



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Mobile, Alabama

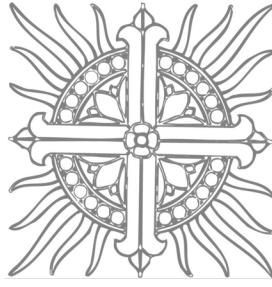
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Musical Prelude, half after five o'clock in the afternoon

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, six o'clock in the evening



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GIBSON

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, the oldest Protestant church in the state of Alabama, celebrating over 200 years as the people of God in this place. Tonight, as we gather to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we join generations of worshipers who have sung and prayed and heard the Bethlehem story in this sacred place on this holy night. As you settle yourself before our worship begins, spend a few minutes imagining the moments in history seen by that “cloud of witnesses”—times of wars and of longed-for peace, times of economic hardship and of prosperity, times of national or personal crisis and of joy and celebration. If we place ourselves within the context of those worshippers and their moments in time, we may gain a new perspective on the matters we carry in our hearts tonight. We may also gain strength and courage from the prayers and the hopes and dreams that linger all around us.

Our worship tonight also takes us outside of time, into the eternal life of God, as we hear the words of scripture, sing the psalms and hymns, and say the ancient creeds and prayers. We will be lifted to other dimensions through the music. We will be drawn into the sacred mystery of the Eucharist.

Whether this is your first visit to Christ Church or the repeating of long-standing tradition for you, I am glad that you are here tonight and extend the welcome of the Vestry and the whole Cathedral Family to you. Ushers wearing purple badges are here to assist you tonight; they can direct you to the nursery, water and restrooms, or to hearing assistance devices available for your use. At the appropriate time, they will help light the candles that you received when you entered. Please know that all are welcome to receive from the Lord’s Table. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms to receive a blessing.

We will gather to worship again tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.. Christmas Day worship is a peaceful and joyous way to begin a holiday with friends and family. We will have music and will sing favorite Christmas hymns and carols.

I wish you a blessed Christmas: may you know God’s peace and share the Good News of God’s love with the world.

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D.
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MISSION

Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Half after five o'clock in the evening

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in The Book of Common Prayer. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Page numbers refer to the Prayer Book for those wishing to use it. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. Unless requested, applause isn't necessary; please give quiet thanks to God for the elements of worship that are meaningful for you.



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors. Please complete a visitor card and place it in the alms basin so that we can know you better. A nursery is available. A gentle reminder: please turn off all electronic devices before the service. Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing impaired are available. Please see an usher.

Prelude

Taken from the following selections:

Noel Suisse, Grand Jeu et Duo

Josh Coble, organ

Louis Claude D'aquin
(1694-1772)

Messiah

II. *Comfort ye my people*

III. *Ev'ry valley shall be exalted*

G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Myles Garver, tenor

Wexford Carol

Julia Heard, soprano

Traditional Irish Carol
arr. John Rutter
(b. 1945)

What is This Lovely Fragrance?

Cathedral Choir

Traditional French Carol
arr. Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

Josh Coble, organ

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

Devin Burton, baritone soloist

David Heard
(b. 1950)

I Wonder as I Wander

Molly Adams, soprano

John Jacob Niles
(1892-1980)

Greensleeves

Josh Coble, organ

R. Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Carillon de Westminster

Josh Coble, organ

Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)

Welcome

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean

Processional Hymn

Adeste fideles

Hymnal 83

O come, all ye faithful vv. 1, 2, 3, 6

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father; **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing; **Refrain**

The Word of God

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.**

Song of Praise

Antioch

Joy to the world! vv. 1, 2, 4

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Collect of the Day

BCP 212

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar

across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 96

Cantate Domino

Please read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 725

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! ***
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; ***
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- ¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Gloria
Hymnal 96

Angels we have heard on high v. 1, 2

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? **Refrain**

The Holy Gospel *(King James Version)* **Luke 2:1-20**

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

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David): To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn

Gloria
Hymnal 96

Angels we have heard on high v. 3, 4

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. **Refrain**

Sermon

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

The leader and people pray responsively.

Deacon: Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth

Intercessor: You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Embrace with your eternal protection all of our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable: especially refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence or illness, and families with no place to call their home.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace to God's people on earth.

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray. We give thanks for shepherds and all the vigilant who work while others sleep. Hear our grateful thanksgiving for all the gifts and blessings in our lives. We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died.

Deacon: Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

BCP 393

Leader and People:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

Celebrant:

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

O Holy Night

Cathedral Choir

Mollie Adams, *soprano*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming; With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:

So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from Orient land,

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger! Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother, And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

At the Presentation

Old 100th v. 3

Hymnal 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

America v. 4

Hymnal 717

**Our father's God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land
be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-128

**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.

Celebrant:

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,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant:

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S-155

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.

Music at Communion

David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

Sussex Carol
Cathedral Choir

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,
Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen.

Before the Marvel of This Night

Cathedral Choir

Carl Schalk
(1929-2021)

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love, that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

Hymn

Irby

Hymnal 102

Once in royal David's city

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display heaven's Word,
the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.
For he is our life-long pattern; daily when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Hymn

Greensleeves

Hymnal 115

What child is this

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him:
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. **Refrain**

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. **Refrain**

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might." **Refrain**

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and charity each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. **Refrain**

At this time an usher will help light the candle you received when you entered.

Silent night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel. And, the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.

Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! **Refrain**

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude

Toccata, from Symphonie V

Charles-Marie Widor

(1844-1937)

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Noel Suisse, Grad Jeu et Duo: Music: Louis Claude D'aquin (1694-1772).

Messiah: Words: Charles Jennens (1700-1773). Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759).

Wexford Carol: Words: Traditional. Music: Traditional Irish Carol. arr. John Rutter (b. 1945).

What is That Lovely Fragrance?: Words: Traditional French Carol translated by Ysobel to English. Music: arr. Healey Willan (1880-1968).

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729: Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750).

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted: Words: Richard Wilbur (1921-2017). Music: David Heard (b. 1950).

I Wonder as I Wander: Words and Music: John Jacob Niles (1892-1980).

Greensleeves: Music: R. Baughan Williams (1872-1958).

Carillon de Westminster: Music: Louis Vierne (1870-1937)/

Hymnal 83: Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adestes Fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Hymnal 100: Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Hymnal 96: Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

O Holy Night: Words: Cappeau de Roquemaure (1808-1877), tr. John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893). Music: Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. John Rutter (b. 1945).

Hymnal 380: Words Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old Hundredth*, Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-1559)

Hymnal 717: Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895). Music: *America*, from *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1745.

Hymnal S-128: Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934).

Hymnal S-155: Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942) © 1985 by Aureole Editions, Dallas, Texas.

Sussex Carol: Words: English traditional carol, Music: David Willcocks (1919-2015).

Before the Marvel of This Night: Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008). Music: Carl Schalk (1929-2021).

Hymnal 102: Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938), © 1982 James Waring McCrady. Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929). Copyright © 1957, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

Hymnal 115: Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Hymnal 105: Words: London carol, 18th cent. By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850.

Hymnal 111: Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Hymnal 87: Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

Toccata, from Symphonie V: Music: Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937).

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANK OFFERINGS

The wreaths on the front doors are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lauda Eleanor Leak Corwin, Paul Charleton Corwin, junior, Corinna Herndon McCafferty,
E. L. McCafferty, junior, Marion McCafferty Sparkman, Edwin Brandoa Sparkman.



IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE CATHEDRAL FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST



Virginia Moss Behlen
Mackenzie, Edward, Edward, Jr., Harrison Bolt
Molly, Weathers, Willa, Wright Bolt
Sarah Sage Bolt
Ricky Bradford
Rives and Jessica Brown
Toni Goubil Brown



Murat and Betsy Caglaroglu
Pug Chapman
The Children and Grandchildren of Harwell E. Coale, Jr.
Louise, Neal, Margaret, Kate, William Collins
The Children and Grandchildren
of Johnny and Mary Cook
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Cooper



Jack Daves
Virginia Daves
Adair and Whitney DeBardeleben
Jane Doyle



Hamp and Macie Eichold
Samuel, Paulina, Isabella, Paula Eichold
Hamp, Tres, Elizabeth, Ford, Whit Eichold
Elizabeth Etherton
Guy, Kimberly, Lee, Lillian, Ann Barnett, Katie Etherton
Russ, Blair and Sally Etherton



Blake, Livy, Sophie Ferguson
Ted Ferguson
Carroll O'Hair Flotte
James Ward Rugan Flotte
Walter Lewis Greve Flotte
Frances and Crawford Fuller



The Garth Children
The Garth Grandchildren
Tom and Susan Garth and Family
Dylan and Elinor Gibson
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson
and Mr. J. Michael Gibson



Walter Charles Haffner, Jr.
Jeffrey Edward Halley
Leslie Stanton-Halley
Judy Henson
The Hume Grandchildren: Beckett, Sally, Davis, George
Julia, Chris, Christopher, Louise, Mary Mac Hoitink



The Israel Children and Grandchildren



Jeanne Bristow Kearley
Lillian Gholston Kearley



Leslie Patrick Ladd
The Edward Ladd Grandchildren:
Caroline, Benton, Louise, Ann, Campbell, Edward, Sarah
Henry Behlen Campbell Lucas
Jerod Lance Lucas
Virginia Collier Lucas
Virginia Hamilton Behlen Lucas
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Homer Leon McClure
Rosemarie Knowles McClure



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Theo Frank Middleton IV



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Mae, Kate, and Louise Pappas
Susie and Ray Pappas
Forrest Louise Pritchard
Louise Vass McClure Pritchard
William Shelton Pritchard IV
William Shelton Pritchard V



Frederick Wilton Rendfrey
Harris Stevens Rendfrey
Joan Rockstad



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 The Snider Grandchildren:
 Catherine Fay Snider, Mary Rose Snider,
 William Creary Carter, Lewis Beecham Carter



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 Emory Lewis Van Antwerp
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 Thomas Bragg Van Antwerp, Jr.
 Thomas Bragg Van Antwerp III
 Virginia Oliver Van Antwerp



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 Paula Watkins
 Richard Ashley Wright



IN LOVING MEMORY OF: FAMILY AND FRIENDS



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Mary Rawles Stephenson
Samuel Randall Stephenson



Fredrick Williams Taul
Nance Buerger Trawick
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C. E. "Deanie" Vacalis
Deano Vacalis
Horatio Penrose Vass
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Garet Van Antwerp, Jr.
Frances Elizabeth Lesesne Van Antwerp
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Dr. Horace C. (Bubba) Watkins III
Lucianne Forcum Wilt
Lucille Nunn Witt
Amos Jasper Wright, Jr.
Carolyn Shores Wright

CATHEDRAL NOTES



PLEASE HELP US PREPARE FOR THE NEXT SERVICE

If you do not wish to keep your bulletin please place it in the recycle bin in the vestibule.
Please return candles to the baskets in the vestibules.



CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST

Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. *(not live-streamed, no nursery)*



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m.



THE EPIPHANY HOLY EUCHARIST

Tuesday, January 6 at 5:15 p.m. *(not live-streamed, no nursery)*



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 25

The Parish Meeting will take place immediately following the service in the Chapter House.



CAMP BECKWITH ANNOUNCES 2026 CAMP DATES

Registration is open for Summer Camp 2026! Visit beckwithal.com/summercamp for information on dates, rates and tiered pricing system. Applications for Camp Staff are also being accepted.



CATHEDRAL OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The parish office will close on Tuesday, December 23 for the Christmas holiday. The office will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Clergy will be on call during this time for pastoral emergencies. Our finance office staff will check messages throughout the week to assist those who wish to make year-end gifts.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., *Dean, Christ Church Cathedral*

ASSISTING

The Reverend Daniel Pratt Paterson, *Deacon*
The Reverend Thomas K. Heard, *Priest Associate*

CHALICE BEARERS

Jill Denise Showers Chow, Mark Weeks

LAY READERS

Old Testament	Alton Rives Brown III
New Testament	Carl G. Cunningham, Jr.
Psalmist and Intercessor	Glenn D. Archer

CRUCIFERS

Frederick Wilton Rendfrey

ACOLYTES

Harris Stevens Rendfrey, Thomas Boulter Creel

CHOIR

Mollie A. Adams	Myles Garver
Glenn D. Archer	Julia Heard
Kalyn Bales	Bruce Rockstad
Devin Burton	Lark Singley
Linda Winn Grill	

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Josh Coble, *organ*

USHERS

Alton Rives Brown III, Carl G. Cunningham, Sr.,
Frederick I. Rendfrey, Leigh Richardson Taylor

ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Hicks Archer, Glenn Dawson Archer, Virginia Moss Behlen, Leslie Patrick Ladd,
Robbie Lynn Irvine, Rosemarie McClure, Lucy Lyons Harrison, Joan F. Myers, Walter Charles Haffner



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*

The Very Reverend Beverly Findley Gibson, Ph.D., *Rector and Dean*

The Reverend Thomas K. Heard, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Pratt Paterson, *Deacon*

Dr. Joshua H. Coble, *Organist and Choirmaster*

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Mobile, Alabama

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