

GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



Advent Starry Night 6, © 2017 Virginia Wieringa. virginiawieringa.com, Used by permission.

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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: *Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn*, BuxWV 192

Dietrich Buxtehude

The Word of God

* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

page 355

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* KYRIE ELEISON

page 356

Presider Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Lord, have mercy.

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: 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.

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.**

* 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.**

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.**

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

page 360

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

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

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

* THE PEACE

page 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION PRAYER

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

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

* OFFERTORY HYMN: 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.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

page 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* BREAKING OF THE BREAD

page 364

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

For gluten-free bread, cross your hands palms down.

For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.

On the first Sunday of each month, prayer for healing is offered at the prayer desk until the close of worship.

* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Refrain



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

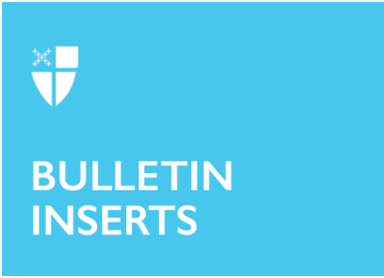
Presider	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Preacher	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Deacon	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher
Lector	Lenette Johnson
Eucharistic Minister	Terri Curran
Usher	Greg Coffey, Deborah Carr
Altar Guild	Michelle Ritter

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.





December 15, 2024 – Advent 3 (C)
Third Week of Advent: Journeying with Community

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that includes the community. The witness of Zechariah and Elizabeth who bring infant John to the Temple to be circumcised reminds us of the importance of our faith community to sustaining the Way of Love. Just as the community did for John’s family, communities provide a place for discernment, sometimes challenging us and other times affirming us. Communities celebrate and mark important moments along the journey.

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.

Sunday, December 15
WORSHIP

Imagine the faces you’d like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.

Monday, December 16
PRAY

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.

Tuesday, December 17
TURN

Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.

Wednesday, December 18
BLESS

Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community.

Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.

Thursday, December 19
REST

Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.



Friday, December 20
GO

Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.

Saturday, December 21
LEARN

Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.

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

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 15

Bill Brown
Lindsay Munsell
Milt Tootle

December 17

Chris Morrison
Davina & Troy
Reed

December 21

Gina Jones
Keith & Linda
Oliver

December 16

Manni Obiesie

December 20

Julie Toma

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

Today's Flowers

are given to the Glory of God and ...

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

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, *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; 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.

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)



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.

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.



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.

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).
- 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) 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.