

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Pageant and Eucharist 2012

**St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
San Francisco, California
(revised 11/08/12)**

Set-Up: Advance

Entry:

Madonna & child and Sophia icon on stand
Standing candlestick with candle lit

Altar Table:

Cross Stand (MAKE SURE IT IS WELL OUT OF THE WAY)

Presider's Chair:

REMOVE Cross stand
REMOVE the bells

Stage

DO NOT LIGHT the candelabra candles (we use them at the later service)

Remove from area around the presider's chair:

Leader's chair

Cantor's chair

Select and mark leaders' and cantor's chairs with strip cloth

Sanford: hillside, front, angled section, end nearest the waist of the church.

Leaders: Same row.

Presider: Same row.

Set-Up: Leaders

Altar Table:

Light Altar Lamps no later than 6:15 PM.

Tablecloth (BRIGHT!!)

3 patens and 8 chalices

2 palls placed on either side of altar table.
Sistrum

Kitchen:

1 large paten with 8 loaves of bread
2 Flagons FILLED (all the way) with wine
Prep 1 swinging thurible

Vestry:

Leader's candle
Presider's cross
(NO Gospel Book or umbrellas needed)

Presider's Chair:

NO glass of water—put one under A's chair instead

Seated Area:

Candle-stand goes beside Leader A's chair

Recruitment

1 thurible prep person

Usher/Greeter notes:

Set up

Move Shrine to Fabian Room
Move Crosses to edges of the church
Move Lectern etc. to Vestry or Fabian Room
Small stand with standing thurible (lighted charcoal) &
incense beneath light switches at waist of the church (street
side)
Set 100 folding chairs on the wood floor in straight rows
facing the center of the rotunda. The first row should touch
the seam between the concrete and wood floors. Leave a 6

foot wide center aisle, and pay attention to sightlines and access. Rows should be 2 feet apart.

Find 6:30 Programs (Music & Pageant Cast List) on TOP SHELF in welcome closet. Do NOT stuff programs into music books.

Set out Music Book storage box with "Please return..." signs on the welcome table.

As people walk in, greet them, hand out Christmas Eve Music Booklet and 6:30 PM Program, and ask them to be seated.

Collection: Recruit ONE helper for Collection (carries a basket around the circle)

During the liturgy:

During "Joy to the World" stack folding chairs onto dollies and roll them into closets (during singing)

During the Carol: Two welcomers go to the kitchen and get cookies and cider. Wheel costume racks into the rotunda and hang costumes

After the liturgy:

Collect Christmas Eve Music Booklets in the marked storage box and leave them in the welcome closet. Put 6:30 Programs in the **paper** recycling box inside the welcome closet.

Entrance and Incense Hymn

*Vested Party are all gathered in the Vestry, waiting at the door.
As Church bells ring Vested Party processes in to the Chinese scroll.*

Leader A *with lit candle*

Presider *with cross*

Gong rings.

Presider

♪ Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People

♪ And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever, Amen.

Cantor

Please stand and sing NUMBER 3 in your books: "O come, O come Emmanuel," number 3. We'll be singing carols throughout the pageant, so keep your music books near! NUMBER 3 "O come, O come Emmanuel."

Vested Party processes up center aisle to seats

Presider

♪ The Lord be with you!

People

♪ And also with you!

Presider

♪ O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People

♪ Amen

Leader A

Take your seats (*pause*) and listen to the story of God's Holy Child from the Gospel of Luke.

All are seated and the pageant begins. Lights out.

INSERT PAGEANT SCRIPT AND MUSIC

Note: Leader B take a count during the final scene of the Pageant ("This Little Light of Mine") PEOPLE MAY SLIP OUT AFTER THE PAGEANT, SO BEGIN IN THE ROTUNDA AND GET A COUNT, THEN COME TO THE SEATING END.

Gathering for Prayers

Leader B steps onto the solea – *THE END NEAREST THE ROTUNDA*

Leader B

We'll gather in close, at this end of the church, for the prayers. As we gather, and our actors rejoin their families, we'll sing "Joy to the World" at number 11 in your books. (*gesture to people in folding chairs*) Everyone down here, come this way, so the ushers can collect the folding chairs as we sing. Bring all your things with you, including your music books, and we'll sing "Joy to the World"; number 11.

Cantor begins the carol.

Leader A helps people move from the rotunda.

Ushers help stack chairs onto dollies & quickly roll the chairs into the closet

Fire person gets the swinging thurible ready and assembles bread & wine in the kitchen

Pageant Actors join their families in the seated area

6 Prayers stay on the solea with Leader B to bid the prayers.

Prayers

Leader B

We'll sing "The Lord's Prayer" found at number 15 in your books; number 15. We'll pause after "Deliver us from evil" to add our own prayers. Keep your place in the book so we can finish singing together.

Cantor leads congregation in singing Lord's Prayer through "and deliver us from evil"

Leader B

For peace in the whole world. For peace in Bethlehem –
and for what other places shall we pray?

People add prayers

Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Leader B

Turns and gestures to Pray-er 1

*All pray-ers go quickly, immediately after the “Lord have mercy”, and
speak LOUDLY.*

Prayer 1

For our bishop Marc and for all priests, deacons, and those
who minister in Christ,
and for all the holy people of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Prayer 2

For all who seek light in the darkness and for all who put
their trust in the incarnate Son of God. Let us pray to the
Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Prayer 3

For those who exercise authority in the world, that they may
be inspired by the great humility of God who comes to us as
a homeless baby. Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Prayer 4

For all who travel this night, seeking comfort and safety and for those who live without any home. Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Prayer 5 For women in childbirth and all people who long for children. Let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Prayer 6

For all the prayers of our hearts, especially those we now name. Call out your own prayers!

Leave space for people to call out prayers...when the prayers die down, presider continues

Presider

For peace for the dead, and comfort for mourners, let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Leader B

For those we have wronged, for our enemies and all who wrong us, let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Leader B

For forgiveness, generosity and love among all people everywhere, and for the coming kingdom of peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People

Lord have mercy.

Leader B

In fellowship with Gregory of Nyssa, with Mary, Jesus' mother, and with all God's holy people in every time and place, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our lives through Christ to God.

People

To you, O Lord our God.

Presider

♪ Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate word: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

♪ For the kingdom, the power...

Tripudium

Leader A

We'll go up to the Table in step singing, "Hark! the herald angels sing" at NUMBER 7 in your books; NUMBER 7.

The step is very simple, and if you'll look this way, we'll show you how it goes. Starting on your right foot, go right—left—right—back.

Leader A assembles pray-ers to follow and demonstrates, then stops around lectern.

Place your right hand on the shoulder of the person in front of you, and [cantor] will tell us when to step off.

Cantor

When we reach the word _____, step off, and we'll keep singing and circling around the Table.

Presider and Pray-ers and Leader A go quickly to the kitchen to carry the gifts.

Fire Person gets the swinging thurible for Presider

Eucharist

Peace

Presider

Christ is born to give us the gift of his peace: share that gift with those around you. The peace of the Lord be with you all!

People

And also with you.

All pass the peace

Leaders, chalice-bearers come to Table.

Cantor

Please open your books to number 25

Leaders

♪ Draw Near, draw near...

Leader 1

♪ Parents take your children in hand, Let us love one another that we may offer the holy sacrifice in peace.

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider sings the Christmas Anaphora

Communion

Leader A

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer everyone, without exception, the bread and wine which are Christ's body and blood.

(Presider's name), the Body of Christ. (Amen)

Presider offers bread and cup first to Cantor and Leader A, then others at the Table

Cantor

Please share communion with each other. After you've received the cup turn to the next person and say, "the Blood of Christ". *(starts choir anthem)*

Leaders and recruits: distribute communion according to quadrants; communicate choir as soon as music is finished.

As the Choir receives communion, Cantor announces "He Came Down that we may have Joy" (first verse by the children.)

Leaders return all patens and chalices to table and cover with palls.

Post-communion Prayer

Presider Go with us, O Lord, as we journey to the heavenly country, that following your star we may not wander in the darkness of this world's night while you who are the true and living way shine with us to the journey's end. Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forever more. Amen

Collection

Leader A

Tonight's service was created thanks to the congregation's work with children, with music, with hospitality and the arts. Please give generously to support these efforts, and all our congregation's work.

Bring your gifts of money for the work of the church straight to the table.

*Choir sings an anthem during collection. One **Usher** carries a basket around through crowd.*

****Note - No Polychronia****

Carol

Leader B

After our final carol, we'll give our Pageant Cast one minute to change out of their costumes, right here, (*gesture*) then we'll all share refreshments around this Table. There is another service tonight at 10PM, and NO service tomorrow, Christmas Day. Come back on Sunday!

Please sign the guest book here (*hold up*) and if you'd like to receive news from us, give us your email address.

And now (*cantor*) will teach us the carol found at number 20 in your books.

Cantor

Carols are sung dances, and we'll make it easy for you to dance the carol by surrounding you with people who've done it before.

Cantor teaches step until familiar, offers pitch, then leads the Carol.

Wardrobe people wheel out racks for costumes to edge of rotunda.

All Vested

LET US BLESS THE LORD!

People

Thanks be to God!

Presider

Everybody with a costume, come over here and change right now, and as soon as you're done, we'll have refreshments!

As soon as the costumes are off and hung up, tables are set up and cookies and cider are brought out.

END.

Clean up (all hands)

Hospitality

greet newcomers for 10 minutes, especially those with red/black badges

Candles

blow out all candles

Scripts

return scripts to vestry

Seating area

collect music books and strip cloth
straighten chairs, crosses

Vestry

rehang all vestments
clean up clutter; straighten room
record attendance in book (THIS IS LEADER B'S JOB!!)

Move all furniture back to regular setup.

