



Nicolette Peñaranda | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2024 AT 4 PM

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONCORD

ARTIST REFLECTION

Abolition Baby

Paper collage on canvas

By Nicolette Peñaranda

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:6

Before I started this piece, I went to the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture in Charlotte, North Carolina. As our guide explained some of the architectural features of the building, I learned that abolitionists used to hang quilts outside of their homes to signal safety for those on the underground railroad. A few minutes later, I walked into an exhibit of large quilts draping the vibrant exhibit hall with explicit stories from slavery, 1990s ballroom culture, and an interpretation of Greek mythology. I was mesmerized by the manipulation of fabric and the storytelling that took place within each stitch. Are quilts symbols of resistance?

This trip inspired me to take a different approach to creating art for the Christmas story. While I typically produce maximalist canvases with overwhelming details, this piece is toned down and more precision-oriented. As someone who has never been able to draw a straight line, creating this quilt design out of paper was a discipline in and of itself. Creating it made me think of the kind of diligence and patience needed to sew a fabric quilt. These are projects made with love. The hands that sew them should never be taken for granted.

It is for this reason that I titled this piece, *Abolition Baby*. Even though we are over 150 years removed from the Civil War, abolitionism is still relevant today.

Mary was excited to bring Jesus into the world because she believed in the promise of liberation for her people. Jesus' birth was a symbol of hope for the future, for a freed people. Love knows his name. And it is freedom.

A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church as we celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ. Whether you are a member, guest, family member or friend, we are glad that you are here tonight for this time of worship. Tonight we celebrate much more than the birth of a child. We commemorate that time when God came and lived among us in human form, when all humanity came to know God in a way never experienced before. This is a truly sacred night. Please know that all are always welcome here, and if you are seeking a place to worship, we hope you will come again. *Please take a candle or battery-operated candle as you enter. Candles will be lit after communion.*

A note for families with young children

All children are invited to participate in our “Christmas Tableaux” that helps to tell the story of our savior’s birth. Please bring your child(ren) to the Parlor (located out the side of the Sanctuary) where we will manage the manger mayhem. All children will return to their families for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

A note about receiving Holy Communion

In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is “really present” in the bread and wine provided from God’s table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Wine may be received by lightly dipping the bread into the small cup in the center of the plate/paten from which you received the bread. Alternatively, you may choose to drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the

consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping. Those who distribute the wine will wipe the chalice with a food-safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives it. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us.

Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat. If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All stand.* Hymnal 1982 – 83
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,
Christ the Lord.*

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

Words and music in public domain.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

BIDDING PRAYER

When God came into this world that first time, it was into a broken and hurting world desperate for good news and healing. The hope that Jesus brought as an infant and the message that he carried in his teachings has been spreading light to people ever since. Jesus came into this world in the most vulnerable way imaginable — as a homeless infant, threatened by the world around him. But through his message, he helped those around him to know of God's greater plan for the world. May you who hear this story come to know this great and encouraging news, be touched by Jesus' humble beginnings, and receive a glimpse of that hopeful promise that awaits us all. **Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:1-4

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.

O little town of Bethlehem

Please stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 79

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.

Words and music in public domain.

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:5-7

Joseph 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.

Away in a manger

Please stand.

Lift Every Voice and Sing – 27

Mueller

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words and music in public domain.

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:8-11

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.”

The first Nowell

Please stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 109

The First Nowell

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.

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

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.

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

Words and music in public domain.

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:12-14

“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!”

Hark! the herald angels sing

Please stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 87

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!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Words and music in public domain.

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:15-16

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.

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

GOSPEL READING

Please sit.

Luke 2:17-20

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.

Go tell it on the mountain *Please stand.*

Hymnal 1982 – 99

Go Tell It

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 kept their watching
’er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Words and music in public domain.

HOMILY

The Reverend Nancy L. J. Cox

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

HOLY COMMUNION

All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church.

OFFERTORY ANTHEMS

African Noel

Liberan Folk Song, alt. & arr. Brian Sapp-Moore

St. Nicholas Choir

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel Noel.

Sing we all Noel.

“African Noel” Text & Music: Liberan Folk Song, arrangement by Brian Sapp-Moore

This arrangement © 2024, Brian Sapp-Moore

My heart sings out with joyful praise

Swedish Folk Song, arr. Brian Sapp-Moore

Junior Choir of ‘All Saints’

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me.

Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.

The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace

To those who seek their Maker’s will in every time and place.

The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.

The tyrants tumble from their throne and vanish like a cloud.

The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away.

The Poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God’s new day.

“My heart sings out with joyful praise” Text & Music: Swedish Folk Song, arrangement by Brian Sapp-Moore

This arrangement © 2024, Brian Sapp-Moore

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

All stand.

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

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.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise. 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

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ. In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Angels we have heard on high *Please join in singing.* Hymnal 1982 – 96
Gloria

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

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.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

It came upon the midnight clear

Hymnal 1982 – 89

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymnal 1982 – 111

Silent night

Stille Nacht

Please kneel as you are able.

Hold your lit candle upright and let your neighbor light their candle from yours.

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!

BLESSING

Celebrant: 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**

PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD

Please stand.

Joy to the world

Hymnal 1982 – 100

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.

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.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow 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.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: All ye faithful, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

J. S. Bach/arr. Van Denman Thompson

A Festal Fanfare, from *The Fourth Concerto*

“A Festal Fanfare” Text & Music: J. S. Bach/arr. Van Denman Thompson
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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND GREENERY

Given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for

Nicholas Caleb Booth	Isabella Fowler
Andrew Michael Pace	Our family
Nicholas, Candice, Skylar, Sophia, Celeste and Simone	Bob & Jane Wydra
Mark, Tim, Chris, Phoenix, Cal, Drew, Jamie	Chris Wydra
All Saints' Clergy	Kerry & Jill Lovitt
Family and Friends	Tol Wydra,
Sam & Caddie, Thomas & Maddy,	Lauren, Alexis, Natalie, Lucas, Sydney, Madi
Jim & Megan, and Jazzmine Cox	Sisters
Brenda and Scott Trott's 60th Anniversary	Imogen Robinson
Carolyn Aubitz and Chloe	Our marriage, our family, our church family
Brook Smith and Olivia Bostian	Elizabeth Soloman
Hilary Smith and Kaleb Davis	Janet Hollopeter
Trish and Tim Harkins	Kris Seifiert, Mick Griswold, Carol Ann, Acelyn & Cashton Abney
Tyler and Vima	Kimberly, Britt, Collier, Hayes & Cannon Leatherman
My wonderful family	Walker, Jordan, Harrison & Caroline Collier
Megan R. Windisch	Meredith, Jonathan, Charlie, Libby & Woods Ellis
Our wonderful family, especially our new grandson Helena Fowler	



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND GREENERY

Given to the Glory of God and in memory of

Charles Pschier, Carol D. Booth,
Kimberly B. Lewis, Donald Minter,
David Minter, Kipp Pratt,
Albert Mass
Gladys Johnson
Mary, George, Mark, Beth, Mike,
Melody
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Sabert S. Trott
Bill and Jane Thomas
Joe and Patsy Hunter
Anne and Whitney Elizabeth Hunter
Jennifer Cobb
Hein & Carolyn Ter Poorten
Molly Coggins
Robert Clancy
Our Heavenly Family Members
Randy Bratton
Lori Shaver Love
My parents Sam & Ethel Pilatos

Bob Wydra
Jeff Wydra
Mary Lou Campo
Bill & Barbara Loss
Peter W. Hoadley
Dianne Gullion Ericson
In loving memory of our son,
Matthew Bernacki
Adam & Ruby Furr
John Yelton
B.D. & Dixie Yelton
J.D. Furr
Henry Garmon
Jeff Roseman
Baby Noah Paulding Whittemore
Bill Cottrell
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ncox@allsaintsconcord.org

PRIEST ASSOCIATE

The Reverend Dr. James (Jim) B. Bernacki
jbernacki@windstream.net

PRIEST ASSOCIATE

The Reverend Mary Elizabeth Reese
revmaryreese@gmail.com

DEACON

The Reverend Vern Cahoon
verncahoon@gmail.com

STAFF

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Stephanie Trosper
admin@allsaintsconcord.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Tiffany Fulton
tfulton@allsaintsconcord.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Brian Sapp-Moore
bsapp@allsaintsconcord.org

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Ruth Brown
announcements@allsaintsconcord.org

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**For announcements and information,
scan the QR code to view
All Saints' *Weekly Word*.**



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