



## *St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Lake Jackson, Texas*

### *Our Vision*

*As a family of God, we are called to  
invite and welcome all people to connect  
with Christ and grow in his love while serving  
and sharing with our community.*

### **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & MUSIC THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST December 24, 2020 – 10:00 p.m.**

**Prelude: Once in Royal David's City** (*arr. John A. Blake*) *Bonnie McDaniel*

**Welcome** *The Reverend Genevieve Razim*

*Stand as you are able.*

*Officiant:* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Prayer for Light**

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning,  
and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down:  
Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to  
be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Phos hilaron**

*Pamela Mooman, soloist*

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

**The Bidding Prayer** (*remain standing*)

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make St. Timothy's glad with our praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in Brazoria County.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

*Officiant:* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **The First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-15** (*sit*)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God

among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The LORD God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals

and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.’

*Stand as you are able. You are invited to ring a bell while reading the response.*

### **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** *(read responsively)*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-1882*

Reader        I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
                  Their old, familiar carols play,  
                  and wild and sweet  
                  The words repeat, of

People        **Peace on earth, good-will to all!** *(ring bells)*

Reader        And thought how, as the day had come,  
                  The belfries of all Christendom  
                  Had rolled along  
                  The unbroken song of

People        **Peace on earth, good-will to all!** *(ring bells)*

Reader        Till ringing, singing on its way,  
                  The world revolved from night to day,  
                  A voice, a chime,  
                  A chant sublime of

People        **Peace on earth, good-will to all!** *(ring bells)*

Reader        Then from each black, accursed mouth  
                  The cannon thundered in the South,  
                  And with the sound  
                  The carols drowned  
                  Of peace on earth, good-will to all!

                  It was as if an earthquake rent  
                  The hearth-stones of a continent,  
                  And made forlorn  
                  The households born  
                  Of peace on earth, good-will to all!

                  And in despair I bowed my head;  
                  "There is no peace on earth," I said;  
                  "For hate is strong,  
                  And mocks the song  
                  Of peace on earth, good-will to all!"

                  Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

People        **"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; (*ring bells*)  
                  **The Wrong shall fail,**  
                  **The Right prevail, with**  
                  **Peace on earth, good-will to all."****

*Please be seated*

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*Handbell Choir*

**The Second Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
    the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
    and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Stand as you are able. You are invited to ring bells as indicated.*

**Responsive Reading:**

Officiant: O come, let us adore him! *(officiant rings bell)*  
**People: O come, let us adore him!** *(all ring bells)*  
Officiant: O come, let us adore him: *(officiant rings bell)*  
**People: Christ, the Lord.**

*Please be seated.*

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

*Handbell Choir*

**The Third Lesson: Luke 1: 39-46**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said:

**The Song of Mary** (*read in alternation by half-verse*)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
**the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers,  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

*You are invited to ring bells while reading the following:*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**On Christmas Night**

*Handbell Choir*

## The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

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 favours!’

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.

*Stand as you are able. You are invited to ring a bell while reading the response.*

**Puer Natus in Bethlehem** (*excerpt, read responsively*)

*13<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Poem, translated by Hamilton Montgomerie MacGill (1807-1880)*

Reader        A child is born in Bethlehem.  
                  Exult for joy, Jerusalem!

People        **Allelujah, Allelujah!** (*ring bells*)

Reader        There, in a manger lowly, lies  
                  He who reigns above the skies.  
                  The ox and ass in neighbouring stall  
                  See in that Child the Lord of all.

People        **Allelujah, Allelujah!** (*ring bells*)

Reader        He comes, a maiden mother's Son,  
                  Yet earthly father hath He none.  
                  And, from the serpent's poison free,  
                  He owned our blood and pedigree.

People        **Allelujah, Allelujah!** (*ring bells*)

Reader        Our feeble flesh and His the same,  
                  Our sinless kinsman He became,  
                  That we, from deadly thrall set free  
                  Like Him, and so like God, should be.

People        **Allelujah, Allelujah!** (*ring bells*)

Reader        Come then, and on this natal day  
                  Rejoice before the Lord and pray  
                  And to the Holy One in Three  
                  Give praise and thanks eternally.

People      **Allelujah, Allelujah!** (*ring bells*)

*Please be seated.*

## **Christ Child Cradle Medley**

*Handbell Choir*

### **The Fifth Lesson: John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Stand as you are able.*

**Love Came Down at Christmas** *(read responsively)*

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

Reader Love came down at Christmas,  
**People Love all lovely, Love Divine,**  
Reader Love was born at Christmas,  
**People Star and Angels gave the sign.**

Reader Worship we the Godhead,  
**People Love Incarnate, Love Divine,**  
Reader Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

**People Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all mankind,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

**Lighting of the Candles**

*The congregation may sit or kneel.*

**Silent Night**

*Handbell Choir*

**A Christmas Prayer** *(read in alternation by stanza)*

*Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)*

Officiant O God, our loving Father, help us  
Rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,  
That we may share in the song of the  
Angels, the gladness of the shepherds  
And the worship of the wise men.

**People Close the door of hate and open the  
Door of love all over the world.**

Officiant     Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
                  That Christ brings, and teach us  
                  To be merry with clear hearts.

People        **May the Christmas morning make us happy  
                  To be thy children and the Christmas  
                  Evening bring us to our beds with  
                  Grateful thoughts, forgiving, and  
                  Forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

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 Blessing**

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. **Amen.**

**Postlude: Joy to the World** *(arr. Franklin Ritter)*                      *Handbell Choir and Organ*

*You are invited to ring bells joyfully during the postlude!*

Please be mindful of keeping social distance as you depart the church.



**The Christmas Greenery and Poinsettias are given:**

*In remembrance of*  
Helen & Elmer Kincannon

by  
Douglas, Alexa, Kirby, Kellye, and Kade

*In loving memory of*  
Mr. E. Jack & Helen V. Turner

by  
Douglas, Alexa, Kirby, and Kellye

*In thanksgiving for*  
Mr. William “Bill” & Sandra Weir

by  
Douglas, Alexa, Kirby, Kellye, and Kade

*In thanksgiving for*  
Dale Rasco

by  
Roxy

*In remembrance of*  
The Hearn family in memory of  
Margo Hearn

by  
Douglas and Alexa Kincannon

*In thanksgiving for*  
Carolyn Claire, Kyle Alexander,  
and Rebekah Ann

by  
Dennis and Mary Young

*In loving memory of*  
Wendy Turner

by  
The Reverend Genevieve Turner Razim

*In remembrance of*  
Fritz & Marge Lehnhoff  
Pete Gildon

by  
Mark, Kim, Anna, and Jacob Lehnhoff

*In thanksgiving for*  
Irene Gildon

by  
Mark, Kim, Anna, and Jacob Lehnhoff

*In loving memory of*  
Larry Cochran

by  
Harriet, Pat, Mike and Susan Cochran

*In thanksgiving for*  
Jane Power's dedication to our  
children for Christian Formation

by  
Alan and Marianne Essington

*In thanksgiving for*  
Our friends & family at St. Timothy's

by  
Jeff and Susan Laver

# St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

## Vestry

*Susan Laver – Sr. Warden*

*Mark Lebnhoff – Jr. Warden*

*Jane Power – Clerk*

*Sondra Griner*

*John Pitts*

*Dale Rasco*

*Cathy Richardson*

*Billy Shoemaker*

*Sandra Weir*

## St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The Right Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop

The Right Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, Suffragan Bishop

The Right Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan, Suffragan Bishop

The Right Rev. Hector *Monterroso*, Suffragan *Bishop*

The Reverend Genevieve Razim, Interim Rector

Jackie Koch, Parish Secretary

Ben May, Director of Music

Keith Frank, Treasurer

St. Timothy's office

Website: [www.stimothy.org](http://www.stimothy.org)

The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. Section 3.6 Clergy Manual.

