

# GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



"Enough" by Lauren Wright Pittman, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

## The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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](http://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: Fugue and Chorale on *Helmsley*

Christopher Tambling (1964-2015)

### 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered  
by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector        The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
                  the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
                  and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
                  the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
                  the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
                  and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
                  “Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
                  He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
                  He will come and save you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
                  and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
                  and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
                  and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
                  and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
                  the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
                  and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
                  but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
                  nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
                  but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
                  and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
                  they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
                  and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.  
The Word of the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

**The promise he made to our fathers, \***

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

## Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Lector Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## \* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

Gospeller When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.                                                                                                            |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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.                                                                                                 |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Intercessor   | For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Intercessor   | For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Intercessor   | For this city and for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.                                                                                                                          |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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, |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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.                                            |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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.                                                             |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Intercessor   | For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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

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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: 76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler (1806–1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889), alt. 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

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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: 54 "Savior of the nations, come!"

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483–1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340–397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812–1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?–1616). Copyright: Words: Sts.3-4 © 1982, James Waring McCrady. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Max Reger (1873-1916)

## Serving Today

|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Presider             | The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell    |
| Preacher             | The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse |
| Deacon               | The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano      |
| Organist             | Zaheer Popo                       |
| Lector               | Lenette Johnson                   |
| Eucharistic Minister | Terri Curran                      |
| Usher                | Deborah Carr, Greg Coffey         |
| Altar Guild          | Sharon Hudson, Jennifer Mason     |

# Today's flowers

Today's flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Willie Joe Finnie, Jr. by Jackye Finnie.

Altar flowers are a great way to commemorate an event near a specific date, or honor/remember someone close to your heart. Donations of any amount toward the weekly flowers can be given by anyone who wants to acknowledge special events or people in their lives.

See [kccathedral.org/flowers](http://kccathedral.org/flowers) for more information or contact Julie Toma.



# GLOVES & WARM SOCKS

For men & women at



**Shelter KC**

A Kansas City Rescue Mission

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

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# 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](mailto:bwegener@kccathedral.org). View the prayer list anytime: [kccathedral.org/prayers](http://kccathedral.org/prayers)

**Pray for:** Gayle Webb; Konan; Zachary Pearce; Ann Ryder; 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 Duloher; 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:** The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Mountain Grove—The Rev. Dr. Linda Milholen, Priest in Charge; The Rev. Bradford Ellsworth, Vicar Emeritus  
Diocesan Treasurer – Ms. Anne Jetter Maas, Associate Treasurer – Mr. Thomas Kokjer, & The Diocesan Finance Committee

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

## December 15

Bill Brown  
Lindsay Munsell

## December 16

Manni Obiesie

## December 17

Troy & Davina Reed  
Chris Morrison

## December 19

Steven & Jameela Lewis

## December 20

Julie Toma

# This Week at GHTC

Learn more about our weekly services & opportunities for study and fellowship: [kccathedral.org](http://kccathedral.org)

## 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  
6 p.m. Youth Advent Party

## Tuesday, December 16

7:30 a.m. Meeting: Finance Committee+  
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 17

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

## Thursday, December 18

5:30 p.m. Meeting: Vestry+  
6 p.m. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting  
7 p.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir

## Sunday, December 21

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  
5 p.m. Order for Evening and Holy Eucharist

+On Zoom  
\*In person and streamed on YouTube @kccathedral

# Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

## Third Sunday of Advent: Rejoicing

### "Two Cures" Illumination (Mark 5:25-45 relating to Matthew 11:1-11)

Today is called "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday. On this Sunday churches frequently put aside the penitential purple color of this season for a rose (or pink) color denoting joy. The reading from Isaiah 35 speaks of "the wilderness becoming glad" and "the desert rejoicing and blossoming." The "Magnificat" (a Canticle alternative) from Luke 1:46-55 records Mary as singing "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." But, amid these familiar expressions of joy also comes the Gospel reading on John the Baptist's despair and doubt from the prison cell where he soon will be executed. Where is the joy in this?

Today's lectionary theme focuses on finding deep and abiding joy in God's love and presence. But this joy isn't simply a fair-weather emotion. It is also joy that exists alongside hardships and can be shared despite life's challenges. These readings can help us expand our understanding of what God's joy truly means. The Saint John's Bible does not have artwork directly interpreting this theme from today's lectionary texts. However, the "Two Cures" illumination from Mark 5 offers visio divina insight parallel to the "works of power" evidence that Jesus cites for John the Baptist in response to his haunting questions. Here the actions of Jesus carry us beyond explanation to a revelation of who he is.

In Christian tradition John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy. Yet, in today's Gospel reading, we find him wondering whether he might have dedicated his life to the wrong promise and the wrong person. In a faith crisis, he inquires of Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (v. 3). Jesus' response likely is not what John was expecting, but it was exceptionally revealing for those able to intuit its meaning: "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." The answer to John's question could not be a pronouncement, for who Jesus is is too elusive and mysterious to be contained in a simple declaration capable of meeting John's need. The reality of who he is emerges through the everyday lives and events of ordinary people who are all around us. It comes to us quietly and mysteriously over time and through the very real experiences of life.

The "Two Cures" icon offers specific examples of the revelatory work to which Jesus refers in his response to John the Baptist. Note in the icon the healing of a woman with hemorrhages and of the daughter of a synagogue leader (Jairus). In the first panel, Jairus travels to Jesus to get him to

go and lay hands on and heal his very sick daughter. On the way, in panel two, a woman who is ritually unclean touches Jesus' cloak and is healed (see the power gone from his now limp cloak). In the third panel Jesus grasps the wrist of the girl while making the sign of blessing. The girl is healed. What do these portrayals of Jesus' work tell us about who he is?

Can you imagine yourself in these panels or in the condition of John the Baptist? What do these stories and images reveal to you about God? In what ways do these actions promise fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies? How do they reveal joy to you during this Advent?



# 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](http://kccathedral.org/other-activities).

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

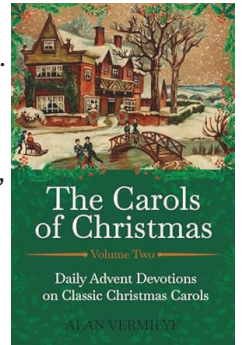
Conversation is lively, thought-provoking, and often irreverent. All are welcome. Visit our website, [kccathedral.org/adultformation](http://kccathedral.org/adultformation), for the Zoom link.

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](http://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@skeltonmoore.com](mailto:smoore@skeltonmoore.com); Nigel Jones, *Junior Warden*, [redbox712@gmail.com](mailto:redbox712@gmail.com), (405) 747-6550; Chip Buckner, *Treasurer*; Blain Lagergren, *Clerk*; Bill Boyd; Julie Brogno; Colin Chambers; Pat Decker; Paget Higgins; Steve King; Christine Morrison; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley

# Upcoming Events & Announcements

For more info and signup links: [kccathedral.org/events](https://kccathedral.org/events)

## Christmas at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

### Christmas Eve 5 p.m.

Our children tell the Christmas Gospel story through their pageant. After the service, all are invited to Haden Hall for a Cookies and Cocoa reception.

### Christmas Eve 10 p.m.

Traditional, familiar carols and service music will be featured. Choral Prelude of Christmas music begins at 9:30 p.m. Incense is used at this service.

### Christmas Day 10 a.m.

Greet the Incarnate Lord on Christmas morning with a celebration of Holy Eucharist with carols and organ music.

415 W 13th Street | Kansas City, MO | [kccathedral.org](https://kccathedral.org)

### 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](mailto:jtoma@kccathedral.org) or 816.214.9936.



### Christmas Greens & Flowers

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!**