

CHRIST CHURCH

Cathedral



Photo by Tim Hamilton

Christmas Eve

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2025

9:30 p.m. Christmas Festival Music

10 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis MO

Be Here, Be You, Be Loved

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas to all!

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

We have **large print bulletins** and **hearing devices** available. If you need them, ask an usher.

Welcome! Beinvenido! Karibu!

Scattered in the world, we gather together as God's people in worship. We bring the fragments of our lives to be healed and made whole in Christ as we gather in community.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as God's people. One of the glories of the Episcopal/Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

As we gather, we bring our diverse gifts: gifts of music, dance, prophecy, teaching, preaching, and friendship. We present these gifts in the form of our most precious offering to God, our very selves, that all that we do may be for God's glory in the unity of Christ's church.

About the Holy Eucharist

In the Episcopal Church the Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of Christ's body and blood, and the principal act of Christian worship. The term is from the Greek, "thanksgiving." Jesus instituted the Eucharist "on the night when he was betrayed." At the Last Supper he shared the Bread and cup of Wine at a sacred meal with his disciples. He identified the Bread with his body and the Wine with his blood of the new covenant. Jesus commanded his disciples to "do this" in remembrance of Jesus.

For Episcopalians, the Holy Eucharist becomes the very Real Presence of Christ, his Body and Blood, the ordinary made also extraordinary, sacred by Jesus' own words and by the Holy Spirit.

In the Episcopal Church, we seek to adapt ancient liturgy for today. If you grew up in a less formal church, worship may feel pretty traditional. If you grew up in a formal church, our worship may deconstruct that formality, and ask you to pray using more modern words, or sing new songs. We seek to balance tradition and culture in our worship. When we hold the tension well between the ancient and the modern, the Holy Eucharist comes alive. (*The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson*)

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.

9:30 PM FESTIVE MUSIC

Please remain seated for the festive music program

HYMN 102

IRBY



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

ANTHEM The Holly and the Ivy

arr. by H. Walford Davies

The Holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

REFRAIN *The rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom, as white as the lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior. (Refrain)

The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to do us sinners good. (Refrain)

The holly bears a prickly, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. (Refrain)

The holly bears a bark, as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to redeem us all. (Refrain)

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. (Refrain)

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;
 cher-u-bim and se-ra-phim throng-ed the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal-len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter a sta-ble-place suf-ficed
 but his mo-ther on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise-man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

ANTHEM A Spotless Rose, Anonymous, 14th century AJ Murgo, soloist

Herbert Howells

*A spotless Rose is blowing sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit;
 Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter and in the dark midnight.
 The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest maid;
 for through our God's great love and might the blessed babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.*

ANTHEM Ding, Dong, Merrily on High, with the Cathedral Bell Choir

ANTHEM O Holy Night (Cantique de Noël), played by Sarah Campbell, violin

arr. by Daniel Burton

10 PM FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

OPENING SONG 83 *Please stand as you are able.*

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning: Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

WELCOME!

Please remain standing, as you are able.

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 this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Presider Light and peace in Jesus Christ our incarnate One.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Presider Blessed be the Holy One who comes anew this night.

People **Blessed be the One who comes to set all people free.**

Presider In the tender compassion of our God

People **The dawn from on high which breaks in among us,**

Presider To shine upon all people,

People **To guide our feet into the way of love and peace.**

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.**

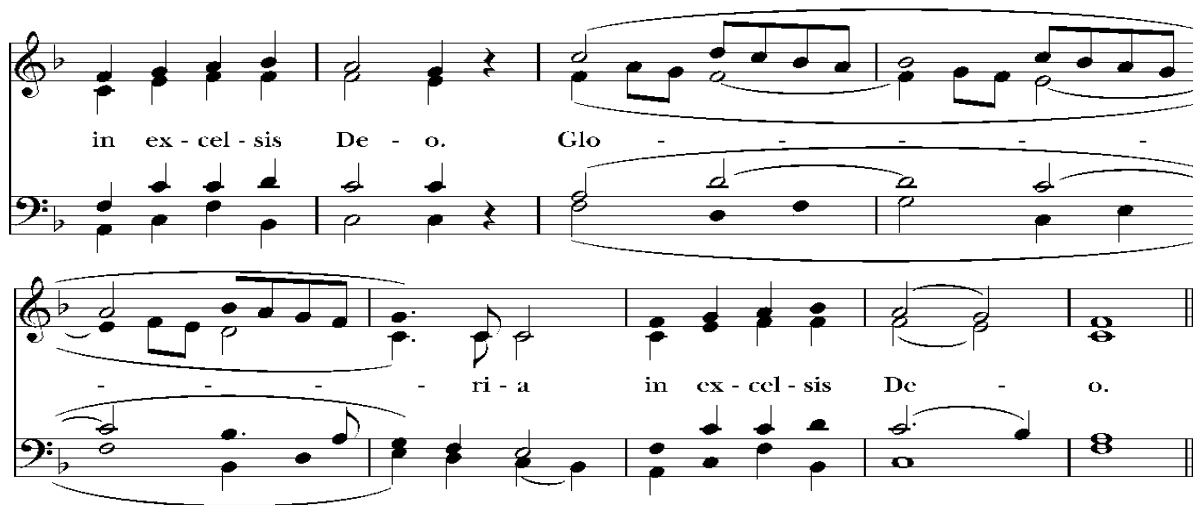
THE SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 96

GLORIA

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. Eternal God who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Common Worship 2000; 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.*

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY 96 (*General Synod 2016 Liturgical Psalter, Anglican Church of Canada, pointed by Connor Scott*)

Antiphon – First sung by the choir, then sung again with the congregation

Psalm—Sung together by all

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

A B

1 Sing to the Lord a | new song; *

sing to the Lord, all the whole | earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and | bless the divine name; *

proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to | day.

3 Declare the glory of the Lord among the | nations *

and the wonders of God among all | peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and | greatly to be praised, *

more to be feared than | all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but | idols; *

but it is you, O Lord, who made the | heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your | presence! *

Oh, the power and the splendor of your | sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you | families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the Lord | honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the | honor due the divine name; *

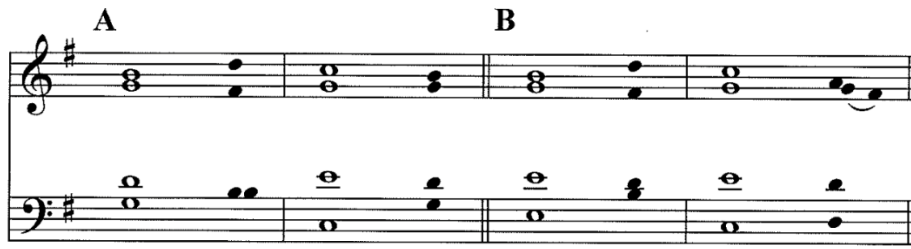
bring offerings and come | into the courts of the Lord.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of | holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble before | God.

10 Tell it out among the nations: | “The Lord reigns! *

The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will | judge the peoples with equity.”

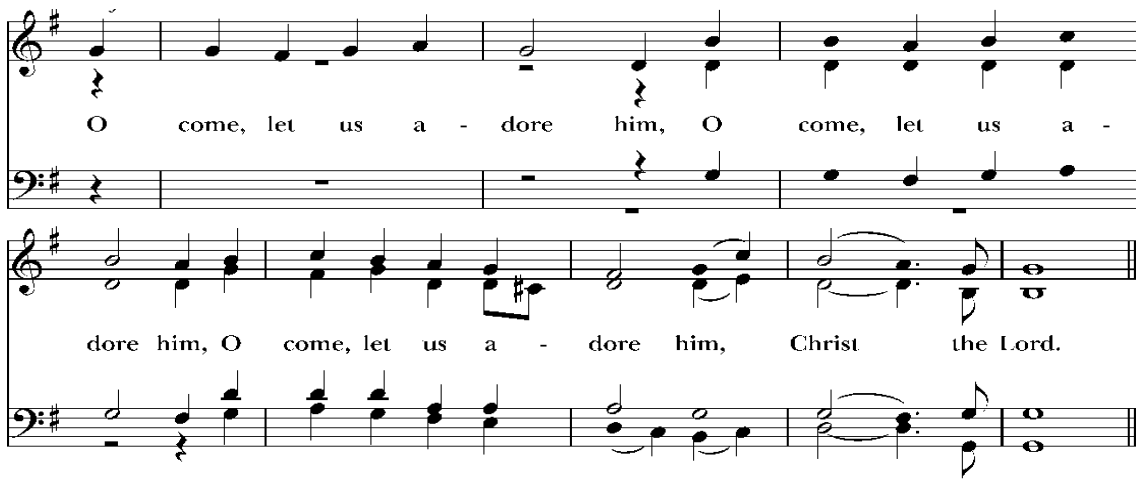


A 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea | thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be | joyful and all that is therein.

A 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the | Lord who is coming, *
who is coming to judge the | earth.

B 13 The Lord will judge the world with | righteousness *
and the peoples with | truth.

Antiphon – Sung twice by all



THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 115 *Please stand as you are able.*

GREENSLEEVES



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

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. He 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. 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. 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!”

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

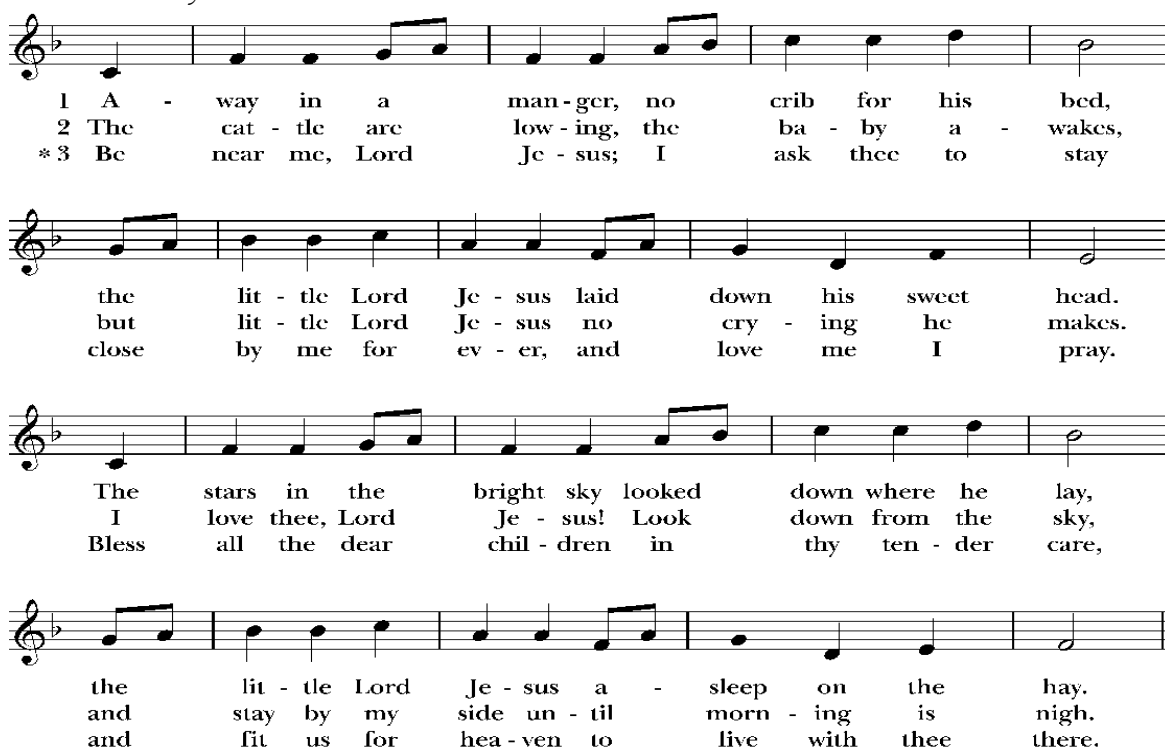
THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, Dean

Moment for silent reflection

HYMN 101 *Please stand as you are able.*

CRADLE SONG



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

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

Please remain standing.

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 (from *Common Worship*, The Church of England, adapted)

Leader On this holy night, Christians across the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Light of the World, open our hearts that Christ may be born in us. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Light of the World, strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our nation and around the world. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. We give thanks for all those remembered in thanksgiving and honor who made possible the cathedral decorations tonight. Light of the World, give us grace to preach the good news of Christ. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, strangers found the immigrant Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Light of the World, help us to greet strangers as members of your family. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Light of the World, protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Light of the World, bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our days. We pray especially this night for all killed, suffering, oppressed, marginalized and grieving. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, heaven has come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Light of the World, bring into the fullness of your presence all who have died and those in whose loving memory the cathedral is adorned. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy night, all who look to you in hope proclaim the glory of your name. Light of the World, receive the glad praise we offer in companionship with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the saints, and all those we worship alongside this night. Holy God;

People **hear our prayer.**

All **O God of heavenly glory and earthly peace, you have hallowed this sacred night with the joyful tidings of Christ's birth: May the Light dawning upon us kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may shine forth your glory in love; in Christ's name. 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.

All **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 THE 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 and then are seated.


ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERTORY SENTENCES

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "For unto us a Child is born" from *Messiah*, by G. F. Handel arr. for brass by Michel Rondeau
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. — Isaiah 9:6

OFFERTORY HYMN 100

ANTIOCH



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - every heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, joy, found, love, and re-peat, far and won-ders, heaven, re-peat, far as won-ders, and heaven and na-ture sing, the sound-ing joy, the curse is found, of his love.

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

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord. God of hosts.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord. God of hosts. Hea-ven and

earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-



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 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way
 the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Presider Behold what you are.

People **May we become what we receive.**

THE INVITATION

Presider Come to this table, you who wait and you who long, you who hope for the dawn, and you who rest in the night.
 Here the Word is made flesh, and the Light of Christ meets us in bread and wine. Come, for all is ready, it is
 Christ who invites you to meet him here.

SHARING THE SACRED MEAL

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

Gluten-free wafers and chalice are available.

The common cup is offered; if you prefer, you are fully communed by Bread alone.

If you practice intinction (dipping the Bread in the Wine);

please hand your Bread to the Chalice Bearer and they will intinct and place it in your hand.

If you prefer not to receive communion, you may still come and ask for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

Please let an usher know if you need communion or a blessing from your seat.

***Candles will be distributed as you return from communion, and will be lit
 by members of the Cathedral Choir prior to the singing of "Silent Night."***

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 ANTHEM *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother?

Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing

"The Christ child is born." Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep,

nations proclaim him their Lord and their savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep, Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger

Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay, Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation a child with his mother that first Christmas Day

COMMUNION HYMN 109

THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far,
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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.*

POSTCOMMUNION HYMN 111

STILLE NACHT

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. born! Sleep Christ, in hea - ven - ly peace.
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

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 EPISCOPAL BLESSING

Candles should be extinguished and deposited in the baskets as you leave

CLOSING SONG 87

MENDELSSOHN



1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,
Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.
Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head sec; hail the in-car-nate De-i-ty.
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!

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 Paen on Divinum mysterium

John Cook

Merry Christmas!

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



Liturgical Ministers

Presider: The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson
Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri
Preacher: The Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd
Fifteenth Dean of Christ Church Cathedral
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Jeff Goldone, Associated Priest
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin
Head Verger: Laura Rose
Crucifer: Alan Young
Thurifer: John Watson
Eucharistic Ministers: Br. Sam Kincade, ofsf; Alicia Pierce
Lectors: Emily Lehr, Howie Hirshfield
Intercessor: Debbie Nelson Linck
Ushers: Ron Freiwald, Richard Roerman, Alice Stanley
Altar Guild: Wardwell Buckner
Digital Moderator(s): Dan Link, Rob Good

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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Once in royal David's city, #102 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938), Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929).

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, #81 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859): tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Es ist ein Ros, melody from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). *The holly and the ivy*, arr. by H. Walford Davies © 1913, Novello.

In the bleak midwinter, #112 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Christina Rossetti (1830- 1894). Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934). *A spotless rose*, Herbert Howells, © 1919 Stainer and Bell LTD.

Ding, dong! Merrily on high, arr. by Charles Wood (1866–1926) © The Cambridge Carol Book.

O Holy Night (Cantique de Noël) arr. by Daniel Burton © Birnamwood Publications, Morningstar Music Publishers.

O come, all ye faithful, #83 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: John Francis Wade (1711- 1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906. Arranged for Brass, Organ, and Chorus by David Willcocks © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Angels we have heard on high, #96 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

Psalm 96, based on *Adeste fideles*, Hymnal 1982 #83, Chant from A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. Pointing by C. Scott, translation from the Inclusive Psalter from the Anglican Church of Canada, General Synod 2016 edition.

Hark! the herald angels sing, #87 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). Arranged for Brass, Organ, and Chorus by David Willcocks © 1961 Oxford University Press.

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

Candlelight Carol, John Rutter © Oxford University Press.

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). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc. Arranged for Brass, Organ, and Chorus by David Willcocks © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come, #100 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Arrangement by Charles E. Peery (ASCAP) copyright © 2020 Birnamwood.

Paeon on 'Divinum Mysterium' by John Cook, © 1956 by Novello & Company, LTD.

Christmas Services

Thursday December 25, Christmas	11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language, and Christmas hymns with the dean	<i>In person</i>
Sunday December 28, First Sunday after Christmas	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Traditional language Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language	<i>In person</i> <i>Hybrid</i>
Wednesday December 31, New Year's Eve	5:00 PM	New Year's Eve Taizé Service; <i>this service blends scripture, silence, prayer and contemplative chants</i> . Music under the direction of Dr. Connor Scott, Director of Music at CCC.	<i>In person</i>
<i>Hybrid = you may attend in person or on Zoom – see the website for service links – www.christchurchcathedral.us</i>			

The Cathedral's 2025 Christmas decorations have been given...

In memory of ...	Our parents by Ron Freiwald & Richard Roerman Kendall Winter, J. Byron & Lizzie Lee by Sarah V. Winter Tom Manche & Frank Kriegel by Mary DeHahn, Lorraine Kee, Elizabeth Watkins & Anita Winter John DeHahn by Mary DeHahn Patricia Partridge by Marjie Kennedy Bette Bohannon by Michael Bohannon Floyd & Mary Smith & Robert & Shirley Ferrari by Richard Smith & Brett Ferrari Olga & Basil Blamoville, Olga E., Andre & Leatrice Blamoville by Huldah Blamoville-Allen Lee Evans by Wardwell Buckner Walter & Dorris Hebron, Barbara Hebron Petty by Theresa Hebron Beverly & George Winner by Beverly Winner Kinkade Norma Lemmon by Titus O. Olajide Mary Haracevch & Jennie Rickard by Patricia Rohan David Hanneman, Corine & Norman Lawson, & Jay Hellwege by Dave Lawson Evelyn Wilson, Rev. Josie Rose, Rev. Roland Rose by Laura Rose & Shelly Wilson Raymond H. Thorne, Raymond & Hilda Thorne, Elizabeth Perchard, John Perchard, Benjamin Andrew Wheeler, Robert & Phyllis Shepherd, Dick Shepherd & Sheila Shepherd by Dean Kathie & Shep Adams- Shepherd
In Honor of...	Gary Sanders & Beverly Kincade by Richard Smith & Brett Ferrari CCC Choir and CCC Chapter by Richard Smith & Brett Ferrari CCC Digital Ministers by Mary DeHahn Hardina Graham & Thelma Swift by Huldah Blamoville- Allen The Altar Guild by Wardwell Buckner Philip & Helen Ludbrook by Robert England Dean Kathie by Anonymous
In Thanksgiving of ...	All The Saints by Michael Bohannon Claudine, Dawn & Don Allen by Huldah Blamoville- Allen Dean Kathie by Laura Rose & Shelly Wilson The Diocesan Staff by The Dean Bishop Deon Johnson, Jhovanny Osorio-Vazquez & Family by The Dean The Staff & Chapter of our Cathedral by Dean Kathie The CCC choir and it's director by Dean Kathie CCC vergers & liturgical assistants, Ushers and LEV's by Dean Kathie The Weekly staff and communications team by Dean Kathie Rob Good and our Cathedral moderators by Dean Kathie The Pursuing Racial Justice Ministry by Dean Kathie Jane Mayfield, Kurt Joice & The Fellowship Ministry by Dean Kathie Nancy Kuehnl and all the Coffee Hour volunteers by Dean Kathie Ward Buckner and the CCC Altar Guild by Dean Kathie Pat Rohan and the St. Martha's Guild by Dean Kathie Diocese of Missouri Community of Deacons by The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin

Christmas Blessing to you!

Christ Church Cathedral

The Episcopal Cathedral of the Diocese of Missouri

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