

# GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



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The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

## 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 fill out the online form using the QR code.



Welcome Card or  
Email Sign Up

## 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 a shelf in the back aisle.

- Childcare for those 4 years old and younger is available in the nursery in Haden Hall.
- For elementary age children, 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.
- We observe *Family Worship* one Sunday of each month so there is no Cathedral Kids. Worship Boxes with resources for children are in the back cross aisle.
- To get to Haden Hall: From the Tower entry, go up the stairs and straight ahead to the adjoining building. Follow signs or ask an usher for directions.

## 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.

## Ways to Give

- Give online with the QR code.
- Place in the offering plate. Envelopes are available in the pew racks.
- Text "GIVetoGHTC" to 73256.



Give Online

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## 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*.

## Following the Service

Please join us for a cup of coffee or tea in Founders' Hall.

## 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.*

# HOLY EUCHARIST

VOLUNTARY: *Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn*, BuxWV 192

Dietrich Buxtehude

## The Word of God

\* ENTRANCE HYMN: 59 “Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding”

*Descant*

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day.”  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935). Copyright: Music: Descant used by permission of Cambridge University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* 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.**

\* S86 Kyrie eleison

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e  
 e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -  
 le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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

\* COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lector Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
 shout, O Israel!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
 O daughter Jerusalem!  
 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,  
 he has turned away your enemies.  
 The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
 you shall fear disaster no more.  
 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 Do not fear, O Zion;  
 do not let your hands grow weak.  
 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
 a warrior who gives victory;  
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
 he will renew you in his love;  
 he will exult over you with loud singing  
 as on a day of festival.  
 I will remove disaster from you,  
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
 I will deal with all your oppressors  
 at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.  
The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah, Isaiah 12:2-6 *sung by the choir, chant by John Jones*

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Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.  
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;  
Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Lector      Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN: 481 "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore! Mor -  
 2 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the  
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and

*Refrain*



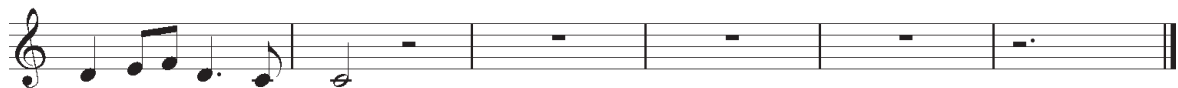
tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove. Lift  
 keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.  
 take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.



up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a - gain I say, re -



joice! up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a -



gain I say, re - joice!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Gospel*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. John Wilson (1905-1992). Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: Arrangement by permission of Oxford University Press. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

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

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

Gospeller John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 Let our hearts and minds be stirred as we pray to God for the peace that passes understanding, and rejoice in the gift of Christ, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in the church: May we intensify our efforts at peace-making with the separated churches, that peace may prevail over conflict, and that we may be reconciled into one family, exercising one baptism, one eucharist, and one common ministry in its many forms.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For peace in the world: May conflicts cease, may refugees and survivors find new homes and the spirit to begin again. May wounds be healed, losses grieved, and honorable deeds remembered. May grace abound in all lands and may the lion and the lamb lie content.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this assembly: That the world might know us by our love. Help us with the grievances we harbor within our families and communities and among our co-workers and friends. Help us build trust and teach us forgiveness that we might know reconciliation in your love.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For our next bishop, Amy: Watch over her and her family as they prepare to join us in our life and ministry.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For peace where we live, work and play, and for peace within ourselves: May the noises in and around us diminish so that we can hear the quiet sounds of Creation. And grant us time and space to listen for you, our heart's true desire.

Lord in your mercy,

**People Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For all those who suffer: May we be messengers of hope, peace, and healing. Especially we pray for all those who have sought our prayers, 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 are gone and beyond our reach: Fill the empty spots in our hearts and souls with reassurance of your love for them and fill them also with hope of our reuniting someday in your eternal kingdom. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud,  
Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider O Lord, fill our minds and hearts with everything that is good and loving and worthy of thanksgiving and praise, everything that comes to us under the sign of your peace and in the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION

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

All **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

## \* THE PEACE

page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CELEBRATION PRAYER

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Rejoice in the Lord alway"

Anonymous  
text: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord alway,  
and again I say, rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men:  
the Lord is at hand.  
Be careful for nothing:  
but in all prayer and supplication,  
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God,  
which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

## \* PRESENTATION HYMN: 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night" *verse 1*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*  
It is right to give our 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** S124: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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.**

All

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.

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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

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*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.*

### 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.

— From *The Prayer Book for the Armed Services*

Communion Hymn: 69 "What is the crying at Jordan?"

1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who  
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -  
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to  
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in

hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the  
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in  
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -  
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -

sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.  
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.  
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.  
 self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Music: St. Mark's, Berkeley, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (1923-1987). Copyright: Words: © 1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: Harmonization © 1971, Norman Mealy. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

\* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

page 366

Presider Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**  
**of the most precious Body and Blood**  
**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**  
**and for assuring us in these holy mysteries**  
**that we are living members of the Body of your Son,**  
**and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**  
**And now, Father, send us out**  
**to do the work you have given us to do,**  
**to love and serve you**  
**as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**  
**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

\* THE BLESSING

\* DISMISSAL

*Following the dismissal,*

People Thanks be to God.

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



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



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



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



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

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

VOLUNTARY: Flourish and Chorale on *Gopsal*

Matthew Corl

## Serving Today

Presider	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Preacher	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Deacon	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Musicians	The Trinity Choir, Dr. Lucas Fletcher
Lector	Scott Anthony
Intercessor	LeeAnne Hays
Eucharistic Ministers	Ric Sweeting, Janet Sweeting
Acolytes	Henry Galus, Susan Ahn, Victoria Porter
Ushers	Greg Smith, Bill Colvin, Mark Colburn, Steve Moore
Greeters	Donna Knoell, Ed Miller
Altar Guild	Peg Brown, Debbie Marrs, Leticia Porter, Kristy Moore
Sound/Livestreaming	Christine Morrison, Chris Morrison
Holy Hands Hospitality	Catherine Green, Julie Brogno, Sarah Lagergren, Sara Copeland
Oblation Bearers	Cathedral Kids, Leticia Porter

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



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.



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

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.



# Cathedral Prayer List

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

**Comfort and Peace:** the family and friends of James Shaffer; the family and friends of Bonita White; 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; all families affected by gun violence

**Pray for the Departed:** Bonita White; James Shaffer; Donald Bradley; Gabriel Kney; Robert Boehm; The Rev. Tim Murphy; Joann Immenschuh; for all those lost in war; for all who have died from gun violence

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Savannah—Mr. Greg Hall, Bishop's Warden; Episcopal Church Women

For the complete prayer list: [kccathedral.org/prayers](http://kccathedral.org/prayers)

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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Today's Flowers

are given to the Glory of God and ...

### December 15

Bill Brown  
Lindsay Munsell  
Milt Tootle

### December 17

Chris Morrison  
Davina & Troy  
Reed

### December 21

Gina Jones  
Keith & Linda  
Oliver

- in memory of Willie Joe Finnie, Jr.—Jackye Finnie

### December 16

Manni Obiesie

### December 20

Julie Toma

Please contact the Cathedral office if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary: [jtoma@kccathedral.org](mailto: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](http://kccathedral.org/flowers) for more information or contact Julie Toma, [jtoma@kccathedral.org](mailto: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, *Director of Music*; 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](mailto:smoore@rdm.law); Valerie Johnson, *Junior Warden*, [johnson\\_jb@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:cstern@kccathedral.org))



### 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](http://kccathedral.org/outreach).

To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or [bwegener@kccathedral.org](mailto:bwegener@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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:childrensformation@kccathedral.org) for more information.



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.

## Socks & Gloves Drive

## 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.***

## Gifts of Flowers and Greens



Gifts of flowers and greens in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one help provide festive decorations from Christmas Eve through the Epiphany. You can:

- Give online (yellow give button at the top of [kccathedral.org](http://kccathedral.org)).
- Text "GIVETOGHTC flowers" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
- Mail a check to the Cathedral office.

Please contact the Cathedral office ([jtoma@kccathedral.org](mailto:jtoma@kccathedral.org)) with the following information:

- The names of those you wish honored or the blessing(s) you wish to name.
- Your name as donor (optional).
- Your name will appear in Epiphany bulletins and the next issue of The Angelus.

Thank you for your generous gift in celebration of Christmas!



## 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.

# Announcements

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

### Proclaiming Good News (Luke 3:7-18)

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

We begin today's focus on the message of John the Baptist by giving attention to the locus of his work. It is significant that John's message did not originate from the circles or institutions of political, religious, intellectual, military, social, or economic power. Rather, it derived from a very unconventional man who lived in the desert on the fringes of society. As the scene of today's illumination depicts, the Forerunner and his message emerge in an unlikely place and from an unexpected source. Those who assumed God's messianic work would fit normal, safe, or traditional structures were inclined to dismiss John the Baptist's lifestyle and message. He was not conventional and those who expected God to act in comfortable and predictable ways tended to miss the messianic revelation announced by the Baptist.

Note that the sky in this illumination is open, suggesting accessibility. Angels are ascending and descending, similar to those depicted in the "Jacob's Ladder" illumination of Genesis 28. Yet, John the Baptist's demeanor is somber, not celebratory. He seems to perceive the deep meaning of Jesus' divinity and its demands. Above John is a stamped image of Compostela de Santiago, possibly intimating the much larger ministry that is being inaugurated as well as the role baptism would hold for initiation into the new community of faith, the church.



John the Baptist's message emphasized "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4). He declared: "I baptize you with water (for repentance), but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). The Baptist tells all who listen of the need to repent because in Jesus "the kingdom of heaven is near," a message symbolically portrayed in this illumination through the open sky and the ascending and descending angels. Jesus proclaims the same message upon assuming his public ministry following his baptism by John the Baptist. Later, Jesus tells his followers to preach this same message (e.g., Matthew 10:7). The people of God are challenged to hear and follow this same message today if we wish to experience the story of Jesus: "Repent and believe the good news, that in Jesus God's kingdom has arrived."

Although deceptively simple, this message is truly subversive to the competing claims of the powerholders that dominate the world in which we live.

What does John the Baptist mean when he calls upon his listeners to repent? Why would they need to repent? What does he mean when he declares that "the kingdom of God is at hand"? What role does repentance have in Advent preparations?

## PRAYER FOR THE TRANSITION OF OUR NEXT BISHOP

Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the election of our next Bishop, Amy. Watch over Amy, her husband Jared, and their 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.