



Lauren Wright Pittman | Sanctified Art

**December 24, 2021**

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**Prelude**

Evan O'Donovan

**Welcome**

**Procession of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

(prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—  
**to carry Christ into this world.**

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

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

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

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

This story is for us.

**This love is for us.**

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**#133**

**Advent Candlelighting**

(Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

**Instrumental**

**Prayer for Illumination** (prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

**The Story of Mary:** *Luke 1:26-35*

**Sung Response:** *Once in Royal David's City* #140

**The Story of Joseph:** *Matthew 1:18-23*

**Sung Response:** *O Holy Night* Pg. 4  
vs. 1,3

**The Story of the Census:** *Luke 2:1-5*

**Sung Response:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #121  
vs. 1,4

**The Story of a Birth:** *Luke 2:6-7*

**Sung Response:** *Away in a Manger* #115  
vs. 1, 3

**Prayer for Home/ Pastoral Prayer**

**The Story of the Shepherds:** *Luke 2:8-14*

**Sung Response:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113  
vs. 1-2

**The Story of the Shepherds II:** *Luke 2:15-18*

**Sung Response:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113  
vs. 3-4

**Call to Offering** (adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

**The Story of the Magi:** *Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10*

**Sung Response :** *The First Noel* #147  
vs. 2,5

**The Story of Home:** *John 1:1-2, 4-5, 12-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the word was with God in the beginning...

Through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people... The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light...

[Those who welcomed him], those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Friends, tonight, God makes a home in our lives. And we are invited to share that welcome with one another. So we invite you now to partake of the bread and the cup you received as you entered the sanctuary... and then to share the light of Christ to one another.

Hymn:

***Silent Night***

**#122**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Benediction**

*(Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)*

As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. Go in peace.

**Sharing of Invitation**

Closing Song:

***Joy to the World***

**#134**

Postlude

***Hark the Herald, Angels Sing***

**#119**

## ***O Holy Night***

[Verse 1]

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

[Verse 3]

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us Praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

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### ***Artist Statement***

#### ***Ordinary Glory***

by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

inspired by Luke 2:1-20

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.