

# THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

5 p.m.



"Terrifying joyous news" by Lauren Wright Pittman

Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

# Welcome to Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral!

*"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."*

The celebration of the Nativity of our Lord is such a wonderful time to give thanks for our family and friends. This time of year is so special and sacred, and a time that we, as Christians, hold dear for remembering our salvation through the birth of Jesus. God gave us a great gift on that quiet night in Bethlehem, and we continue to enjoy it as we receive it over and over each year. God's love for us is beyond anything we can imagine, and the best way we can respond to it is to love back. As Christ loves us, we are called to love one another. At this most sacred time of year I wish you peace, happiness, good health and great joy throughout this season and the New Year. May this season be a blessed one for all of you, and may the warmth of Christ's light fill you with all hope.



## Welcome!

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.

## Subscribe to Our Newsletter

Sign up for email news about special events, worship and ways to connect with our community.



## Children

Children are welcome in all our services and activities for them are available on the cabinet in the back aisle.

## Restrooms

Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered and accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.

## Hearing Assist Devices

Connect your Bluetooth enabled devices through the Listen Everywhere app. Detailed instructions are available on the table near the entrance. Other (not Bluetooth) hearing assist devices are also available on the table near the entrance.

## Service Notes

Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (\*). Page numbers listed are from red The Book of Common Prayer and hymn numbers are from *The Hymnal 1982*.

## Our Mission

As the Episcopal Cathedral Church in the heart of Kansas City we seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves while striving for justice, peace and respect for every human being. Our worship, prayer and formation support the restorative strength of our community, reconciling all people to God and one another through Christ.



@kccathedral

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to YouTube. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

# Christmas Offering

Fifty percent of the Christmas offering is always donated to one or more organizations that are doing good in our world. This year the offering for outreach will be donated to the Harvesters: The Community Food Network. Please consider making a generous and sacrificial gift. The remainder of the offering is used for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

Offerings may be placed in the offering plate, made securely [online](https://kccathedral.org) (kccathedral.org, click on “Give” or scan the QR code), by texting “GIVETOGHTC christmas” to 73256.



*About texting to give: This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. Privacy Policy - <https://legal.acst.com/privacy-policy> Terms of Service - <https://legal.acst.com/terms-service-use>*

## Harvesters: The Community Food Network

*Harvesters mobilizes the power of our community to create equitable access to nutritious food and address the root causes and impact of hunger.*

Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 900 nonprofit agencies including emergency food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, children’s homes and others. They also offer education programs to increase community awareness of hunger and teach about good nutrition.



As a food bank, they do not provide direct services to families and seniors. They acquire, store and distribute food and household items to their network. Their network is made up of a variety of organizations including food pantries, community kitchens, shelters, children’s homes, schools, churches, community centers, health clinics, libraries and others. These agencies distribute groceries and meals directly to those in need.

During fiscal year 2023, Harvesters’ agencies helped Harvesters distribute more than 63 million pounds of food, providing more than 52.5 million meals.

Harvesters is a certified member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks.

For every dollar donated, you can help Harvesters provide two meals to those in need. These meals make it possible for a child to focus in school, for a mom to make it through her night shift and pay her family’s bills and for a senior citizen to avoid life-threatening illnesses. Your generosity transforms lives!



## HOLY EUCHARIST

VOLUNTARY: Chorale Improvisation on *In Dulci Jubilo*, Op. 75, No. 2

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

# The Word of God

\* ENTRANCE HYMN: 83 "O come, all ye faithful"

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]

\* OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Alleluia. Unto us a child is born.  
 People Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.

\* SONG OF PRAISE: 96 "Angels we have heard on high"

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

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958). Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector 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.  
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.  
**Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \***  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**  
Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \***  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**  
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.  
**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \***  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**  
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.  
**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \***  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.  
**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \***  
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;**  
**he will judge the peoples with equity."**  
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.  
**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \***  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**  
He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Lector For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

*Children participating in the pageant are invited to come forward and gather near the font during the Gospel Hymn.*

\* GOSPEL HYMN: 89 "It came upon the midnight clear"

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

*Tonight our children proclaim the Gospel. You are invited to sing the familiar carols as the children tell the story.*

## HYMN: 79 "O little town of Bethlehem"

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

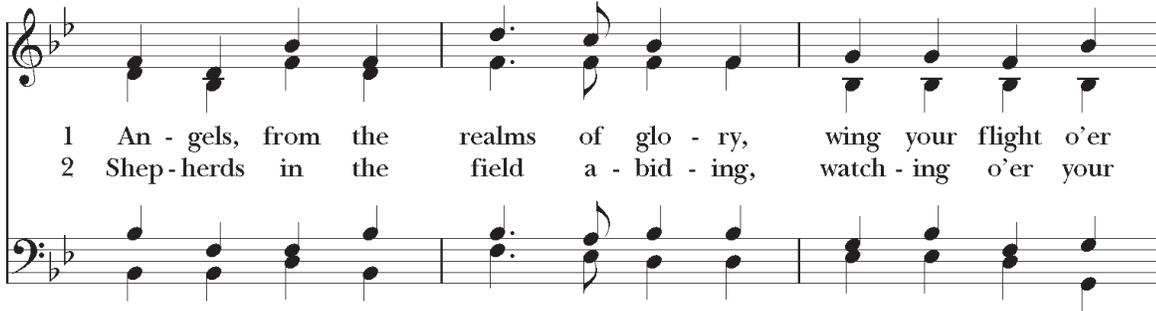
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

## HYMN: 101 "Away in a manger"

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

HYMN: 93 "Angels from the realms of glory" *verse 1, reading, verse 2*



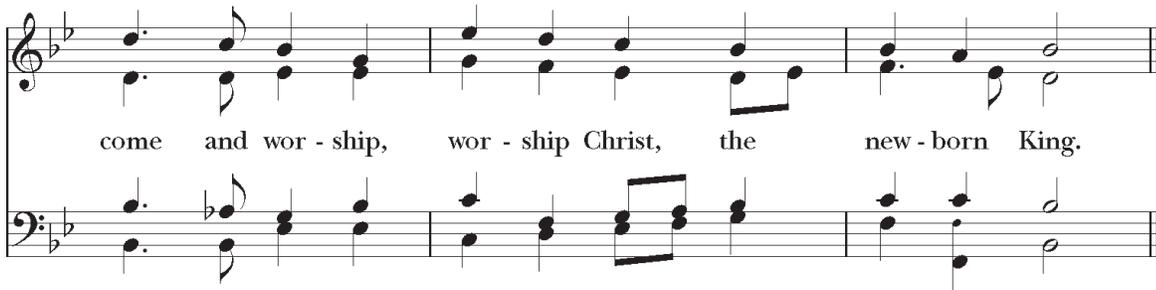
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your



all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;



*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: come and wor - ship,  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

HYMN: 107 "Good Christian friends, rejoice"

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

*Children participating in the pageant remain on the chancel steps.*

HOMILY

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.

\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger.

On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen.**

Intercessor On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world. We pray especially for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Amy our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Grant reconciliation to those besought with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night. We pray especially for those affected by war or gun violence.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we mention now, either silently or aloud, that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.  
Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor O God, grant us all these things for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People Amen.**

Presider O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

\* THE PEACE

page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

# The Holy Communion

We invite you to donate to the Christmas Offering today. Checks may be made out to GHTC with "Christmas Offering" in the memo line or use the Christmas offering envelope. You can also give online (link/QR code on page 3). Fifty percent of the Christmas offering will go to Harvesters, The Community Food Network. Thank you for your generosity.

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY: *In Dulci Jubilo*

James Vivian (b.1974)

### \* OFFERTORY HYMN: 93 "Angels, from the realms of glory"

3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*  
ye have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).



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

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S161: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

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

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

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.*

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: 78 "O little town of Bethlehem"

*Unison or harmony*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

COMMUNION HYMN: 101 "Away in a manger"



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.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Copyright: Music: Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

COMMUNION HYMN: 112 "In the bleak midwinter"

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

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

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.

\* CANDLE LIGHTING

*Please pass the flame to your neighbor.*

\* BLESSING OF A CRÈCHE

Presider The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

People **And we beheld his glory.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God our Creator, to restore our fallen race you spoke the effectual word, and the Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary: be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* HYMN: 111 "Silent night, holy night"

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  
 hea - ven - 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. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792–1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820–1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824–1910).

*Please extinguish your candle. Following the service, place your candle in one of the baskets near the exits.*

\* CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, whose Son was sent to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL *The Deacon dismisses the people.*

People Thanks be to God.

\* SENDING HYMN: 87 "Hark! the herald angels sing"

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 see; 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!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

## Pageant Cast

Narrators	Margo Galus, Athan Nichols
Mary	Aubrey Nichols
Joseph	George Lagergren

*The roles of Shepherds, Angels, Stars and Animals are played by the children.*

## Serving Today

Presider and Preacher	The Rt. Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop of West Missouri
Assisting	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Assisting	The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell
Deacon	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Deacon	The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano
Organists	Dr. Lucas Fletcher, Zaheer Popo
Lector	Nora Elisabeth
Intercessor	Athan Nichols
Eucharistic Ministers	Steve King, Kelsey Leftwich-Yazell
Acolytes	Theo Elisabeth, Athan Nichols
Ushers	Courtney Fletcher, Beth Keyse, Steve Moore
Altar Guild	Kristy Moore, Jennifer Mason, Sharon Hudson
Livestreaming/Sound	Leticia Porter, Christine Morrison

*Thank you to all the volunteers who help make our Christmas services successful.*



Following the service, all are invited to Haden Hall for hot chocolate and cookies.

The hot chocolate bar is sponsored by our Youth Ministry & Children's Ministry.

Haden Hall is located upstairs from the tower entrance.

## Thanksgivings and Memorials for Flowers and Greens



- in memory of Lillian and John Knoell, Marie Knoell, Ethel B Woodley, and Florence and Merritt Royer, and in thanksgiving for our many blessings by Donna Knoell & Jim Royer
- in thanksgiving for our children by Beth and Andy Keyse
- in celebration and loving memory of our family by Ric & Janet Sweeting
- in thanksgiving for my family by Sharon Hudson
- in memory of John L. Cipolla by Barbara Cipolla
- In thanksgiving for the Cathedral Clergy and Staff: James, Clare, Barbara, Julie, Lucas, Zaheer, Joan, Steve, Angie, Bianca, Brian, John, and Farzana by Dean Andy
- in thanksgiving for Luke & Hannah Woolley and Emmy & Ashby Lane by Pat & Kay Woolley
- in thanksgiving for our children, Theo & Nora by Eric Elisabeth & Julie Brogno
- in thanksgiving by Steve King & Cliff Dubroc
- in thanksgiving for Dr. Lucas Fletcher, Director of Music; and in memory of our parents, Clarence & Dorothy Risebig by Meribeth & Claudia Risebig
- in thanksgiving for my son Thaddeus Samuel Withers & family by Joyce Gillespie
- in thanksgiving for our family by Whitney & Day Kerr
- in thanksgiving for my family by Carolyn McLeroy
- in thanksgiving for Melanie Boyd and in memory of Reginald & Fleeda Franklin by Muriel Boyd
- in thanksgiving for our children Elvarea, Ryan and Nick by Bob & Tara Bennett
- in honor of the GHTC Trinity Choir by Nigel Jones
- in thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren, and in memory of my parents by Paget Higgins
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Keyse, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Grauer, Mr. and Mrs. Siras A. Stocks, Dr. S. Allan Stocks by Beth and Andy Keyse
- in memory of Paula Morgan Fritschen by Dr. Dennis Morgan
- in memory of Barbara J. Bucker by Wm. Robert Bucker
- in loving memory of Alice Lindquist, Gertrude Lewandowski, Jesse Hockett, and Jerry Bugh by The Lewandowski family
- in thanksgiving for our parents' direction: *not what you have but who you are*; in memory of Howard & Ruby Weaver and Gordon & Thelma Wesner by Terri & Glen Wesner
- in thanksgiving for my family & friends and in memory of Willie Joe Finnie Jr. by Jackye Finnie
- in thanksgiving by Bruce & Lill Weekes