

GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



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The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024 • 8 a.m.

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- If you are a visitor or new attendee, we invite you to fill out a welcome card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate or complete the form online. Use this QR code to access the form.
- 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. *Thank you for your generosity.*



HOLY EUCHARIST

VOLUNTARY: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

settings by G.F. Kauffmann, Max Reger

The Word of God

* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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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

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Presider Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Lord, have mercy.

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Lector See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79 *read by alternating whole verse*

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Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

Lector I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

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

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

Gospeller In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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.

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

from *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary*

Intercessor Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go, that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Hear these prayers we offer as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For those in civil authority: May they be guided by hope and not fear.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For this faith community: Amid joys and sorrows, let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and the stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture your creation and ever proclaim its wonders.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. We especially pray for those on our Cathedral prayer list, and for any others you wish to name either silently or aloud,

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor For those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud, Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guides us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

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.

PRAYER FOR THE TRANSITION OF OUR NEXT BISHOP

All Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the election of our next Bishop, Amy. Watch over Amy, her husband Jared, and her children Elise, Jacob, and Woodrow as they prepare to leave friends, colleagues, and neighbors to join us here in the Diocese of West Missouri. Open our hearts to receive your inspiration and wisdom so that we may joyfully welcome them into our life and ministry in You. This we ask in grateful thanksgiving. 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.

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: 657 "Love divine, all loves excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - mighty - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hymfyddol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Serving Today

Presider	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Preacher	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Deacon	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher
Lector	Ed Miller
Eucharistic Minister	Kelsey Leftwich-Yazell
Usher	Jim Crum
Altar Guild	Sharon Hudson

We come together as a family to worship, learn, grow, and love. It is here that we ask God to bless our family, formed in faith.

When we live together as a family, we experience many things, both good and bad. We rejoice together in times of celebration, and we mourn together in times of sadness.

It is in this spirit that I ask you to support our family, formed in faith, and pledge to the work and ministry of our Cathedral in 2025. It is through your love and support of this family that we are able to do much good in this place and in this community. Thank you for your support, and for being a wonderful part of this family.



O God, our loving Creator and giver of all good gifts, you made us in your image and breathed in us a spirit of generosity.

Bless our family, formed in faith, strengthen us and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship.

Move us, we pray, to give as we have received — abundantly, generously, and joyfully — that our common ministry may ever bear witness to your unfailing grace.

This we ask in the Name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Place your 2025 pledge online (kccathedral.org/stewardship) or by returning a pledge card in the offering or mail.

Year End Giving

We want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the generous gifts we receive this time of year. Your support throughout the year makes our work possible, but during the holidays, we are especially aware of your generosity and how it 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 2024 contributions. *Please note that the Cathedral office will have limited hours between December 24-January 1.* 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 Prayer List

Pray for: Mary Sklar; Sherry and Randy Mueller; Melanie Boyd; Diego Garcia; Darvin Weaver; Ralph and Billie; D'angelo and Deondra; Kendal Van Scoyk; Kurt Brack; Sally Livengood; Betty Loy; Holiday Travelers; All impacted by recent hurricanes; Phineas Gitta; LaGreta Gitta; Anne Huston Hayes; All families affected by gun violence; Charlotte Colburn; Joyce Morrow; All those fighting cancer; Doyle White; Mike Barzee & Family; Jinny McCoy; Larry McMullen; Phyllis & James Shaffer; Bonita White; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; First Responders

Comfort and Peace: the family and friends of Donald Bradley; the family and friends of Robert Boehm; the family and friends of The Rev. Tim Murphy; the Welch and Immenschuh families; the family of Bennett Twenter; the family and friends of Judy Lafferty; the family and friends of Carl Schneider; all families affected by gun violence

Pray for the Departed: Donald Bradley; Gabriel Kney; Robert Boehm; The Rev. Tim Murphy; Joann Immenschuh; Bennett Twenter; Judy Lafferty; Carl Schneider; Jinny McCoy; for all those lost in war; for all who have died from gun violence

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Raytown; The Rev. Jeff Hurst, Rector; Education for Ministry

For the complete prayer list: kccathedral.org/prayers

To place a person on this prayer list, please contact Deacon Barbara Wegener, bwegener@kccathedral.org. Requests are held in prayer for 90 days.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 8

Bailey Darr

December 10

Luca Janky

December 12

Alex Ratcliff

December 9

Nick Douthat
Craig Heslop
Meribeth Risebig

December 11

Dani Valencia
Mortensen

December 13

Christopher Black
Scott Courson
Ty Gardner
John Morrison

Today's Flowers

are given to the Glory of God and ...

- in thanksgiving for my son, Brad McLeroy—Carolyn McLeroy
- in memory of Zan Crum—Jim Crum

Please contact the Cathedral office if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary: jtoma@kccathedral.org or 816.474.8260.

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 for more information or contact Julie Toma, jtoma@kccathedral.org.



Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. W. James Yazell, *Associate Priest*; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon*; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Associate Organist*; Clare Stern-Burbano, *College, Youth & Children's Minister*; Julie Toma, *Cathedral Administrator*; Melissa Kilpatrick, *Communications Coordinator*; 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@rdm.law; Valerie Johnson, *Junior Warden*, johnson_jb@hotmail.com; Chip Buckner, *Treasurer*; Blain Lagergren, *Clerk*; Julie Brogno; Sharon Cheers; Sara Copeland; Pat Decker; Nigel Jones; Paula Livingston-Lewis; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley; Michael Thomas

Weekly Services

Sundays: 8 (in person) & 10:30 a.m. (in person/online)—Holy Eucharist; 5 p.m.—Order for Evening & Holy Eucharist/Choral Evensong (in person). Wednesdays: Noon—Noonday Prayer (online); 12:05 p.m. (in person)—Holy Eucharist.



Socks & Gloves Drive

During the months of November and December, Outreach will be collecting warm socks and gloves for both men and women. These will be donated to Shelter KC at both the men's and women's centers.



The Emergency Food Assistance PROGRAM

In partnership with St. Paul's on Main, we have been invited to a new volunteer opportunity once a month on Saturday mornings at St. Paul's from approximately 9:30 a.m. to noon. This is to assist with distribution of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program).

Upcoming TEFAP dates are December 21 and January 18. For additional information on TEFAP, please visit kccathedral.org/outreach.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or bwegener@kccathedral.org.

Tackling hunger, one meal at a time



Nourish KC and The Prospect are continuing the fight against food insecurity in our community! Together, they are rescuing fresh food, and serving up nutritious meals, to create long-lasting change in KC. You can make a real difference, one meal at a time. Whether you donate, volunteer, or spread the word, YOU can help us tackle hunger in KC! Let's feed hope together.

Here's easy ways you can help:

- **Donate.** Every dollar counts in providing meals and education for our community
- **Volunteer.** Lend a helping hand at our community kitchen or events
- **Support the Nook.** Grab your favorite coffee and help us fuel change @thenook_kc
- **Catering Services.** Hosting a party? Let us do the cooking and your even becomes a force for good!

Learn more:

nourishkc.org • theprospectkc.org

Please support hurricane relief efforts



Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Episcopal Church of Cuba to respond to Hurricane Oscar, and the mid-October power grid failure that continues to impact the entire island.

PLEASE SUPPORT HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY EFFORTS



On October 18, following weeks of intermittent grid outages, ten million people lost power. On October 20, during the blackout, Hurricane Oscar made landfall, flooding and damaging the island's eastern side, and killing seven people. People in the Guantanamo and Baracoa areas had little warning that Oscar was coming because the ongoing power outages badly affected communication systems. Church leaders surveyed the impacted areas and found 82 homes had completely collapsed, 1300 had partially collapsed and over 100 families' appliances were destroyed or washed away.

In response to Hurricane Oscar and the ongoing power outages, Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the Episcopal Church of Cuba to provide food, hygiene products, fans, rechargeable lamps and supplies for home repairs. Find out more at episcopalrelief.org.

Youth

Weekly Youth Opportunities Sundays

Youth Formation at 9:15 a.m.

with light breakfast

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Youth Group at 6 p.m.

Dinner is provided!

Questions? Contact Clare, cstern@kccathedral.org



No Youth Group

Dec. 1

Dec. 8 (Tree Lot at St. Andrew's for Ski Trip 3-6 p.m.)

Dec. 15

Dec. 22

Dec. 29

Jan. 5

Jan. 12

Merry Everything, Happy Always

Questions, Contact Clare (cstern@kccathedral.org)

Adult Formation

Sunday

The Path

Sundays • 9:15 a.m. • Common Room

New attendees welcome at any time!

In our Adult Formation this year we will take a journey using Forward Movement's *The Path*, an excerpted version of the Bible that covers most of the major stories chronologically. Through *The Path*, we will become familiar with the grand overarching narrative of the entire Bible. We will learn the story of God's extraordinary and unrelenting love for us in its many dimensions. Copies of *The Path* are available in the Cathedral Bookstore if you would like to own a personal copy. Each chapter will be printed out weekly and made available so that everyone can follow along.

Tuesday

GHTC's Virtual Cafe • 7:30 a.m.

Please join us for our weekly conversation in GHTC's Virtual Cafe! Tuesday mornings from 7:30-9 a.m. For details, visit kccathedral.org/other-activities.

Women's Bible Study • 12:30 p.m.

Conversation is lively, thought-provoking, and often irreverent. All are welcome. Visit the WBS page, kccathedral.org/adultformation/wbs for more information.

Lectionary Bible Study • 6:45 p.m.

We study the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Join the Lectionary Bible Study group in Realm or visit the LBS page, kccathedral.org/adultformation/lbs for more details.

Children

Formation Class • 9:15 a.m.

Join us for formation hour and wonder about God with your friends and teachers and hear sacred stories as told with the help of Godly Play resources!

Cathedral Kids • 10:30 a.m.

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.

Questions? Contact Clare, childrensformation@kccathedral.org for more information.

Family Worship Weekend December 15

In an effort to get more children comfortable and involved in worship services, we have implemented Family Worship Weekends. There are pew boxes at the back of the Nave that contain items to enhance the children's worship experience. Some items may be taken home and others should be left in the box.

If you have any questions, please contact Clare (cstern@kccathedral.org).

Announcements

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 11:30 A.M.

CITY COME AGAIN



Since 1982, William Jewell College has partnered with Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to present The City Come Again as a gift in music and word to Kansas City. This program features students and faculty presenting seasonal music, poetry, and more. This event is free.

MINGLE AND MUNCH, SWEATERS AND SIPS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6-9 P.M.

You are invited to fellowship at the home of Kristen & Mathias Nichols in the KC northland. ALL ages welcome!

Bring a beverage and dish (appetizer or dessert) to share and wear your favorite fun holiday sweater/outfit.

RSVP at kccathedral.org/advent



Women's Lunch & Service Project

Saturday,
December 14 • 11 a.m.

The women of GHTC are invited to help pack up food for children to have over the holiday break and treat bags for local school children. RSVP at kccathedral.org/advent so we have a correct lunch count.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15 • 5 p.m.

The Cathedral will offer its seventh annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service of Bible readings and music provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection and preparation as we anticipate the joy of Christmas and the hope of Christ's return. In the lessons, we begin with Adam and Eve, move through prophecies of the coming Messiah, and end with the Angel Gabriel visiting the Virgin Mary. The musical portions of the service are chosen to expand on the readings and on our longing for Christ's return. The music will include Advent congregational carols, choral pieces, and organ voluntaries. This event is free.
A reception will follow in the Common Room.

kccathedral.org/volunteer

FIND YOUR PLACE TO SERVE
AT GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL



Announcements



Christmas Services

Tuesday, December 24, 5 p.m.—Christmas Eve (with Nativity Pageant)

Join us Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. and watch the Cathedral kids present the Nativity Pageant.

Tuesday, December 24, 10 p.m.—Christmas Eve

Come celebrate the birth of Christ with us. Traditional, familiar carols and service music will be featured.

Wednesday, December 25, 10 a.m.—Christmas Day

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

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

Prepare the Way (Luke 3:1-6)

[utilizing "The Baptism of Jesus" Illumination (Mark Frontispiece)]

Saint John's Bible contains a powerful illumination portraying the person and message of John the Baptist. However, this illumination is titled "The Baptism of Jesus," not "The Ministry of John the Baptist" as might be expected and is found as the frontispiece of the Gospel of Mark, not tucked alongside Luke 3:1-6 (today's lectionary Gospel reading). So, we shall employ an artistic twist of the visio divina by using the Luke text as the lens through which to interpret John the Baptist in today's illumination. Furthermore, as an uncommon application, we will use the same illumination for our focus two consecutive Sundays. Today we will focus on the person of John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-6) and next Sunday on the message of John the Baptist (Luke 3:7-18) exploring how these qualities are conveyed by this illumination.

Luke's gospel provides a more extensive account of John the Baptist's ministry, while Mark offers a fuller account of Jesus' baptism – a key component of John's message signaling the "in-breaking" of God's kingdom. The complexity of this interaction is highlighted in the reality that John the Baptist's ministry was to be interpreted in light of the nature and work of Jesus. The Baptist's vocation was one of preparing the way. So, it might seem unusual that the focus of this illumination is placed on John the Baptist, not Jesus.

Note that the Baptist is positioned at the front of the panel. His feet indicate forward movement, and his hand gestures suggest invitation even as he looks to the events happening behind him. Moreover, he is not contained within the parameters of the frame and appears as though he would step forth out of the illumination. Everything about this image portrays John the Baptist as the Forerunner – one who is positioned in front of the scene delineating the main event rather than embedded in it as an agent of the action. His backward gaze is not focused upon the past, but toward the work of God to which he sought to awaken people.

For almost 1,000 years from Moses to Malachi, God had spoken to Israel through the prophets. But, after Malachi, for about 450 years Israel had not had a prophet. John the Baptist was to break this silence. He appeared as God's fulfillment of Malachi 3:1-4 to "prepare the way of the Lord." This was his advent role, his distinctive and divinely appointed ministry.

In what ways did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus' messianic work? In what ways could this witness help you prepare your "way" for God's transforming presence this advent?

