by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Please let the clergy know if you require a **gluten-free wafer**; to indicate that you would prefer a **blessing only**, cross your arms across your chest.*

***If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.***

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| <p>1. Infant holy, Infant lowly,<br/>For his bed a cattle stall;<br/>Oxen lowing, Little knowing<br/>Christ the babe is lord of all.<br/>Swift are winging, Angels singing<br/>Noels ringing, Tidings bringing<br/>Christ the babe is Lord of all.</p> | <p>2. Flocks were sleeping: Shepherds keeping<br/>Vigil till the morning new<br/>Saw the glory, Heard the story,<br/>Tidings of a gospel true.<br/>Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,<br/>Praises voicing Greet the morrow;<br/>Christ the babe was born for you.</p> |
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O Little Town of Bethlehem

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| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>How still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>The silent stars go by;<br/>Yet in the dark streets shineth<br/>The everlasting Light;<br/>The hopes and fears of all the years<br/>Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>2. For Christ is born of Mary,<br/>And gathered all above,<br/>While mortals sleep, the angels keep<br/>Their watch of wond'ring love.<br/>O morning stars, together<br/>Proclaim the holy birth!<br/>And praises sing to God the King,<br/>And peace to all on earth.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently,<br/>The wondrous gift is giv'n!<br/>So God imparts to human hearts<br/>The blessings of his heav'n.<br/>No ear may hear his coming,<br/>But in this world of sin,<br/>Where meek souls will receive him still<br/>The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4. O holy child of Bethlehem!<br/>Descend to us we pray;!<br/>Cast out our sin and enter in,<br/>Be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>The great glad tidings tell;<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>Our Lord Emmanuel!</p> |
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Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory

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| <p>1. Angels, from the realms of glory,<br/>Wing your flight o'er all the earth;<br/>You who sang creation's story,<br/>Now proclaim Messiah's birth:</p> <p>Refrain:<br/>Come and worship, Come and worship,<br/>Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> | <p>2. Shepherd, in the fields abiding,<br/>Watching o'er flocks by night,<br/>God on earth is now residing,<br/>Yonder shines the infant light:</p> <p>Refrain</p> |
|---|--|

3. *Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
You have seen his morning star:*

*Refrain*

4. *Though an infant now we view him,  
He shall fill his heav'nly throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Ev'ry knee shall then bow down:*

*Refrain*

## Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! As we mark this occasion of Jesus' coming again into our hearts, let us take his message out into the world in peace and love.

People We will with God's help. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Postlude

# MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

### Presider

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

### Deacon

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

### Music Director

Don Agee

### Acolyte

OPEN

### Chalice Bearer

Lyndy Wells, Marley Kramer

### Oblation Bearers

Wade Kramer, OPEN

### Ushers

Darin Krantz, Larry Shea

### Altar Guild

OPEN, Marty Wells

### Livestream Coordinator

Colleen Krantz

### Vestry Representative

Amy Johnson

### Offering Counter

Ryan Pettit, Larry Anderson

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## Pageant Cast

### Editor-in-Chief

Redgie McManus

### Lucy the Reporter

Clara Kochneff

### Joyce the Reporter

Francie Kochneff

### Connie the Reporter

Livi Chojnacki

### Shepherds

Maggie Luft, Marie Crann,  
Millie Luft

### Sheep

Annie Leemkuil, Elizabeth Crann

### Innkeepers

Joseph Crann, Thomas Leemkuil

### Angels

Mujo Along, Bwogo Along

### Mary

Lucy Luft

### Joseph

Luke Luft

# 2<sup>nd</sup> OFFERING



## *The Angel Tree & the Faith & Food Fund*

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Angel Tree gift for one of the nine families we adopted!

Financial gifts collected in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering will go to our Faith & Food Fund, which allows us to assist individuals with immediate needs throughout the year. If you would like to help support this ministry financially, you can do so at: [sttimothysiowa.org/donate](http://sttimothysiowa.org/donate)

## COMING UP

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 5 PM & 9 PM**

We will ring in the joy of Christmas with two Christmas Eve services filled with carols, the reading of the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel, communion, and concluding with the traditional singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. The 5 pm service will be more kid-friendly, with fewer readings and a children's sermon alongside a shortened "adult" sermon. The 9 pm service will include the full set of readings, full sermon, and a full choir.

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10 AM**

We will not hold a Christmas Day service at St. Timothy's this year. Instead, we encourage those interested in attending a service on the 25th to attend worship at St. Paul's, Des Moines (815 High Street).

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 5 PM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:15 AM**

On the weekend after Christmas we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. We will also invite those present on Sunday to choose their favorite Christmas carol from our hymnal to sing together during the service.

### EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 | 10:15 AM**

Start the year off right by celebrating the arrival of the magi at Epiphany. At 9 am we will gather for our First Sunday Breakfast, and in place of our regular Children's Formation, there will be Epiphany-related activities for kids, including crafts and chalking the door.

**\*\*Services at St. Timothy's will be live-streamed. Visit our YouTube channel for all of our streamed worship!\*\***  
**@StTimothysiowa**

### CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Calls and emails will be monitored for pastoral care needs.  
All others will be returned when the office re-opens on December 29.

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