

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024
5 p.m.



Emerging Star 3, © 2013 Virginia Wieringa, virginiawieringa.com, Used by permission.

Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

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: Prelude on *Veni Emmanuel*

Philip Moore

The Order for Evening

* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR LIGHT


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Cantor  *People* 


Light and peace, in Je - sus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God.

The presider adds a prayer for light.


* O GRACIOUS LIGHT *Phos hilaron*: 25



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

The Word of God

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Lector You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



Cantor My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

All From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

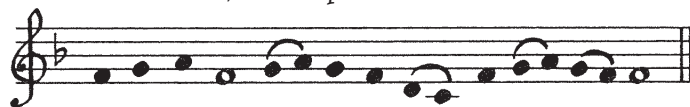
Lector When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* ALLELUIA VERSE *Cantor; then People*



Al-le-lu-ia, al - le-lu-ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor



Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

All repeat the three alleluias.

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

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

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

Gospeller In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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 May our hearts leap for joy as we again assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming. With Mary, may our souls proclaim God's greatness as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Let us pray for the church: As the celebration of your incarnation draws near, we remember the many ways your revelation is lifted up and we pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world, and especially for those whose very faith endangers their lives.
- 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 an end to violence, oppression, and injustice: As you lead us, Lord, from darkness to light, may we be among those who exalt the lowly and fill the hungry with good things, rooting out the proud of heart and drawing courage from the power of your arm.
- Lord in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor For our own spirits: May our hearts be magnified and may this season of Advent stir in us such faith that we may be your light in a darkened world.
- Lord in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor For this community: May we welcome the stranger and be drawn to a bright future in service to you, while also remembering and honoring those in the past who guided us into faith.
- Lord in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor For the sick and suffering: May they find healing and peace. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud,
- Lord in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor For the dead and those on the threshold of death. May they and we be welcomed into the place of glory our Lord has prepared for us. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud,
- Lord in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.**

Presider Lord, we gather up the prayers of this household, confident in your promise to be with us always. Guide us in wisdom and faith; that we might live into the life created for us, trusting in your will. All this we ask through your Son, our redeemer, Jesus Christ. **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

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Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION PRAYER

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

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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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 HYMN: 249 "To the Name of our salvation"

1 To the Name of our sal - va - tion laud and hon - or
 2 Je - sus is the Name we trea - sure; Name be - yond what
 3 'Tis the Name that who - so preach - eth speaks like mu - sic
 4 There - fore we, in love a - dor - ing, this most bless - ed

let us pay, which for man - ya gen - er - a - tion
 words can tell; Name of glad - ness, Name of plea - sure,
 to the ear; who in prayer this Name be - seech - eth
 Name re - vere, ho - ly Je - sus, thee im - plor - ing

hid in God's fore - know - ledge lay; but with ho - ly
 ear and heart de - light - ing well; Name of sweet - ness,
 sweet - est com - fort find - eth near; who its per - fect
 so to write it in us here that here - af - ter,

ex - ul - ta - tion we may sing a - loud to - day.
 pass - ing mea - sure, sav - ing us from sin and hell.
 wis - dom reach - eth, heaven - ly joy pos - sess - eth here.
 heaven - ward soar - ing, we may sing with an - gels there.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861. Music: *Grafton*, melody from *Chants ordinaires de l'Office Divin*, 1861; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* 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*

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

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 sing,

S119: The Lord's Prayer

All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
 be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
 dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
 as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Music: *Plainsong*; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

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

For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.

* 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: 66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

VOLUNTARY: *Magnificat*, BuxWV 204

Dietrich Buxtehude

Serving Today

Presider	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Preacher	Clare Stern-Burbano
Lector, Eucharistic Minister	Janel Mosley
Cantor	Dr. Kelli VanMeter
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher

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: 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 Lynn Schneider; 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: Lynn Schneider; 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 22

Tony Carrillo
Sharon Hudson

December 25

Michael John
Dennis Meehan
Arthur Mullies

December 27

Doug & Terri
Curran

December 23

Miles Lewandowski
George Nodler
Lenette & Steve
Johnson

December 26

John Hornbeck
Chuck & Marsy
Gordon

December 28

Dennis Morgan

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

Weekly Flower Donations

Donations toward the weekly flowers can be given by anyone who wants to acknowledge special events or people in their lives. Gifts are accepted in any amount. You can mail a check to the Cathedral office, put your donation in a flower envelope and place in the offering or make a payment through our online payment site.

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 January 18, February 15 and March 15. 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.



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.



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.



Winter Chili & Game Night: Friday, January 10, 6 p.m.

Warm up on a winter night with fun, food and fellowship as we share our favorite chili recipes and enjoy games for all ages. Bring your best chili, whether it's a secret family recipe or a creative twist. As we savor each bowl, engage in games that promise laughter and joy for everyone. You are invited for the chance to connect with friends, share stories, and create lasting memories in a warm atmosphere! Sign up at kccathedral.org/upcoming-events. All are welcome whether you sign up or not. Signups help with planning.

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 "GIVETOHTC 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!

Announcements

Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination: "The Magnificat" Text Treatment (Luke 1:46-55)

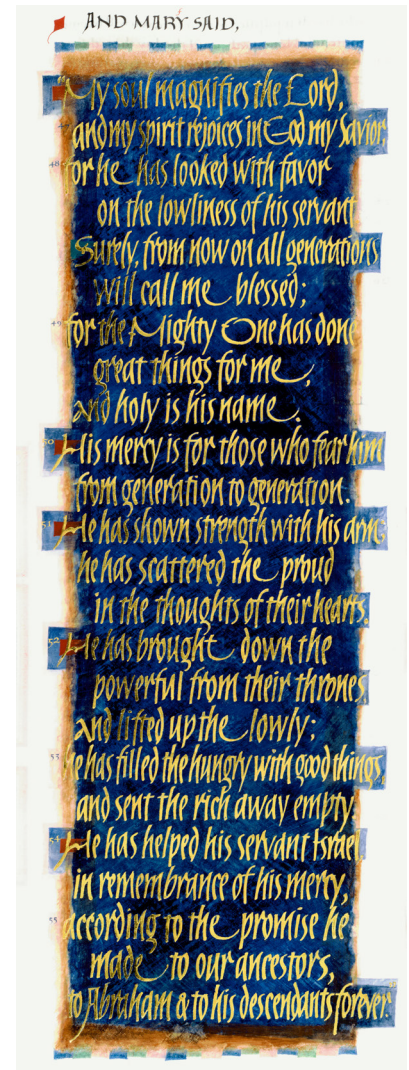
The Magnificat (Mary's response to her cousin Elizabeth when visiting her following the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel) is one of Christianity's oldest Advent hymns. In the Saint John's Bible the text of this hymn is highlighted in gold on a purple background as an indication of its importance and of its message of God's intentions to subvert unjust, oppressive, and abusive human behavior and systems. It is sung daily at Evening Prayer by the Benedictines at Saint John's Abbey where this illuminated version of the Bible was conceived and brought to completion.

The message of *The Magnificat* can be unsettling, especially for established systems where injustice exists. Consequently, on various occasions its public display has been prohibited. During the so-called "Dirty War" in Argentina from 1974 to 1983, for example, the mothers of disappeared children postered the main plaza in Buenos Aires with copies of *The Magnificat*. In response, the ruling military junta banned its public display. The song's message of hope for a reordered world seemed too threatening to those in power. *The Magnificat's* vision of reformed and renewed human systems characterized by love and justice is reason for it to be given such special attention in the artwork of Saint John's Bible and be sung daily by the Benedictine community.

The tradition of Chrysography (Greek for "writing in gold") extends to early Christianity. In this form of writing the text first was written in gesso before being gilded in gold leaf and burnished. Also, in ancient cultures purple frequently was the color of royalty and wealth. No greater text treatment could be rendered than gold writing on a purple background. Thus, this treatment for *The Magnificat* is intended to lift this text to the highest level of significance possible in the Saint John's Bible.

The reality of Mary's life and world was anything but hopeful. She was a peasant living under the brutality of a Roman regime. She was unmarried and pregnant in a culture that might have punished her by stoning. Yet, *The Magnificat* sings of joy, of the proud being scattered, the humble honored, the hungry fed, the rich being sent away empty handed, the powerful being brought down, and the lowly being lifted up.

Like the Benedictines of Saint John's Abbey, do your devotional practices sustain an undying hope for a world the way God intends it to be? Advent is a season for renewing hope amid the darkness, unfairness, and brutality of the world as many daily experience it.



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.