

The Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Second Sunday after Christmas, Years ABC

January 4, 2026, 10:30 am Be Here, Be You, Be Loved



Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral!

The People's responses are in **bold** print.

We have large print bulletins available. If you need one, please ask an usher.

Land Acknowledgment for the Diocese of Missouri (updated 7/2022)

In humility, we recognize and acknowledge that we in the Diocese of Missouri worship and live on the traditional ancestral lands of the Osage Nation, the Illiniwek/Peoria Tribe, the O-Gah-Pah (Quapaw) Tribe, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, and other First Peoples. We recognize our mutual dependence upon and benefit from this land; we proclaim our solidarity with and our debt to the Peoples who first claimed and improved this land as their home. We acknowledge our complicity in the process of colonization that dispossessed the First Peoples from their ancestral lands. We affirm our commitment to stand with indigenous communities today and henceforth as they seek justice and resist continued threats to their sovereignty and humanity.

We are also cognizant that the history of The Episcopal Church is intertwined with the history of colonialism and slavery in the United States. More than four centuries ago, the first enslaved Africans were brought to the Americas, and two centuries ago enslaved and indigenous persons contributed to the exploration of this state by Lewis and Clark. Our state's history is entangled with both the Missouri Compromise making this state officially a slave state, and the case of *Scott v. Emerson* that petitioned for Dred and Harriet Scott's emancipation. We acknowledge the tragic legacy of slavery in our diocese, and the blood, sweat, and tears of enslaved people that soak the earth beneath our feet in Missouri. This legacy persists today as we continue to work towards racial justice, equity, liberation, and community, here in Missouri and across The Episcopal Church.

PRELUDE Infant Holy, Polish Carol

arr. by R.W. Thygerson





6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*.

WELCOME!

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Presider Let us gather ourselves into Christ's presence with a moment of silence.

Moment of silence to open our hearts.

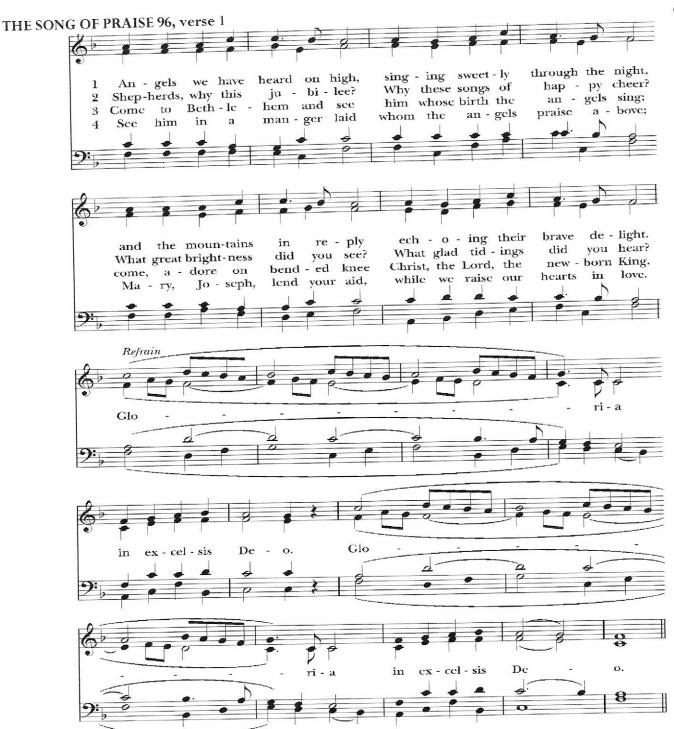
GREETING

Presider Behold; I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For to you is born in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

People Alleluia!

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider 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 Savior. Amen.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God is with you. Presider

And also with you. People Presider

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your image in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt; from Alternative Collects for Years A, B & C of the Revised Common Lectionary 2022, Anglican Church of Canada

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

THE FIRST READING Please be seated.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty," says the Lord.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's People. Reader

Thanks be to God. People

THE PSALM OF THE DAY 84:1-8 (A Liturgical Psalter General Synod 2016, Anglican Church of Canada) Prayed responsively.

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, *

O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; *

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house *

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, *

my Sovereign and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

They will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you, *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way!

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and you, the God of gods, will reveal yourself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your anointed.

THE SECOND READING

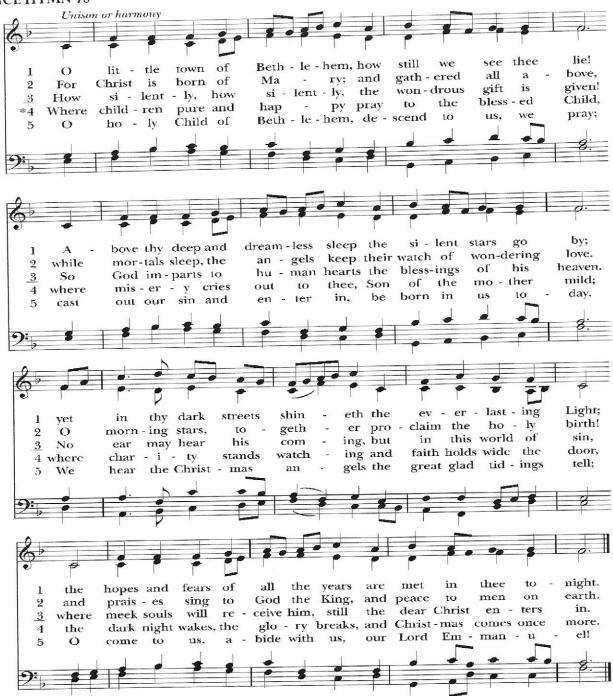
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Reader

Thanks be to God. People

SEQUENCE HYMN 78 FOREST GREEN



THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him

homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Carol Wesley, Ph.D.

Moment for silent reflection

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED (Expansive Liturgies, ECUSA)

Please stand as you are able.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ($Dr.\ Gail\ Ramshaw$, adapted)

Deacon Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The people audibly or silently name those for whom they are interceding.

Leader Rejoicing in the mercy of God manifested for our salvation in the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, let us pray for all the needs of the world, saying, "Holy One, have mercy."

That the churches may know God and God's wisdom, that they may be assemblies of God's grace. We pray especially for Sean, Presiding Bishop, Deon, our bishop; Kathie, our dean; and the staff and Chapter of our Cathedral. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue and David, their Rector; Nathan, their Associate Rector; Zack, their Youth and Young Adult Minister; and Luke, Jay & Susie, their Assisting Clergy. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for the Mission of the Holy Cross in Lares. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the people and ministry of The Church of the Province of Central Africa. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Iowa—at Camp Dodge, Sioux City Air National Guard Base, Des Moines Air National Guard Base, Army Aviation Support Facility Boone, and the Des Moines VA Medical Center. Let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

Leader That the leaders of nations may be brought to your wisdom, may honor peace, and may protect the earth's resources, let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

Leader That the Jewish people may know continual comfort in God's mercy and great joy in the wisdom of their heritage, let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

That those who suffer the ravages of winter, the hungry, the elderly, the unemployed, and the sick among us, may be clothed with healing and comfort, including Israel, Palestine, Iran and the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, Sudan, and Libya; our immigrant and trans siblings; the Cass and Baker families, Mary, Patty, Jim, Joanne, David & Canon Doris, Adele, Thelma & Raymond, Kathy, Michael, Warren, Deacon Barbi, Deb, Kaplan; all in prison and their families; and those affected by violence and oppression in all forms. Let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

Leader That this assembly may be refreshed in its mission to bear witness to the word and wisdom of God, let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

Leader That those who have died may find peace in the arms of the Prince of Peace, including all slain in Sudan, the Middle East, and Ukraine; Brendan Cass, Stan Baker, those lives taken by gun violence in the city of St. Louis in 2025 and all who die at the hand of another, or by their own hand. Let us pray to God.

People Holy One, have mercy.

All Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presider Let us pray together for all those celebrating a birthday or an anniversary this month:

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants with birthdays in the month of January, as each one begins another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

O God, we give thanks for the blessed union of those couples with an anniversary in the month of January. Continue to bless them with the gift of your beloved presence; grant that they may always manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow together in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, now and for ever. Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Please kneel, stand, or sit, as you are able; silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider Our loving God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people greet each other with a sign of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERTORY SENTENCES

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN 105 God Rest You Merry, Humankind

C. Scott inclusive/expansive revision

1 God rest you merry, Humankind, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

- 2 From God our heavenly Creator a blessèd angel came and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same: how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *Refrain*
- 3 "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might." *Refrain*
- 4 Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and charity each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

THE DOXOLOGY HYMN 87, verse 3

MENDELSSOHN

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die. Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings. Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: The Great Thanksgiving (from Eucharistic Prayers, Sam Wells & Abigail Kocher)

Presider God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

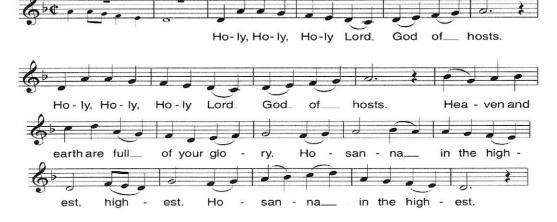
Holy are you, embracing God, for through your Word all things came into being, and without you not one thing was made. As your Word spoke through your covenant, you created a people bound to you. Through promise and pardon, slavery and exile, you showed that what had come into being through you was life. Your prophets promised that life as a light for all people, and spoke of a day of comfort and redemption when ruins and waste places would break forth into song.

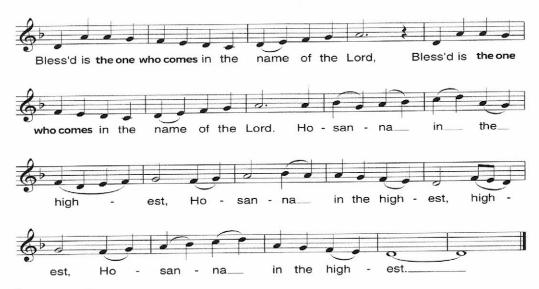
When that day came, and the Word became flesh, your angels sang for joy and put a new song into our hearts. And even when we rejected your Son, you brought forth from his death a resurrection of everlasting glory. You welcome us as your forgiven people, uniting heaven and earth and joining our voices with angels and archangels, in the unending hymn.

SANCTUS A Christmas Mass

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

Paul Gibson





Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Presider

Life-giving God, as your Word became flesh and lived among us, come among us now in the fullness of your grace and truth. Make us holy as you are holy, that your Word may become flesh anew today. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine and make them be for us the body and blood of Jesus; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me:'

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me:'

Great is the mystery of faith.

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Presider

God of glory, make your church a sign of new-born hope in your kingdom. Be born in us today. Where your children are faced with ruin, show them redemption. Where sorrow endures, bring your holy comfort. Where division excludes, give your grace. Where bondage confines, sing your new song. Restore our hope in you, until the day when all that you have brought into being finds its everlasting destiny in the glory of your only Son, when nothing in heaven or on earth falls outside your redeeming purpose, and when all things shall be full of grace and truth in you, one God, Divine Mystery, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE GREAT AMEN Amen, Christmas Mass

Paul Gibson



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

All 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.

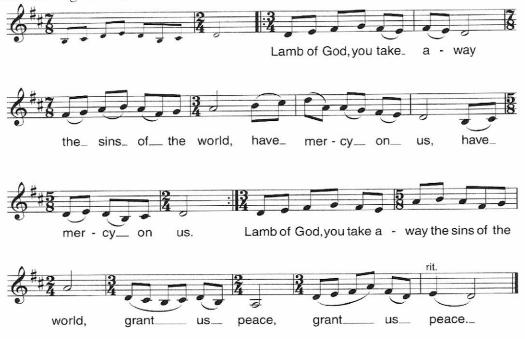
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread is broken; silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM Agnus Dei, Christmas Mass

Paul Gibson



Presider Behold what you are.

People May we become what we receive.

THE INVITATION

Presider The gifts of God for you, the people of God.

The Presider may add:

So come to this table you who have much faith or you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been here in a long time. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

SHARING THE SACRED MEAL

This is Christ's table and all are welcome to be fed. Please follow the movement to the altar; communion will be distributed at the head of the center aisle. Remember to take your purse/personal belongings with you when leaving your seat for communion.

Those participating at home may, if they wish, say this prayer during the time of Communion:

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS LEVAS II 24





SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITOR(S)

Deacon In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread, one cup.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER Please stand as you are able.

Presider God is with you.

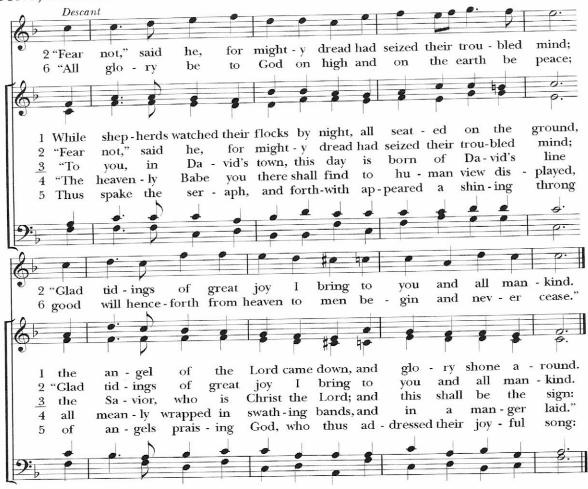
People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

People Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING (Book of Occasional Services)

Presider 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, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



6 "All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."

THE SENDING

Deacon Go in peace. Go in hope. Go in love. Go in the Name of the Incarnate One! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE God Rest You Merry

by Wilbur Held

If you would like to donate to support the Cathedral's mission & ministries, please use the QR Code below



Liturgical Ministers

Presider: The Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, Dean

Preacher: The Rev. Carol Wesley, Ph.D.

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin

Head Verger: Laura Rose Crucifer: Alan Young

Eucharistic Ministers: Br. Sam Kincade, osf, Alicia Pierce

Lector: Mike Rohan

Intercessor: Andreas Altemueller

Ushers: Patricia Altemueller, Richard Roemerman,

Alice Stanley

Lay Eucharistic Minister(s); Titus Olajide, Robert England

Altar Guild: Pat Rohan, Althea Rowell

Digital Moderator: Mary Hovland Coffee Hour: Coffee Hour Team

Music Ministers

Director of Music: Dr. Connor Scott Musicians: The Cathedral Choir

Cathedral Choir Soloists & Section Leaders

Sarah Campbell, tenor Riley Cameron, baritone AJ Murgo, baritone Lea Zelaya, soprano

Cathedral Choir Scholar Singers

Gabriel Kopel, bass Daniel Pollien, tenor Lauren Waight, soprano

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The first Nowell the angel did say, #109 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: The First Nowell, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968).

God rest you merry, Humankind, #105 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Inclusive, expansive text revision by C. Scott.

O little town of Bethlehem, #78 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

LEVAS#27 Away in a manger, Music: James R. Murray (1841–1905); arr. Edythe Ethelynn Woodruff (b. 1970). Used by

permission. Sanctus, Amen, and Agnus dei from Paul Gibson's Christmas Mass, 1988, 2010 © OCP.

H#94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, *Winchester Old*, descant by Craig Sellar Lang (1891–1971). God Rest You Merry, by Wilbur Held © 1970 by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

Christ Church Cathedral The Episcopal Cathedral of the Diocese of Missouri

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