The people’s responses are in bold.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

CARILLON PRELUDE

Canon, Air and Coda on “Psalm 42” from A triptych of Advent hymns for carillon

Ennis Fruhauf (b.1944)

ORGAN PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The people remain seated for the Introit.

INTROIT

Advent Responsory

Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)

I look from afar: and lo, I see the Power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. (Matin Responsory for Advent I)

The people stand as able and face the Advent wreath.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You sent your prophets to bring good news to the oppressed and bind up the brokenhearted. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreathe. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • 72

Hark! the glad sound!

Richmond

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

You come to your people and set them free.
THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

TRISAGION

M. McCarthy

Sung once by the cantor; then all repeat twice.

The collect for the third Sunday of Advent

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

The people are seated.

The first reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
CANTICLE 9  
*Sung by the choir.*
plainsong, Tone III

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

THE SECOND READING  
Philippians 4:4-7

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE • 598

*Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth*  
*Mit Freuden zart*

THE HOLY GOSPEL  
Luke 3:7-18

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.
The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

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

After each intercession,

We pray to you O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

The presider prays the concluding collect, and the people respond, Amen.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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.

The presider offers absolution and the people respond, Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and are then seated.
THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

This is the record of John

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. And they asked him, Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.

(John 1:19-23)

The people stand as able.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION • 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The presider offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Robert Powell (b. 1932)
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,

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

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 Saint Peter, Saint Paul, 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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Notre Père..., Padre nostro..., Vater unser...

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 INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying “Amen.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

During the administration of Holy Communion, the laying on of hands and prayers for healing are offered in St. John’s Chapel. Please enter the chapel by the ramp or stairs to the right of the pulpit.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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.

THE BLESSING

The presider blesses the people, and people respond, Amen.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 73

The King shall come when morning dawns

St. Stephen
THE DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue on “Wacht auf, ruft uns die Stimme” Max Reger (1873-1916)

The Washington Ringing Society will ring the Cathedral bells following the service.

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