
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Ordinary Glory, Lauren Wright Pittman

The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2021

6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

GREETINGS!

Merry Christmas!

Tonight, the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Tonight, the hopes and fears of all the years collide, and hope gets the last word.
Tonight, Love takes on human flesh and clears the path to wholeness and forgiveness.
Tonight is the night we didn't know we wanted or needed.

If this is your first time worshipping at St. Paul's, we are so honored to have you in our midst; we believe that all people are a reflection of God's love and divine creativity. As Christians in the Episcopal tradition, our worship is rooted in Holy Scripture and the *Book of Common Prayer*, which—for centuries—has united Christians all over the world in a common language of prayer and worship. We are a liturgical church, which means that worship is something we all do, not just the minister up front. Our liturgy helps us when our words fail and ensures that we hear a thorough account of God's Word. You will find some people, kneeling, bowing, and making the sign of the cross as expressions of devotion and blessing. This is neither requisite nor uniform, and we invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

Worshipping with Children— We are delighted to have children in our midst no matter how squiggly they may be. Worship bulletins for children are located on the table in the rear lobby. Activity bags and a small library of books can be found right outside of the left door next to the piano. In order to reduce cross-contamination, each household has a designated bag. If you are new, we invite you to pick up a bag with a “New Friend” tag.

Restrooms—Restrooms are located at the end of the hallway behind the stairs. Exit through the front or rear doors and make a right.

It is my earnest prayer that you will embrace God's story as your story. May the wonder, mystery, and incomprehensible glory of this night cast out the shadows of darkness in the world and in you.

Love really does win.

Maria†

Mother Maria

Sunday, December 26—The First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 a.m. - Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

Featuring Readings from Holy Scripture and Contemporary Poetry & Prose

Sunday, January 2—The Second Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I (*contemplative*)

10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*w/music*)

The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

+ = Please stand as able

PRELUDE

Jesu Bambino

Yon

+ LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

Celebrant In God's house, there is hope—for God loves us too much to leave us just as we are. Light the candle of hope.

People In God's house, there is peace—for all that separates us from God falls away. Light the candle of peace.

Celebrant In God's house, there is joy—because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy. Light the candle of joy.

People In God's house, there is love—because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all. Light the candle of love.

Celebrant And in the center of our hope,

People In the center of our peace,

Celebrant In the center of our joy,

People In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.

Celebrant So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.

People Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

verses 1, 3, 6

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first five verses of the hymn. The second system contains the final five verses. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

CALL TO WORSHIP

Celebrant An unknown teenage girl was invited—
People to carry **Christ into this world.**

Celebrant An ordinary carpenter was invited—
People to be a father to a child unlike any other.

Celebrant The shepherds were invited—
People outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

Celebrant The Magi were invited—
People foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

Celebrant And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—
People then we can trust that we too are invited.

Celebrant This story is for us.
People **This love is for us.**

Celebrant Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home. Let us pray.

People

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.

+HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels we have heard on high

verses 1, 3

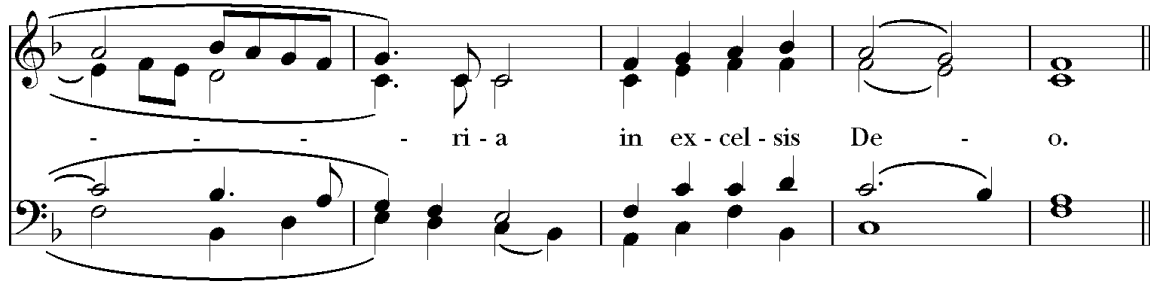
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Holy God, we've heard this story a million times—Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We've heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it's the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Bring us to see the splendor of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 favors!”

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN

Hark! The herald angels sing

verse 2

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Maria Kane

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant

Gracious and Holy God, on this night, we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign—Almighty and Everlasting. We thank you that justice and righteousness are in your hands. We praise you for the peace you have promised. Most especially, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who dwells among us full of grace and truth. Hear now our prayers of intercession, that all people might find healing, comfort, and joy.

Intercessor

We pray for public officials, rulers, and leaders in our own time: Give them wisdom in decrees and decisions, a will for the common good, and the courage to work for peace in local communities and among the nations . . .

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving our country here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality . . .

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those who are dying; for one who is cold; for one who is lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty; for all who struggle with addiction . . .

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray for families and friends: for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need your guidance in this season; and for those in our memories who now dwell with you . . .

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We pray, O God, with the multitude of the heavenly host, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness; that your peace will fill all in all. We pray that those who live in the midst of war may instead live without fear and destruction; that those who live with the threat of danger in homes or on city streets may instead dwell in safety; and that all your creatures, and creation itself, may be restored and renewed.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

You may add your own petitions, silently or aloud. The celebrant will add a concluding prayer.

THE PEACE

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

You may place your offering in the trays as the ushers walk down the aisle; you may also give via text message by texting **PINEY5000 to 73256**; or, online: www.onrealm.org/stpaulswaldorf/give. Thank you for your generosity.

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:00 only)

Once in David's royal city

Helvey

+THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from who all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above the heavenly host.

Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One,

You hovered over the face of the deep, setting both light and dark in motion.

You crashed waves and lit the moon and set the sun on fire.

Before a word was ever spoken, a song ever sung,
you: there.

Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One,

Babies cry your praise,
trees sway your song,
poets dance your beat.
Saints and sinners,
ministers and mystics,
planets, galaxies,
matter we cannot explain,
all exist in you.

So we sing with mystery your unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord: God of power and might, birth and vulnerability.

The universe is full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One,

with Hagar in the desert,
with Tamar in the palace bedroom,
with Miriam on the shore,
with Ruth in the field,
with Rahab in the streets,
you: there.

With Mary in her laboring,
with Elizabeth in her waiting,
with Anna in her prophesying,
with the woman in her bleeding,
with the one bending in the dirt,
you: there

With Jesus as he taught, healed, cried, grieved,
with Jesus as his heart broke,
with Jesus as he invited, welcomed, loved, celebrated,
with Jesus as he died,
with Jesus as he rose,
you: there.

With Mary, on the night she gave birth, as she said:
This is my body, broken for you.
This is my blood, poured out for you.
Eat. Drink. Remember me.

With Jesus, on the night before he died, as he said:
This is my body, broken for you.
This is my blood, poured out for you.
Eat. Drink. Remember me.

With the women as they questioned and wondered,
you: there. And so we boldly proclaim the mystery of our faith of the one born this night:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out on us your mercy, Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One.

Bless these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may become for us the body and blood of Jesus,
shared with us for the deliverance of the world into love.

Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One,

With us as we remember Mother Mary,
with us as we remember the child, Jesus,
with us as we share in the bodies and the blood,
the groans and the tears, the sweat and the labor that
sustain us and call us forth to healing and shalom.

With bread, with wine,
with birthing ones, near and far,
on this night and all nights.

With strangers and foes,
with family and friends,
with all the earth that was then,
all the earth this is now,
all the earth that is to come,
you are here now.

Transforming, comforting,
challenging, holding,
loving, being,
birthing the world anew.

Holy Deliverer, Eternal Birthing One,

all praise,
all glory,
all love,
all faithfulness,
all justice,
all mercy,
eternally now.

And so we sing our confident and hopeful amen: **AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence for reflection and adoration is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant As Mary's body was given for Jesus, so Jesus' body is given for us.
Here the Word made flesh comes to us, cradled in bread and wine.
So, behold who you are.

People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been here long; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who bids you come. It is Christ who meets you here. You need not be an Episcopalian to feast here. In lieu of receiving communion, you may cross your arms on your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

People

Creator of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL OF LIGHT

The church is darkened except for the light over the baptismal font. As the priest reads the passage from John, the acolytes will light the first taper from the Christ Candle and proceed down the aisle until everyone's candles are lit. After lighting your candle, please kneel for the singing of the hymn of light.

Celebrant 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Silent Night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

+THE BLESSING

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the world!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Deacon
People

Go in peace and proclaim the Word made flesh in word and deed. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Held

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church
The Rt. Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington

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Artist's Statement on the Cover Art: "Ordinary Glory"

Lauren Wright Pittman

In this familiar narrative, what stuck out for me in this reading was the juxtaposition of human and divine, the mundane and extraordinary, the humbleness of a manger and the glory of a multitude of heavenly hosts. I wanted to image this dichotomy with the everyday, intimate, tender scene of new parents and their yawning baby, enveloped by the glittering, awe-striking magnificence of God.

The holy family is framed by an almond shape called a mandorla. Mandorlas have been used in Christian art to signify the glory of God, and can also represent the intersection and fullness of two things, like heaven and earth or spirit and body. Likely, the most familiar instance of this concept is the shape made between the overlapping circles in a Venn diagram. I wanted to use this shape because this is the moment when human and divine intersect in the person of Jesus, and when the glory of God is birthed into the world. The golden field surrounding the mandorla is filled with my interpretation of the six-winged seraphim from early Christian art, representing the heavenly hosts filling the air with tidings of peace (imaged by olive branches). A seven-pointed star hangs over the heads of the family, surrounded by seven other stars, a number that represents completeness.

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