The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST
Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and welcome home! We are so glad to have you here during this holy season. Please know that this Cathedral is your Cathedral; it is a house of prayer for all people, and you are always welcome here.

The good news of great joy to be found during the Christmas season centers not only around gatherings of family and friends, but also in the proclamation of the marvelous work God is doing in the midst of human history. It is the season when we proclaim God’s good news that we are loved so much that God became one of us in order to lift all of us up to God. It is the astounding news that the infinite God who created all things loves us, not by lording over us, but by humbling God’s self to be born a helpless infant in a stable in Palestine. As Christians, all our hopes rest on this newborn baby—his life, his death, and his resurrection.

Whatever brings you to the Cathedral this Christmas season, please know that we gather to proclaim what many people would consider preposterous—that love is the strongest force in the universe. It is more powerful than all that divides us. It is more powerful than the greatest of rulers or the most powerful of armies. It is the force that formed the universe and the essence of the very God we gather to worship. In Jesus we believe that God’s love is perfected, and because Jesus walked this earth as one of us, we believe that by God’s grace, we can mold our lives on his.

Whether you regularly participate in our worshiping community or this is your first time in the Cathedral, we are honored to have you here. I have no doubt that God has brought you to this place for a reason, and I hope and pray that you will know the deep presence of God moving in your life. There is so much joy to be found in these Christmas celebrations, and as we journey together to meet the newborn babe in Bethlehem, may you feel the touch of God upon your heart. God has come among us, the world is forever changed, and love reigns supreme.

From all of us here at the Cathedral, have a joyous Christmas, a wonderful new year, and we hope to see you soon.

Blessings,

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean, Washington National Cathedral
The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Festival Holy Eucharist
December 25, 2019 • 11:15 AM

The people’s responses are in bold.

CARILLON PRELUDE

O come, all ye faithful
Ding dong! merrily on high
Go tell it on the mountain
Angels, from the realms of glory
Joy to the world!

Adeste fideles; arr. Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)
Jehan Tabourot (1519-1595)
Negro spiritual; arr. Raymond Keldermans (1911-1984)
Regent Square; arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931)
Antioch; arr. Frank P. Law (1918-1985)

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in A major, BWV 536
Gesù bambino
Noël étranger
Toccata on “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Pietro Yon (1886-1942)
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
Mark A. Miller (b. 1967)

INTROIT

Ding dong! merrily on high
Ding dong! merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riven with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

(George R. Woodward, 1848-1934)
The Entrance Rite

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

Hymn at the Procession

O come, all ye faithful

Sung by all.

Adeste fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
4. Child, for us sinners poor and in a manger,
5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,

Adeste fideles

1. come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
2. lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
3. leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
4. we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
5. sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
6. Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Adeste fideles

1. come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
2. only begetten Son of the Father;
3. we too will bend our joyful footsteps;
4. who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
5. glory to God, glory in the highest;
6. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
THE ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Presider  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People   And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
Presider  The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;
People   And we beheld his glory.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Sung by all.

Glory to God in the high'est, and peace to his
people on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us; you are se-at-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther:
re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the
Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther.

THE COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who
joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The people are seated.
The Word of God

The First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98:1-6

chant: Douglas Major (b. 1953)

The choir introduces the refrain, then all repeat.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. Refrain

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Refrain

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. Refrain

The Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.
The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE

Go tell it on the mountain

Sung by all.

Negro spiritual

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

The people stand as able.
THE NICE 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

Intercessor Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for the world to which Christ comes, the Church whom Christ calls, and all people in need whom Christ loves.

Silence is kept.

Ever-present God, strengthen your Church to be a messenger of peace, that through its proclamation and life it may bring Good News to all who are disheartened. God of love and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor Uphold the leaders of the nations and all who strive for justice and freedom, that their work for peace may shine with your saving love. God of love and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.
**Intercessor**

Raise up those who are lowly and vulnerable, that Christ's humble birth may shine hope within their hearts and lead us to care for all in need. God of love and peace,

**People**

*Hear us, we pray.*

**Intercessor**

Let your healing presence be known to all who are sick, that they may be comforted and lifted up. God of love and peace,

**People**

*Hear us, we pray.*

**Intercessor**

Gladden our hearts through our sharing of Word and Sacrament, and let your grace and truth fill all our days. God of love and peace,

**People**

*Hear us, we pray.*

**Intercessor**

For all who have died; unite us with all the saints, until we join them in the brightness of your heavenly glory. God of love and peace,

**People**

*Hear us, we pray.*

**Presider**

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.

**People**

*Amen.*

**THE PEACE**

**Presider**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People**

*And also with you.*

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

**THE OFFERTORY**

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s work of sharing God’s love with the world. You may also text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

**ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY**

*Hodie Christus natus est*

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

*Sung in Latin.*

Today Christ is born.
Today the Savior has appeared.
Today on earth the angels sing, and the archangels rejoice.
Today the just exult, saying Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia, Noel.

*(Antiphon on the Magnificat, Vespers of Christmas Day)*
The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Angels, from the realms of glory

1. Angels, from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar:
4. Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,

ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Refrain

come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
The Holy Communion

the great thanksgiving

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.

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 & BENEDICTUS

Sung by all. Picardy

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,

People 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 blessed Mary and Joseph, Peter and Paul, our patrons, 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.

All
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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

The presider breaks the bread in silence.

Sung by all.

Picardy

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.
THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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.

The people are seated.

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Sung by all.

Hush, my dear one

Traditional Welsh, arr. K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

1. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears a way.

2. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

Joy to the world!

Sung by all.

Antioch

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

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns in fest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far

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

heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

peat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,

wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,

and heaven, and heaven, and

sing, repeat, repeat,

joy, the sounding joy,

found, far as, far as

love, wonders, wonders, wonders of his love,

heaven and nature sing,

peat the sounding joy,

as the curse is found,

wonders of his love,
THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People Amen.

Presider 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.

People Amen.

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People Amen.

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen.
HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Hark! the herald angels sing

Sung by all.

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the ever-lasting Lord;
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Peace on earth and mercy mild,
late in time behold him come,
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Beth-lehem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel!
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King!
THE DISMISSAL

Gospeller    Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
People       Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Fantasy on “Adeste fideles,” Op. 1322
(World premiere)    Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

Following the service, the Washington Ringing Society will attempt a quarter peal to joyfully celebrate the Great Mystery of the Incarnation.

A gift in celebration of Christ’s birth is made to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the William Carter and Maurine Stuart families.

CHRISTMAS DAY ORGAN RECITAL

1:30 PM

Organists Thomas Sheehan and George Fergus play a Christmas recital of traditional and familiar holiday favorites on the Cathedral’s Great Organ.

Thank you for worshipping at Washington National Cathedral, your National Cathedral. The work of the Cathedral in service to the city, the nation, and the world is made possible entirely through private support. The gifts of people from across the country and the world are behind every worship service, concert, public program, and the daily work of maintaining this historic landmark. It is only through your generosity that the Cathedral can fully live into its priorities of welcoming, deepening, convening, and serving.

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Visit cathedral.org to sign up for our weekly newsletter. You can also make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong—either as the plate is passed or by using our mobile giving program. Simply text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005. You’ll be taken to a secure website to enter your credit card information.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope
Provost

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello
Canon Vicar

The Reverend Canon Kelly Brown Douglas
Canon Theologian

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan
Canon for Worship

The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.
Canon Missioner

The Reverend Canon John L. Peterson
Canon for Reconciliation and Global Justice

The Reverend Canon Samuel Van Culin
Canon Ecumenist

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser
Priest Associate

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Thomas M. Sheehan
Organist and Associate Director of Music

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Head Usher

Angela Wilson
Deputy Head Usher
FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.


COVER: Detail of reredos stone carving of the nativity in Bethlehem Chapel.

Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.

The work of Washington National Cathedral is made possible entirely by our donors.
Learn more at: cathedral.org/donate.