



GRACE
AND HOLY
TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CATHEDRAL

The First
Sunday after
Christmas

December 29, 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: Prelude on *Divinum Mysterium*

Wilbur Held

The Word of God

* OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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

* GLORIA

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

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147 *read by alternating half verse*

page 804

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars *

and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *

there is no limit to his wisdom.

The Lord lifts up the lowly, *

but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *

make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

* THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

* THE NICENE CREED

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All

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Intercessor Let us pray for ourselves and the world saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, your love spoke the world into existence and abides with us still. Give your church the hunger to know you, the will to study you, and the hearts to follow you.

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 Lord of all nations, bless this nation and all nations this coming year with peace and abundance. May we serve the common good.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Lord of all light, make this a season of good news for all those in the world who are persecuted and bereaved.

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Lord who is constant, grant healing to those who suffer from anxiety and depression, from disease and illness and from all manner of things that affect our body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for those on the Cathedral Prayer List and those we now name, either silently or aloud,

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Lord, deliver all the dying into the comfort of your eternal kingdom, where suffering is gone and where love and restoration are found. We especially pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud,

Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Presider In thanksgiving to you for the love with which you have formed the world, its creatures, and us your people; we offer our prayers with the hope of living this life in deep awareness of you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

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: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* "Word of God, come down to earth"

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919. Music: *Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier*, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673. Copyright: © James Quinn, SJ, admin. Selah Publishing Co. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B

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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

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Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

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

For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.

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

* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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Presider Let us pray.

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

* THE BLESSING

* DISMISSAL

Following the dismissal,

People **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN: 100 "Joy to the world"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Today

Presider	The Rev. W. James Yazell
Preacher	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher
Lector	Joan Bergstrom
Eucharistic Minister	Kelsey Leftwich-Yazell
Usher	Jim Crum, Deborah Carr
Altar Guild	Vangie Rich

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.



JANUARY DIAPER DRIVE FOR HAPPYBOTTOMS

not having a clean diaper can really stink

- Diapers are not covered by government safety net programs like food stamps, Medicaid, and WIC.
- 1 in 2 families in KC can't afford diapers
- Families with young children experiencing diaper need report missing an average of 5.1 workdays per month because they did not have the required number of diapers for their child to attend daycare.

Bring diapers to the barrel in the cross hall or to the basket in the Tower

OR

Donate diapers directly through the happybottoms.org site



Donate packages of diapers
Sizes 4, 5, 6 needed most



OR



Use group name:
GRACE & HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

help babies in Kansas City!

Cathedral Prayer List

Pray for: 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. Oswald's-in-the Fields Episcopal Church, Skidmore—Mrs. Jordyn Pankau-Dreher, Bishop's Warden
Diocesan Finance Committee & Treasurer, Mr. Tom Kokjer

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 29 Patrick Franken Charlotte & Frank Colburn	Bob & Tara Bennett Caroline & Premkumar John	January 1 Mike Bennett Emily Akins & Sergio Moreno- Denton
December 30 Nora Elisabeth James McCaffree	December 31 Steve Davis Phyllis Shaffer	January 2 Day & Whitney Kerr

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
formation
12/29 or
1/5!



No Youth Group

Dec. 1

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

Dec. 15

Dec. 22

Dec. 29

Jan. 5

Jan. 12

Merry Everything, Happy Always

Questions, Contact Clare (cstern@kccathedral.org)

Adult Formation

Sunday

The Path

Sundays • 9:15 a.m. • Common Room • NO FORMATION 12/29 OR 1/5!

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.

NO FORMATION 12/29 OR 1/5!

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.

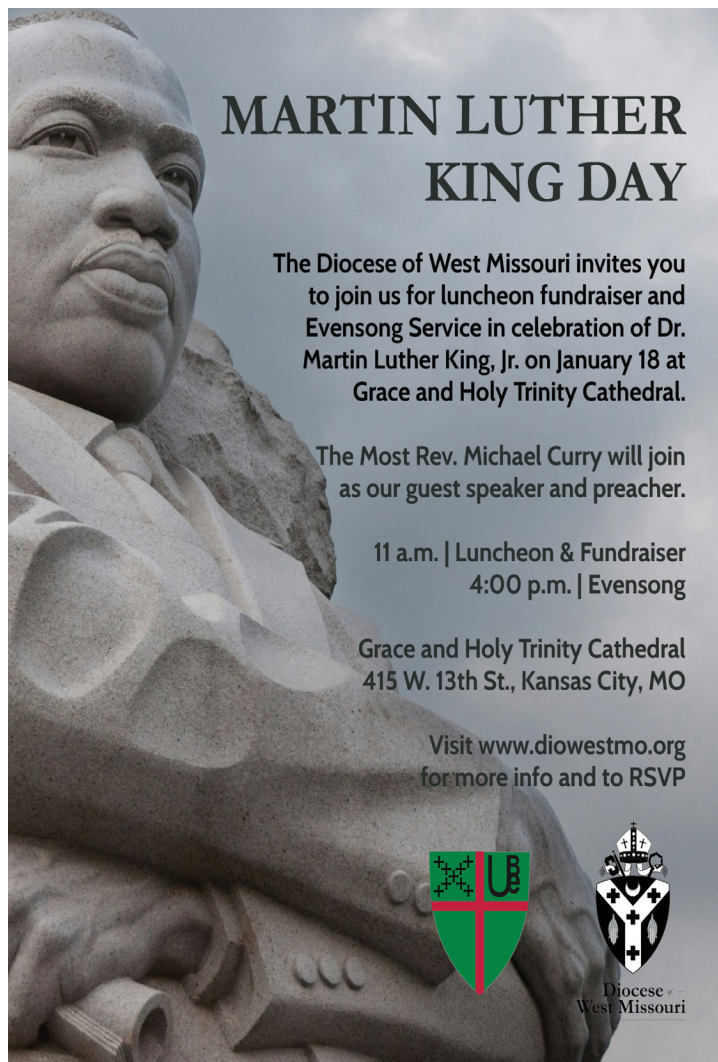


Friday, Jan 10
6 PM

Let's play!

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.



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

The Diocese of West Missouri invites you to join us for luncheon fundraiser and Evensong Service in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 18 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry will join as our guest speaker and preacher.

11 a.m. | Luncheon & Fundraiser
4:00 p.m. | Evensong

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
415 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO

Visit www.diowestmo.org for more info and to RSVP



Diocese of West Missouri



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.

ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, January 26

In-person & Online

THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE, AT 10:30 A.M., ON SUNDAY,

JANUARY 26, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY THE MEETING.

- Formation is still meeting at 9:15 a.m.
- We will gather as a parish family of all ages to celebrate Eucharist, then stay for the meeting.
- Be ready to celebrate some of our amazing ministries, as well as honoring outgoing and electing new Vestry members.

Announcements

Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination: "Birth of Christ" Illumination (Luke Frontispiece)

Today's Old Testament and Gospel liturgical texts focus on Samuel's and Jesus' early expressions of vocational commitment at the centers of worship for the communities they would serve—for Samuel this was the tabernacle at Shiloh and for Jesus the Temple in Jerusalem. Saint John's Bible has no artwork specific to either of these texts. However, Luke will supply the Gospel liturgical texts for most Sundays until Holy Week, so it seems appropriate today to focus on the "Birth of Christ" illumination which is the frontispiece for the Gospel of Luke.

The centerpiece of this illumination is the shaft of gold emanating from the manger designed to dramatize the revelation of the divine. Mary, shepherds, a king, animals, and heavenly beings (i.e., all heaven and earth) observe the scene with expressions of awe and amazement. Note that here the shepherds are women and children, likely the persons who often served as shepherds in Jesus' day. The ram standing in front of the manger is a reminder of the important role shepherds and sheep play throughout the Bible.

This illumination includes many elements referencing other illuminations in Saint John's Bible such as the angels from the "Jacob's Ladder" illumination of Genesis 28, the stars from the "Abraham and Sarah" illumination of Genesis 15, and the filigree, a common feature in many of the Bible's illuminations. This is done to convey the idea that God's promise is being fulfilled—the gulf between heaven and earth is being bridged.

The figures gathered around the manger express the coexistence of the earthly and the spiritual in this divine act. Besides the long history of sacrifice associated with the sheep, there is the role of the donkey in the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem as well as the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. Also, note the ox in the foreground, which is modeled on the Neolithic cave paintings at Lascaux, France. It was traditional in medieval manuscripts for each evangelist to be assigned a figure – Matthew represented as a man, Mark as a lion, John as an eagle, and Luke as an ox.

The "Birth of Christ" illumination employs the shaft of gold to capture the effect of the Epiphany – the sudden revelation and awareness of a larger truth. Here it expresses the truth of God's love and presence in the world through the incarnation. The vertical shaft of gold extending upward from the manger is transected by the perpendicular line of angels to form a cross. This reminds the viewer that the crucifixion is tied to Jesus' birth and stands at the core of why Christ came.

Finally, in capital letters across the bottom of the panel is Zechariah's prophecy, "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us ..." (Luke 1:78). The illumination is capped by the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest heaven." Every part of this highlights the liturgical nature of this gospel story and its centrality in the life of the church.



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.