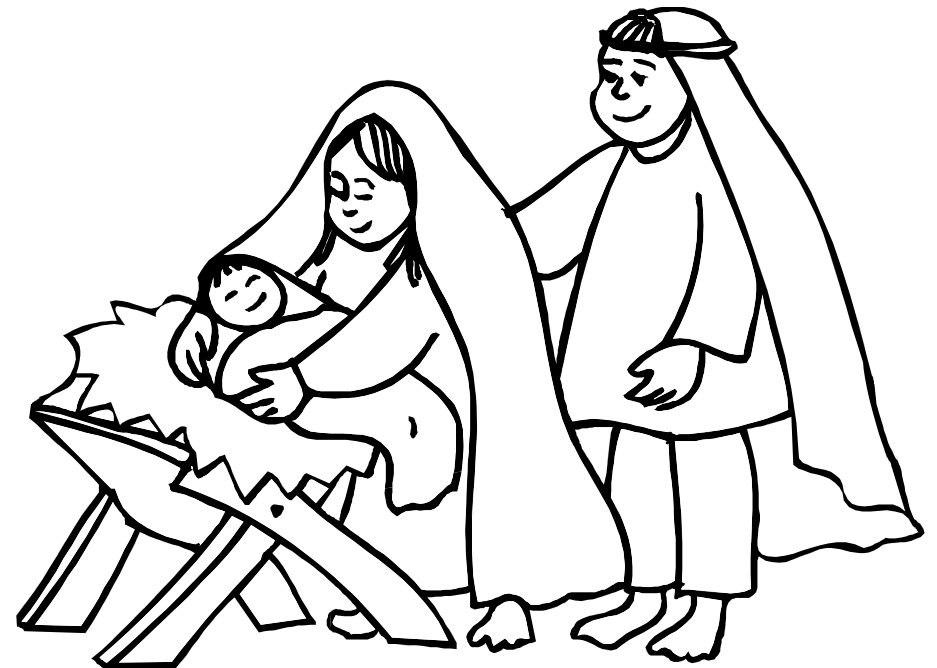


# PEACE ON EARTH

## The Not So Silent Night

December 21, 2008  
Emmanuel United Church

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRESENTED BY THE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL OF  
EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH  
DECEMBER 21, 2008



**Emmanuel United Church**  
Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney, Interim Pastor  
Ben McCormack, Organist  
Mary Beth Fusco, Choir Director  
**December 21, 2008**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

Ringing of the Bell  
Prelude, *Ben McCormack*  
Gathering Song, 185, "Emmanuel" (2x)  
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship  
On this fourth Sunday of Advent,  
the sights and sounds of Christmas are all around us.

**When our Savior was born,  
there were other sights and other sounds  
announcing his birth.**

May your own journey to Bethlehem  
with all its magic and mystery,  
enliven the spirit of Christmas wonder among us.

**With joy and wonder,  
we await the coming of the Messiah,  
when brothers and sisters everywhere  
will reach out to one another  
in forgiveness, justice, and love.**

Special Music: "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"  
Jack Gartner, solo, and piano

Lighting of the Advent Candle  
The Candle of Love- Wendy Maiello and Family

Offering and Offertory Music  
\*Doxology (No. 623) and Prayer of Dedication

# The Not So Silent Night

**Scene 1: The reading of the case against  
Josiah, Abel, and Seth**

**Scene 2: The Prosecutor's Witnesses**  
Sophia Busybody  
Gotta Lotta  
Dr. Fruitcake

**Scene 3: The Defense Witnesses**  
Josiah

\*Hymn 206, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Abel

\*Hymn 213, "Away in a Manger"

Seth

Baltasar

**Scene 4: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus**  
Case Dismissed

\*Hymn 194, "Joy to the World"

\* You are invited to stand

**The Cast:**

**The Baliff:**

Alex Gartner

**Judge:**

Emma Dixon

**Josiah:**

Jack Gartner

**Abel:**

Collin Stangle

**Seth:**

Kate Bobear

**Prosecutor:**

Nina Fusco

**Sophia Busybody:**

Sara Paulsen

**Gotta Lotta:**

Erin Schlensker

**Defense Attorney:**

Jill Salmon

**Dr. Fruitcake:**

Emily Paulsen

**Baltasar:**

Brianna Wood

**Archangel:**

Ashley Wood

**Angel:**

Anne Fraser

Alisa Petronis

**Mary:**

Liz Fraser

**Joseph:**

Blake Stangle

**Wisemen:**

Sarah Fraser

Andrew Petronis

**Props/Understudy:**

Hayley Ingraham

We express our thanks and appreciation to our cast, the Sunday School teachers and everyone involved with today's presentation.  
We wish all of you a very blessed Christmas!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome each of you to worship today, and hope you receive a blessing from the service. If you are visiting with us today, please sign our guest book located in the back and pick up a church brochure.



### **Thought for the week:**

**"When the Holy Child is born into our hearts**

**There is a rain of stars**

**A rushing of angels**

**A blaze of candles**

**This God bursts into our lives.**

**Love is running through the streets."**



### What's Happening at Emmanuel United Church

**Today:** 9:45-Sunday School  
11:00-Worship, Pageant,  
12:30-coffee hour, Youth Group movie, (adults invited too)  
Board of Trustees Meeting

**Wednesday:** 7:30-Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

**Thursday:** Have a blessed Christmas!!

**Next Sunday:** No Sunday School  
11:00-Worship

**Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.** We look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. This is a wonderful time to invite family and friends to worship with you. (If you would like to be a reader that evening, please let Pastor Jerrie know.)

**A grateful thank you** to Laurie Bobear, Carol Gartner, and Becky Dixon for their hard work on the pageant, and to all the actors and actresses! Please join us for a festive coffee hour following the pageant.

Pastor Jerrie will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday mornings this week. Abby Bee will be here Tuesday, from 10-1pm. The office will be closed Thursday and Friday. Pastor Jerrie will be in town, so call any of her phone numbers if you need to reach her.

## CHURCH NOTES

Reports from the various boards and committees are due at the end of December to be ready for the parish Annual report. Thank You!

### Retired Ministers and Christmas Joy Offering

We have an opportunity to contribute to this special offering for retired ministers and missionaries this morning and on Christmas Eve. This offering is used for both emergency assistance and an annual "Thank-you" check sent to retired pastors and widowed spouses. Please read the enclosed inserts, and use the envelopes in your bulletin, (We used the Presbyterian envelopes, which were more colorful, but the offering will be divided equally between the American Baptist Church and the Presbyterian Church.) You may put your offering in **this morning or on Christmas Eve**. Thank-you for your generous sharing to those who have served so well.

### ONGOING MINISTRIES

**Greeters** are needed for Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank You! This is a very important expression of hospitality from the church.

**Altar flowers** are a wonderful way to celebrate and honor a loved one. You may donate flowers by signing up on the flower chart on the back table. The cost is \$10 for both vases and you may send money to the church office or drop it in the collection plate.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**The First Presbyterian Church**, Glens Falls will host a community Messiah Sing-Along, today at 3 p.m.. Singers are asked to bring a score, if possible and RSVP to 793-2521. A suggested donation of \$10 will benefit the Try-County United Way's heat assistance initiative and the church's music program.

### THE MECHANICVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

There is a special campaign taking place in memory of Margaret Mehan, a former teacher and resident of Mechanicville. All donations are matched by a \$1200 contribution from an anonymous donor, and will be used for the community food program. If you would like to contribute to this, please include a notation "in memory of Margaret Mehan." Other contributions will be used for the variety of programs that the Community Center sponsors.

The Mechanicville Community Center, at 6 S. Main St., offers a variety of services for all ages throughout the community. We are probably most familiar with the food pantry we contribute to, but the Center also provides many other services, such as a youth development program, after-school care, summer youth programs, mental health services, domestic violence advocacy programs, and elder care. The Center also provides space for many community programs and sponsors events such as the Firecracker Run and the Community Tree Lighting.

The Community Center is a private, not-for-profit agency which was founded in 1969 as a teen drop in center. Over the years its mission has expanded to meet the needs of the community. Each year, nearly 7,000 community members make more than 60,000 visits to the Center, and more than 100 volunteers provide over 6000 hours of service in various programs. The Center has been a United Way agency for over 25 years, and is one of eleven United Way of Northeastern N.Y. recognized Family Resource Centers, and the only one in Saratoga County.

Thank you for your donations to this very important community ministry.

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As we are collecting food for the community food cupboard, we are also gathering for our **animal friends**. You will find a container in the back of the church - so when you're shopping for your pet, you can pick up a little extra for a homeless dog or cat as well. Questions? Ask Liz Fraser.