

ST. FRANCIS IN-THE-FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Joél Muñoz, Curate

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Annual Christmas Pageant
and
Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2023

3:00pm

Welcome. Please join us in the responses as indicated in boldface type.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Prelude

Partita III on Es ist ein Ros'

A. Giamanco

The Welcome

Please stand as you are able for the Processional

The Processional Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 83, vss. 1-4

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

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. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father;

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

The Opening Acclamation

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider continues:

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.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The Herald Announces the Arrival of the Actors in the Play

Christmas Poem: *Come Back Tonight to Bethlehem*

Scene I: Entry into Bethlehem

A Hymn

(blue) Hymnal No. 79, vss. 1, 5

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
5. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Scene II: Jesus Born in a Manger

A Hymn

(red) LEVAS 27

Away in a Manger

Mueller

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.
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.
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.

Scene III: Arrival of Shepherds and Sheep

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 99

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. While shepherds keep their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Scene IV: Appearance of the Angels

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 96, vss. 1, 4

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

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

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

4. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*

Scene V: Glory to God in the Highest

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 87, vs. 1

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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!

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Scene VI: A Star Over Bethlehem

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 109, vss. 1, 2

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

1. 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.

Refrain

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. 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.

Refrain

Scene VII: Arrival of the Three Kings

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 128, vss. 1, 5

We Three Kings

Three Kings of Orient

1. We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain,
moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright; westward leading,
Still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia, alleluia! The earth replies.

Refrain

Please stand as you are able

A Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 83, vs. 6

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

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

The Prayers of the People

Leader: For the Church on this great feast of Christmas, that we may be uplifted in thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior, we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader: That the peace of Christmas may radiate into the world, gently influencing the hearts of world leaders and turning their thoughts to the poor and the lowly, we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader: That the comfort and healing power of Jesus may be present to all God's children, especially Abby, Ann, Beryl, Bridgette, Charlie, Christy, Dennis, Ed, Frank, Gary, Glen, Gordon, Grant, Gretchen, Hannah, Jan, Jeanine, Jennifer, John, Julia and family, Julie, Lena Rose, Leslie, Mark, Megan, Meretha, Michael, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Molly, Myles, Nora Rose, Patty, Sergio, Shannon, Sheila, Stephen, Steve, Steven, Thomas, Tim, Whitney, and Willow; we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader: That Jesus may be at the heart of our family festivities, our gift giving, and every lovely custom we keep in God's honor, because in his birth God has made every human joy God's own, we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader: For those who keep a lonely watch on this night, and those who have no one to care for them, that they may also hear tidings of great joy in the name of Jesus, we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader: For those we love but see no longer, that they may now behold their Savior, unveiled in all his glory in heaven, we pray:

People: **O come, let us adore him.**

The people are invited to add their own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

Presider: God of all humanity, accept the prayers we offer in the name of your child Jesus in this holy season. As we welcome this mystery of your love, may we delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May the humility of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the magi,
the joy of the angels,
and the peace of the Christ Child,
be God's gift to you this Christmastide and always,
in the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We invite you to share with others signs of Christ's Peace.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Please be seated for the Offertory.

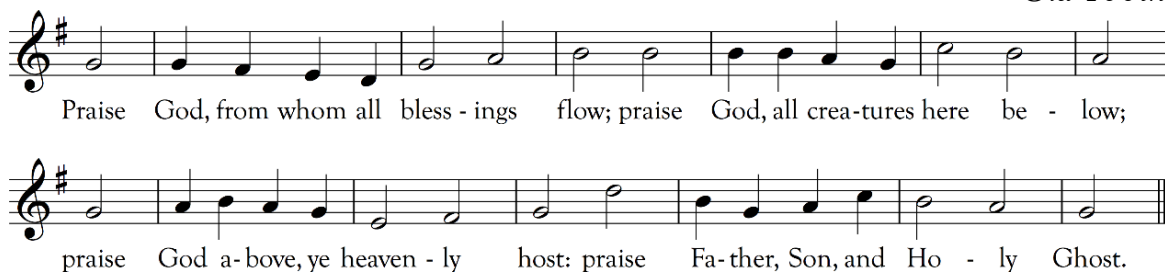
The Offertory

Please stand as you are able for the Doxology.

The Doxology

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 380, v. 3

Old 100th



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God 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 with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

(blue) 1982 Hymnal S-128

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore Let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We invite all persons to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to come forward to receive for any reason, please inform an usher and Communion will be brought to you. If you prefer a Blessing instead of receiving Communion, please cross your hands over your chest at the rail.

The Prayer of Spiritual Reception

For those worshiping online.

People: In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

A Communion Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 115

What Child is This

Greensleeves

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 Christian, fear:
for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

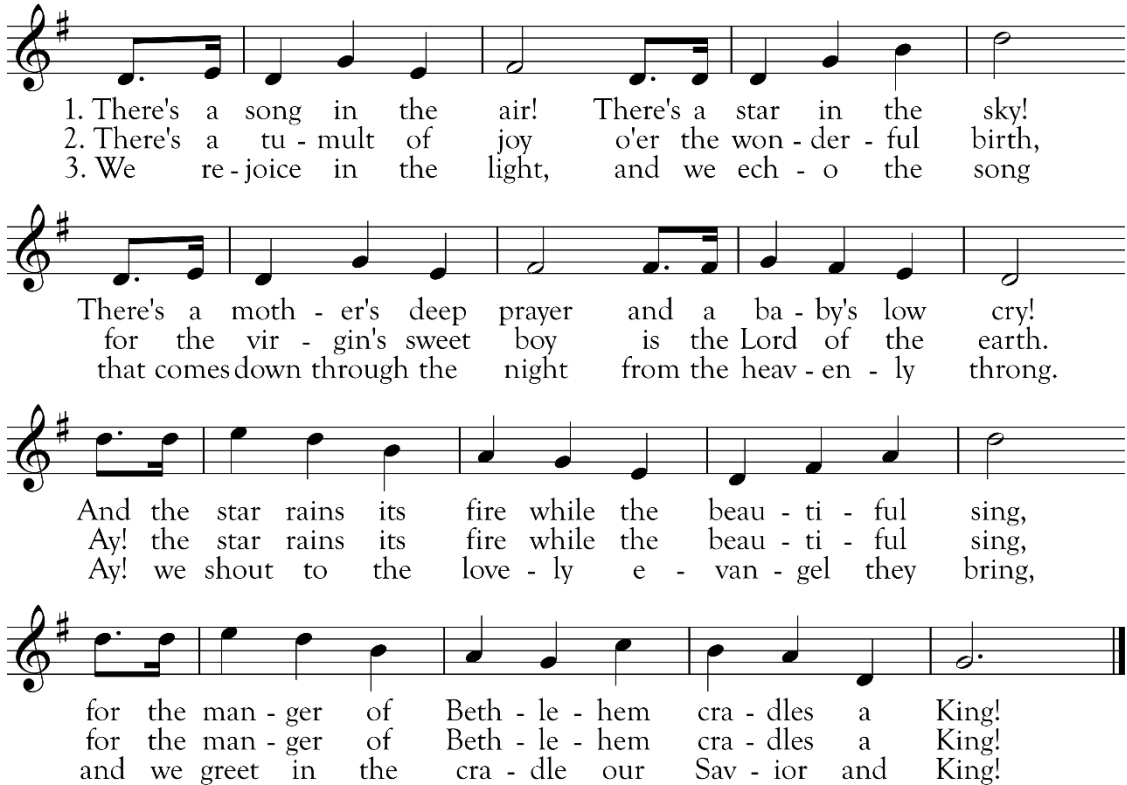
Refrain

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings
salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

A Communion Hymn

There's a Song in the Air



1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
3. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
and we greet in the cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

The Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Post-Communion Hymn

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 111

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. 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.

Please stand for the blessing and dismissal and for the final hymn.

The Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who sent God's 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 holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent 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 peace and favor. **Amen.**

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 Procession into the World

(blue) 1982 Hymnal 100, vss. 1, 2, 4

Joy to the World

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven 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.
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 Dismissal and Online Greeting

If you are worshipping in person, please turn towards the organ and wave to the camera to greet those worshipping online.

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Postlude

Partita V on Es ist ein Ros'

A. Giamanco



When The Liturgy Is Over, The Service Begins.

Presider:	The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Rector
Assisting Priest:	The Rev. Dr. Joél Muñoz, Curate
Altar Guild:	Elizabeth Davidson, Lele Casalini
Chalice Bearer:	Malorie Voris
Ushers:	Lesley & Warren MacKellar
Music:	Robert Bolyard, Music Director
Technical Assistant:	Kate Unroe

**Special thanks to Derek and Kaylee Miller, Pageant Directors,
and all who helped with the Christmas Pageant:
children, youth and adults, parents, and grandparents.**

This service comes from:

The Book of Common Prayer; 1979

The Book of Occasional Services; 2003

The Hymnal, 1982

Lift Every Voice and Sing II, 1993

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-735405. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Winter Break

Merry Christmas! The church office will be closed December 25th through January 2nd, 2023. If you have an emergency, please call 317-873-4377 and follow the prompts for pastoral care. A priest will be in touch with you shortly.

Children and Youth in 2024

This new year we will have more exciting opportunities for our children and youth. Pick up a calendar on the table in the narthex!

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! The Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, February 11th following the 10:00am Holy Eucharist in the Parish Hall and online.

Art Project with Middle School Students

St. Francis is teaming up with the Boys and Girls Club to offer a special art class for Middle School students in February and March. Sign up for more information on our narthex table.

Food Pantry Delivery Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help deliver nonperishable food donations to The Caring Center. Contact us to help.

Theology on Tap: Hope

Adults are invited to participate in our January Theology on Tap event on **Wednesday, January 31st** at 7:00 pm at North High Brewing at 75 N Main St, Zionsville, IN 46077. In January we will discuss Hope with The Rev. Frank Impicicche, Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Kathie Anderson and family in memory of Ric Anderson.

Jenni Smith in Memory of May and Joseph Revill, John and Jackie Revill, and Ida Leverett.

Lee Greaves in Thanksgiving for my grandchildren.

Kimberly Applegate and George Parker in gratefulness for our wonderful family.

Megan Olson in Thanksgiving for Sheila, Greg, and Sarah Olson, and in Memory of The Rev. and Mrs. C.K. Powell, and Ray and Carol Stewart.

The Unroe Family in Memory of Chris Unroe.

Patricia Greger in Memory of Steve Greger.

Phyllis Thomas in Thanksgiving for my family and friends, and in Memory of Robert D. Thomas and Suzanne Thomas Schoonover.

Denise Kearns-Vigil in memory and honor of my parents, Robert and Erna Kearns, and of my nephew, Christian Kearns, given by their daughter, Aunt, D. Kearns-Vigil. Celebrating their lives and the marriage of my daughter and her husband, Lisette and Robert Carr, given by Denise Kearns-Vigil.

The Fuhs family in memory of Douglas and Eleanor Naylor, Anthony and Anne Venci, Edward and Alice Fuhs, and Allene Hisch, and in honor of Joe Hisch.

Mike and Melissa Bibb in Thanksgiving for our family and friends.

Gordon Mallett in memory of Carole Mallett.

Elizabeth Davidson in Memory of Jerry J. Davidson, and in thanksgiving of my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and family.

Fran and Larry Paarlberg in Thanksgiving for “Fifi” Francs McClellan – Godfrey and in memory of loved ones past.

Eve Earley in Memory of Judge Bob Earley, and Robbie Earley.

David and Debbie Nearpass in Thanksgiving for Matthew and Colin Floyd.

Lele Frenzel Casalini in Memory of Otto N. Frenzel, III, Dominic Michael Casalini, Pop & Susan Wilson, Ott & Eleanor Frenzel, Elizabeth Johnson, and in Thanksgiving for Cynthia Wilson Ottaway, and the Casalini children and grandchildren.

Gary Gibson for Augustine, Robert, and Georgianna.

The Rev. C. Davies Reed & Carol Rogers Reed, in honor of Baxter Cooper Rogers, James Weston Rogers, Drake Audsley Rogers, Caroline Cummings Mitchell, Alexandra Westbrook Mitchell, Daniel Cyrus Lynch, Brian August Lynch, Tyler Joseph Lynch, Clara Michelle Lynch, and Elise Mary Lynch.

The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Anonymous, La Clochette, Paris, 1912