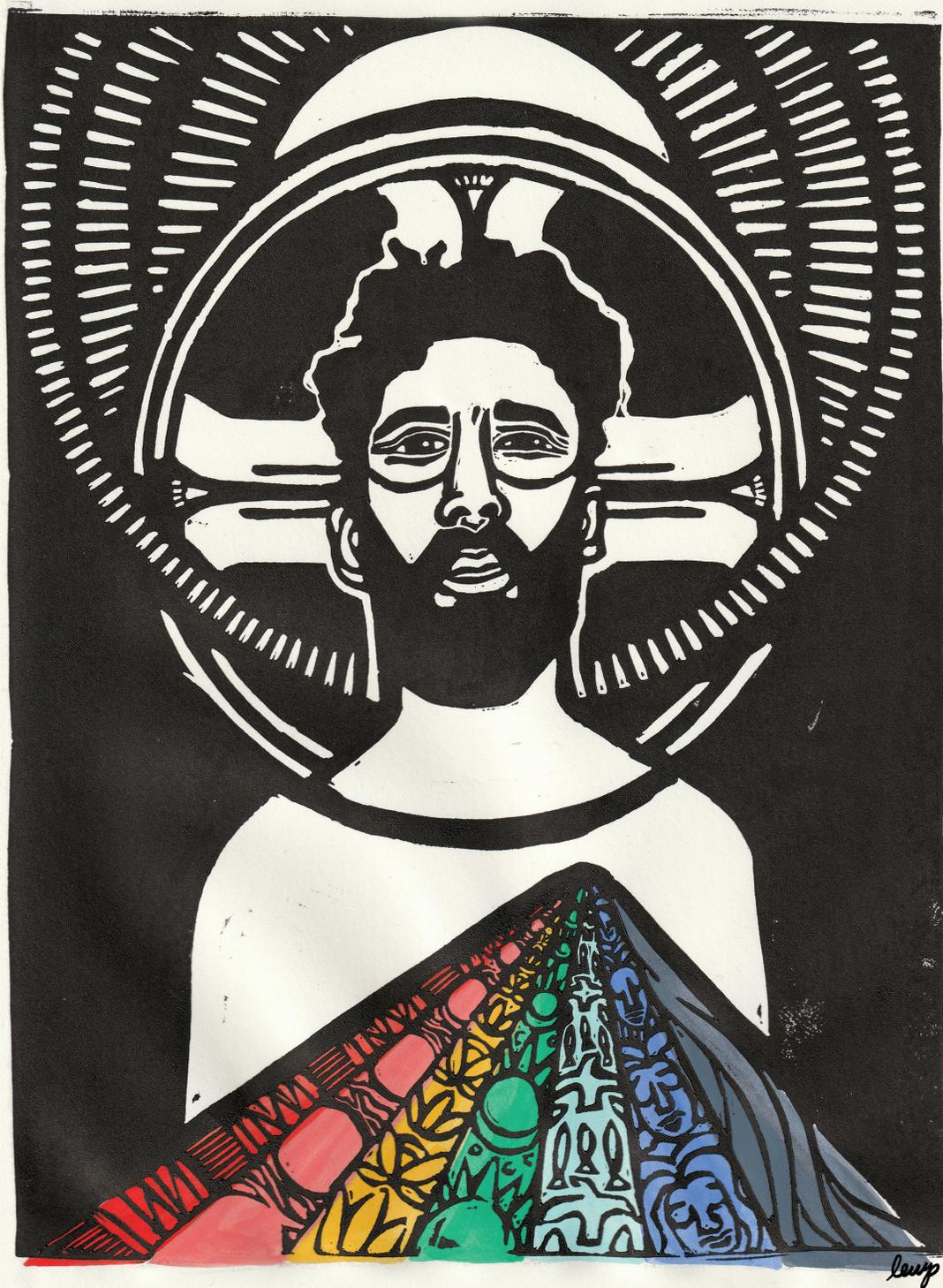


GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



laup
"Through Him, All Things," by Lauren Wright Pittman, © sanctifiedart.org

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 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: Chorale Fantasia on *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* BuxWV 223 Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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.**

* GLORIA

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All
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Lector I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Lector Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

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

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

Gospeller In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

* THE NICENE CREED

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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.

* THE PEACE

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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: 99 "Go tell it on the mountain"

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

- 1 While shep - herds kept their
- 2 The shep - herds feared and
- 3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Copyright: Music: Arrangement © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

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

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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: 100 "Joy to the world!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Today

Presider and Preacher The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse

Deacon The Rev. Barbara Wegener

Organist Zaheer Popo

Lector Chuck Ritter

Eucharistic Minister Jennifer Mason

Usher Jim Crum

Altar Guild Candy McDowell, Jennifer Mason

Thanksgivings and Memorials for Flowers and Greens



- in honor of Beth & Dean Andy Keyse by Siobhan & Peter Cottone
- 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

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: Charlotte Lipari; Osha; Carolyn McGlothen; Kimberly Bacchus; Ahmed al Ahmed; Gayle Webb; Konan Zachary Pearce; Ann Ryder; Erin Kalkbrenner; All those injured in the Shooting in Stockton, CA; 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; 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: Ella Cook; Those lost in the Bondi Beach Shootings; Maliyah Brown; 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, New York City—The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop
Diversity and Reconciliation Commission

Holiday Office Closures

The Cathedral office is closed December 31-January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Dean Andy at 256.762.5889, Father James at 816.739.2930 or Deacon Barbara at 816.739.8032.

This Week at GHTC

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

Sunday, December 28

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 5 p.m. Order for Evening and Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 30

- 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 31

- 12 p.m. Noonday Prayer*
- 12 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Thursday, January 1

- 6 p.m. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting

Sunday, January 4

- 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

December 25

Chris Bridgforth & Nick Flowers

James McCaffree
Nora Elisabeth

December 28

Dennis Morgan

December 31

Steve Davis
Phyllis Shaffer

December 29

Frank & Charlotte Colburn
Patrick Franken

January 1

Mike Bennett
Emily Akins & Sergio Moreno-Denton

December 30

Bob & Tara Bennett
Premkumar & Caroline John

January 2

Day & Whitney Kerr

Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

First Sunday After Christmas: The New Light of the Incarnate Word

“The Word Made Flesh” Illumination (Visio Divina theme for Matthew 2:13-23)

Today's lectionary themes focus on the “new light” of God's Incarnate Word (celebrated on Christmas Day) which now must begin to shine forth in our lives. It emphasizes the fact that Christmas is not just one day but is a year-round commitment to seeking God's light in all of life. The Gospel reading highlights God's providential care of the infant Jesus and parallels the story of the Exodus. The Old Testament reading from Isaiah 63 acknowledges God's abiding care and deliverance and aligns with the Epistle reading which declares that in Christ, God became incarnate to “destroy the power of death” (Hebrews 2). The Psalm 148 reading calls for all creation to praise God for the salvation brought through Christ. These affirmations are integrated in today's collect which speaks of the “new light of God's incarnate Word” enkindled in our hearts connecting Christmas to daily living.

Saint John's Bible has no special treatments specifically connected to these texts, but the central theme is visualized in “The Word Made Flesh” illumination of John's Gospel. In this depiction Jesus is portrayed as “the Light of the World” who reveals the true nature of reality through his life and teachings. Among the images employed to convey this seminal theological affirmation are the small, white, stenciled crosses taken from the transfiguration illumination of Mark 9 and the filigree used in various illuminations to denote divine presence and the malleability of time. This illumination also intimates a relationship between the opening chapter of John and the creation narratives of Genesis. In this depiction the image of Christ seems to be emerging out of the darkness of chaos on the left and advancing toward light and orderliness on the right side of the panel. The cosmic space visual behind Christ's head was inspired by a photo from the Hubble Space Telescope and is intended to further identify Christ as an agent of creation.

To Christ's left in cursive lettering are written the words of Colossians 1:15-20. This text expands on John's message that “The Word became flesh and lived among us.” The inclusion of this passage is intended to connect the theology of Christ's work of reconciliation on the one hand and his role in the final judgment on the other.

In today's Gospel text Matthew contrasts two rival kings. One of these ultimately must bow to the other. Herod the Great personifies the powers of this world that seek to dominate at all costs. Jesus personifies the reign of God that also demands our full allegiance. In the Gospel narrative, Herod's power seems to reign supreme for a brief period when the infant Son of God has to flee as a displaced refugee to Egypt. In the end, however, it is Herod who dies and thereby ceases to reign. King Jesus returns to settle first in the town of Nazareth and ultimately as Lord of Heaven. On this first Sunday after Christmas a choice confronts us: which lord will we serve?



Word Made Flesh, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Diaper Drive

With your support, HappyBottoms, the KC metro area's diaper bank, is able to provide thousands of children each month with clean diapers.

Sizes 4, 5, 6 needed most. Open packages accepted.



Bring your diapers to the basket in the Tower or donate online at kccathedral.org/outreach.

not having a clean diaper can really stink

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: Today, January 11

Youth

Youth in grades 6-12 meet Sundays at 9:15 a.m. for Formation and 6 p.m. for Youth Group.

Youth group meetings resume in January.

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.

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.

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.



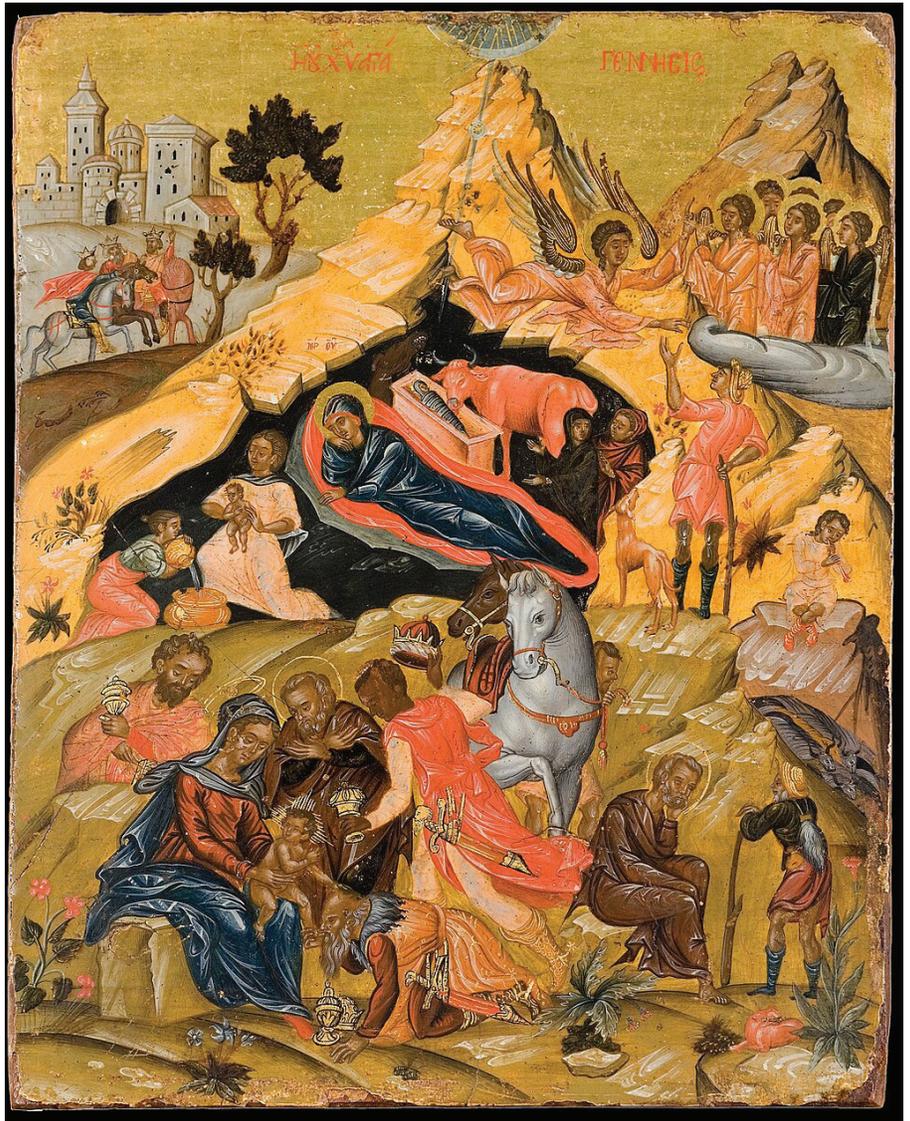
Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell, *Canon for Adult Formation*; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon*; The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano, *College, Youth & Children's Minister*; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Director of Music*; Zaheer Popo, *Associate Organist*; 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; Nigel Jones, *Junior Warden*, 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

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church,

If you imagine yourself as a character in the Gospel Nativity readings, you'll soon realize that the first Christmas was not about staying home by a warm hearth with chestnuts roasting and stockings hanging. Everyone in these passages is on the move, mostly without warning and against their will. Joseph and Mary are summoned from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census. Shepherds, at the behest of an angel, leave their sheep in the fields to see what all the fuss is about. And the three Magi, my favorites, are just sitting there minding their own kingdoms when a star intrudes on their lives and leads them on an unplanned and uncomfortable trip far away from home.

The Anglican poet T.S. Eliot wrote a poem about that arduous journey from the perspective of one of the Magi, recounting, among other things, the difficulty of getting camels to do as they are told. The three kings' encounter with the newborn son of God was hard, disruptive, and unsettling. And when they returned home—by a different road to elude capture by Herod—it no longer felt like home. In Eliot's retelling, the first Christmas turned the Magis' lives upside down, and they had mixed feelings about the whole experience.



The Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi, Greek Orthodox icon, circa 17th century

You might be greeting Christmas this year with the awe of the shepherds or the wariness of the Magi. Either way, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus came both to experience all of the joy, uncertainty, and brokenness of our humanity, and to bring God's kingdom near. The birth of the Christ Child heralds a new reality in which the last shall be first, the hungry will be fed, and the stranger among us shall be welcomed as a beloved child of God.

This Christmas, I hope that you will join me in proclaiming these good tidings by supporting the most vulnerable among us with a donation to one of these Episcopal Church ministries:

Episcopal Migration Ministries, which works with dioceses and ministry networks to serve migrants and protect their rights.

Good Friday Offering for the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which supports lifesaving ministry in Gaza and across the Holy Land.

Episcopal Relief & Development, which works for lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change.

I am grateful to be on the journey of faith with you. May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

Celebrate 2025 and look ahead to 2026

You Are Invited

Annual Meeting

following the 10:30 a.m. service

Sunday,
January 25

no 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. service



Elect new Vestry members & honor outgoing members



Vestry Nominations

We will elect four members of the congregation to the Vestry Class of 2029 at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25. If you are interested in being nominated or have someone you would like to nominate, please contact Dean Keyse, akeyse@kccathedral.org, no later than January 18. Get more information at kccathedral.org/vestry.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

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

Epiphany Home Blessing

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, consider participating in an ancient tradition known as “Chalking the Door.” Chalk and prayers will be distributed on January 11.



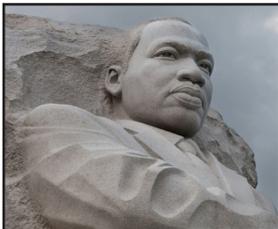
You are Invited

Warm up on a winter night with food, fun, and fellowship while sharing chili recipes and enjoying games for all ages.

Bring your best chili, whether it's a secret family recipe or a creative twist, and your favorite board game.

Let us know you are coming:

kccathedral.org/events



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Evensong Service

The Diocese of West Missouri invites you to join us for an Evensong Service in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 17 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral at 4 p.m. The Rt. Rev. John T.W. Harmon will join us as a guest speaker for the service. A reception will follow. Register at diowestmo.org/events.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, January 18 | 5 p.m.

Choral Evensong is a centuries-old Anglican musical service of sung Evening Prayer that combines music, prayer, and scripture into a contemplative experience. It features The Trinity Choir singing composed settings of the psalms, responses, and canticles, providing a peaceful and reflective pause as the day closes. Following the service, all are welcome to take communion in the Chapel.

Choral Evensong



MUSIC, PRAYER,
SCRIPTURE