

GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



"Prepare the Way [NOLA Map]" by Lauren Wright Pittman, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025 • 8 a.m.

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- Thank you for joining us for worship today at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. If you are new to the Cathedral, we invite you to fill out our welcome card. Welcome cards are available in the pews or text GUEST to 816-310-1888.
- If you need a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. Instructions to connect via Bluetooth are on the back table.
- Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered, accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.

Service Notes

- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (*).
- Donations may be placed in the offering, made through the Cathedral website: kccathedral.org, by scanning the QR code to the right or by texting "GIVEtoGHTC" to 73256. Tap to give using the display in the Tower entrance. Instructions for use are next to the machine.
- *Thank you for your generosity.*



HOLY EUCHARIST

VOLUNTARY: "Freu Dich Sehr, O Meine Seele"

Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

The Word of God

* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

page 355

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Lord. **Amen.**

* KYRIE ELEISON

page 356

Presider Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Presider Lord, have mercy.

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and
his dwelling shall be glorious.
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *read by alternating half verse*

page 685

Give the King your justice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people righteously *
 and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
 from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
 like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

Lector Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

 “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
 and sing praises to your name”;

 and again he says,

 “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

 and again,

 “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and let all the peoples praise him”;

 and again Isaiah says,

 “The root of Jesse shall come,
 the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Gospeller In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

 “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.’”

 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

* THE NICENE CREED

page 358

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

Intercessor With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For this city and for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering. We pray especially for those on the Cathedral's Prayer List, and for those whom we now name silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord,

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For the poor, the immigrants and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially for those we now name, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

page 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 your Son 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 Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

* THE PEACE

page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION PRAYER

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* begin 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.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

* OFFERTORY HYMN: 67 "Comfort, comfort ye my people"

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er
 saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,
 mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry
 ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;
 tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken
 and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Psalm 42, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal* 1982. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

page 367

Presider The Lord be 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 God thanks and praise.**
 Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All 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.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.

All AMEN.

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

* BREAKING OF THE BREAD

page 364

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

For gluten-free bread, cross your hands palms down.

For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.

On the first Sunday of each month, prayer for healing is offered at the prayer desk until the close of worship.

* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

page 366

Presider Let us pray.

All **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.**

* THE BLESSING

* DISMISSAL

Following the dismissal,

People **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN: 65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920). Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: Arrangement reprinted from *American Lutheran Hymnal*, copyright © 1930, by permission of Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

VOLUNTARY: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 661

J.S.Bach (1685-1750)

Serving Today

Presider and Preacher	The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell
Deacon	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Organist	Zaheer Popo
Lector	Rebecca Rezaei
Eucharistic Minister	Terri Curran
Usher	Greg Coffey, Deborah Carr
Altar Guild	Vangie Rich, Jennifer Mason
Healing Minister	Joan Bergstrom

Cathedral Prayer List

To place a person on this prayer list, text PRAYER to (816) 310-1888 or email Deacon Barbara Wegener, bwegener@kccathedral.org. View the prayer list anytime: kccathedral.org/prayers

Pray for: Erin Kalkbrenner Katie Rose; Bill Stancil; Gene Easter; Phineas Gitta; All affected by Hurricane Melissa; Maison de Naissance in Haiti; Jody Beck; Betty Ouverson; Mike Dulohery; Gayle Melton Family; The Brunner Family; The Gooch Family; Abby Zwerner; Katie Cummings; Carolyn McGlothen; Lt. Col. Kevin Thomas; Mike O'Neill; Ellen Spake; Alan & Mary Simon; Joan and Joe Bacchus; Marian Philip; The High Family; Elliott Oliver; Kim Heitzenrater; Norma Brooks; Elaine Karsten; Kathy Manning; Terri Wesner; Lenette Johnson; Sandra Fuhrman; Jim Holstein; Kay Steiner; Brian and Amy Hummell; Joel; Mike Barzee & Family; Iris Parsons; Larry McMullen; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Joyce Morrow; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; Yvonne Kehoe Meier; Trish Lambert; Jeffrey and family; Charlotte Colburn; All those fighting chronic illness; All families affected by gun violence; First Responders; All Immigrants

Pray for the Departed: The Rev. Barbara Beam; LaGreta Gitta; Faye Brunner; Gayle Melton; Richard Gooch; Sue King; those lost in war; those who have died from gun violence

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Joplin—The Rev. Ryan Williams, Rector; The Rev. Carol Peterson, Deacon
Bishop's Shield Recipients

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please contact the Cathedral office (jtoma@kccathedral.org) if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary.

December 7
Gordon Hansen
Bill McCandless

December 8
Bailey Darr

December 9
Nick Douthat
Meribeth Risebig
Craig Heslop

December 10
Luca Janky

December 12
Alex Ratcliff

December 13
John Morrison
Scott Courson
Christopher Black
Ty Gardner

This Week at GHTC

Learn more about our weekly services & opportunities for study and fellowship: kccathedral.org

Sunday, December 7

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices
- 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
- 10:30 a.m. Cathedral Kids
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 2 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance
- 5 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 8

- 12 p.m. City Come Again (*Doors open at 11:30 a.m.*)

Tuesday, December 9

- 7:30 a.m. GHTC's Virtual Cafe+
- 12:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study+
- 6:45 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study+

Wednesday, December 10

- 10 a.m. Staff Gathering
- 12 p.m. Noonday Prayer*
- 12 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
- 12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 11

- 6 p.m. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting
- 7 p.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir

Friday, December 5

- 10 a.m. Nativity Puppets School Performance
- 7 p.m. Nativity Puppets Performance

Saturday, December 13

- 2 p.m. Funeral & Reception: The Rev. Barbara Beam

Sunday, December 14

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices
- 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
- 10:30 a.m. Cathedral Kids
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 2 p.m. Concert: Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral
- 5 p.m. Order for Evening and Holy Eucharist

+On Zoom

*In person and streamed on YouTube @kccathedral

Altar Flowers

Today's flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for my son, Brad McLeroy by Carolyn McLeroy.



GLOVES & WARM SOCKS

For men & women at



Shelter KC

A Kansas City Rescue Mission



**Bring donations of gloves
and socks for men or women
to the Tower entrance
during November &
December**



Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

Second Sunday of Advent: Repentance, Preparation, Hope & Peace

"Messianic Predictions" Illumination (Isaiah 11:1-16)

Today's lectionary themes center around two companion messages: Isaiah's prophecy of a coming ruler who will inaugurate a reign of peace and justice together with John the Baptist's call for repentance in preparation for that event. The focal texts encourage hope for a future kingdom in which the oppressed will find relief from their suffering and all creation will experience new life. Both prophets, Isaiah and John the Baptist, urge listeners to prepare the way for the coming Messiah by getting their hearts and lives ready for his arrival. This preparation is an invitation to a deeper and transformative relationship with God through self-examination, forsaking sin, and embracing God's grace.

The "Messianic Predictions" illumination associated with Isaiah chapter 11 offers a *visio divina* perspective through which to explore these themes. Christians long have interpreted the child (the "shoot" of Jesse, Isaiah 11:1) typologically as a prefiguration of Jesus (the baby born in Bethlehem). He has been identified as the infant who would "put his hand on the adder's den" (v.8). Isaiah's image of this child "playing by the cobra's den" stands behind John the Baptist's language for condemning the religiously self-confident Pharisees and Sadducees as "a brood of vipers." Isaiah chapters 8-11 focus heavily on predictions of the destruction of disobedient and unfaithful self-acclaimed religious guides. At the same

time, these dark predictions are balanced with images of hope; for God's ultimate plan is to effect reconciliation and communion with his people. This message of redemption is for all nations, not just the remnant of Israel.

Today's focal illumination visualizes the joy of hope at Messiah's coming amid Isaiah's many warnings of judgment. The portrayal is crowned with Hallelujahs that appear as images reminiscent of trumpet blasts announcing God's coming transformative act. This is set within a rainbow motif with names of God written on the bows: "Prince of Peace," "King of Kings," "Everlasting Father," and "Immanuel" all

announcing that "unto us a child is born" and "God is with us." The intricate geometric gold stamp sparkles like the sun and stars, adding further excitement to this spirit of celebration.

Advent's focus on waiting and preparing for the coming Messiah includes penitential themes that not only remind us of an historical event but also of our own current need to prepare ourselves for Christ's return. The promised Kingdom of God will be characterized both by the hope and peace of Isaiah's prophecies as well as the fierce judgment proclaimed by John the Baptist. What do the names in this illumination say to you about the overarching nature and work of Messiah? How does that impact your life during this season of Advent?



Year End Giving

We want to thank you for your generous gifts this season. Your support throughout the year enables our work, and we appreciate how your generosity benefits our community.

You may make your donations online through our website, by placing them in the Sunday offering or by mailing to the Cathedral office. Donations received by mail must be postmarked by December 31 to be included on your 2025 contributions. *Please note that the Cathedral office will have limited hours between December 24-January 2.* If you have a question about your pledge or other giving, please contact Cathedral Administrator Julie Toma at jtoma@kccathedral.org or 816.214.9936.



Formation for All Ages

Adults: Sundays

9:15 a.m. • Common Room

Episcopal Beliefs & Practices: A Study of the Prayer Book

Through a weekly study of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer we will explore the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. If you are curious about the Anglican way of Christianity, want to better understand familiar prayers and liturgies, or are seeking to engage more deeply in Christian practice and theology then this course is for you! No preparation needed, prayer books will be provided in class.

Children: Sundays

10:30 a.m. • Haden Hall

Cathedral Kids

Cathedral Kids meets during the first half of the 10:30 a.m. worship service and during this time we weave together our sacred stories and our Episcopal identity with the Weaving God's Promises curriculum. Children attending Cathedral Kids will meet their parents or guardians inside the tower doors during the passing of the peace.

Once a month, we observe **Family Worship Sundays**. These Sundays provide an opportunity for families to worship together. Worship Boxes with resources for children are in cabinet in the back cross aisle.

Upcoming Family Worship Dates: December 28, January 11

Youth

Sunday, December 14 | 6-8 p.m.

Advent Party & White Elephant Exchange

All 6-12th grade youth are welcome to gather in Haden Hall for Advent fun. Please keep white elephant gifts to a \$20 value.

Adults: Tuesdays

GHTC's Virtual Cafe • 7:30 a.m. • Zoom

The Virtual Café is open every Tuesday morning for Cathedral members and friends to connect; discuss current topics and activities happening at the Cathedral and in our community; and share what's on your mind. For details, visit kccathedral.org/other-activities.

Women's Bible Study • 12:30 p.m. • Zoom

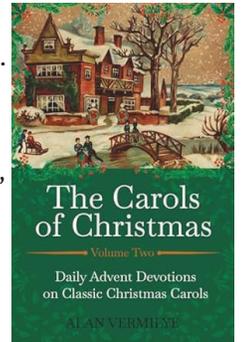
Conversation is lively, thought-provoking, and often irreverent. All are welcome. Visit our website, kccathedral.org/adultformation, for the Zoom link.

This Advent, we are reading *The Carols of Christmas, Volume 2* by Alan Vermilye. Each week looks at a well-known carol so it is easy to drop in if that's the one week you have available during Advent, no need to buy the book.

The Carols of Christmas, Volume 2 is a collection of devotionals based on beloved carols that will inspire readers to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. In this 28-day devotional journey, you will experience a fresh take on familiar melodies with personal reflections to guide you.

Books can be found at your favorite booksellers. Read closely before buying! We're reading Volume 2, but there are several different volumes of this book.

We hope you can join us for part of the Advent season!



Lectionary Bible Study • 6:45 p.m. • Zoom

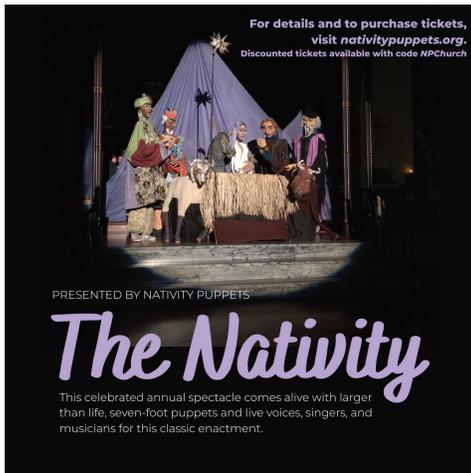
Join us for a discussion of context which will, with God's grace, lead us to a discussion of how an understanding of scripture can restore us to fullness with God and each other in Christ. Join the Lectionary Bible Study group in Realm or on our website, kccathedral.org/adultformation, for more details.

Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell, *Canon for Adult Formation*; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon*; The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano, *College, Youth & Children's Minister*; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Director of Music*; Zaheer Popo, *Associate Organist*; Julie Toma, *Cathedral Administrator*; Holly Campbell, *Events Coordinator*; Steve Berman, *Finance Coordinator*; Dr. Joan Bergstrom, *Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator*; Angie Graham, *Facility Manager*; Bianca Jackson, *Assistant Facility Manager*; The Very Rev. Peter J. DeVeau, *Dean Emeritus*; Canon John Schaefer, *Canon Musician Emeritus*

The Vestry: Steve Moore, *Senior Warden*, smoore@sheltonmoore.com; Nigel Jones, *Junior Warden*, redbox712@gmail.com, (405) 747-6550; Chip Buckner, *Treasurer*; Blain Lagergren, *Clerk*; Bill Boyd; Julie Brogno; Colin Chambers; Pat Decker; Steve King; Christine Morrison; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley

Upcoming Events & Announcements

For more info and signup links: kccathedral.org/events



Today | 2 p.m.

The Nativity Puppets

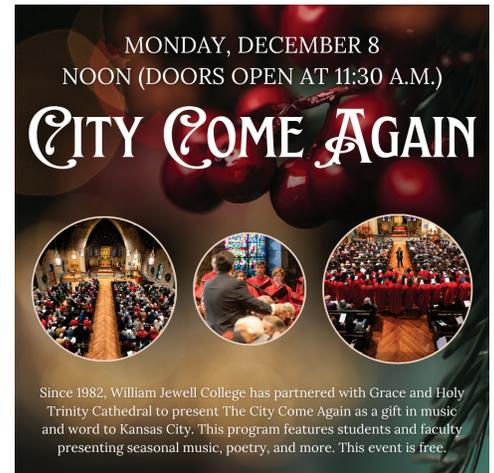
This celebrated annual spectacle comes alive today with the final performance. Purchase tickets at nativitypuppets.org. Discounted tickets with code: NPCChurch



Today | 5 p.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Our annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols contains Bible readings and music provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection and preparation as we anticipate the joy of Christmas and the hope of Christ's return.



Monday, December 8 | 12 p.m.

The City Come Again

Since 1982, William Jewell College has partnered with the Cathedral to present this gift to the city in words and music, featuring the college's Handbell & Concert choirs. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. This event is free.



Saturday, December 13 | 5:30-9 p.m.

Mingle and Munch

You are invited to fellowship at the home of Kristen & Mathias Nichols in the KC northland. Bring a beverage and dish (appetizer or dessert) to share and wear your favorite fun holiday sweater/outfit. RSVP at kccathedral.org/advent.



Flowers and Greens will once again adorn the Cathedral as part of our celebrations. Your gift in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one helps provide festive decorations for Christmas Eve through The Feast of the Epiphany. This visual proclamation of the glory of the Incarnation adds so much to our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

- Give online using the QR code.
- Text "GIVETOHTC flowers" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
- Mail a check to the Cathedral office or place in Sunday's offering. To have your name appear in the Christmas bulletins, make your gift by Wednesday, December 17. (Gifts received after this date will appear in subsequent bulletins.)



**Thank you for your generous gifts
in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!**