Christmas Eve
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 people’s responses are in bold.

CARILLON PRELUDE

O come, all ye faithful
O little town of Bethlehem
Angels, from the realms of glory
Carol from Little Bell Book for Carillon
What child is this
God rest you merry, gentlemen
Shepherds, come to the stable
Let all mortal flesh keep silence
Away in a manger
Angels we have heard on high
Hark! the herald angels sing
Silent night

Adeste fideles; arr. Edward M. Nassor (b. 1957)
St. Louis; arr. Kamiel Lefevere (1888-1984)
Regent Square; arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931)
Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)
Greensleeves; arr. E. M. Nassor
arr. M. Myhre
Theodorus Everaerts (1690–1740)
Picardy; arr. Ronald Barnes (1927-1997)
Cradle Song; arr. M. Myhre
Gloria; arr. Frank P. Law (1918-1985)
Mendelssohn; arr. Albert C. Gerken (b.1938)
Stille Nacht; arr. Hans Uwe Hielscher (b. 1945)

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in A major, BWV 536
Noël étranger
Greensleeves
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BuxWV 188
Partita on “Adeste fideles”
Toccata on “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)
Dieterich Buxtehude (1617-1707)
Charles Callahan (b. 1951)
Mark A. Miller (b. 1967)

INTROIT

Away in a manger
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

(Anonymous)
THE ENTRANCE RITE

The people stand as able.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

Dean Hollerith
Behold, the dwelling of God is with creation.

People
He will dwell with us, and we shall be his people.

Dean Hollerith
God himself is with us. Alleluia.

People
Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Dean Hollerith
Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Bless, we pray, this crèche, that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People
Amen.

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 manner,
5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning;

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;

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

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

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us;

And we beheld his glory.
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Sung by all.

William Mathias (1934-1992)

THE COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Dean Hollerith  The Lord be with you.

People  And also with you.

Dean Hollerith  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.

People  Amen.

The people are seated.
The Word of God

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

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 trampling 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.

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-13

chant: George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

The choir introduces the refrain; then all repeat.

To-day is born our Sav-i-or, Christ the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  Refrain

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.  Refrain

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.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.  Refrain

The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

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.

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.
HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE

Angels we have heard on high
Sung by all.

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

4. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;

and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Gloria

In excelsis Deo.

Gloria

in excelsis Deo.

Gloria

in excelsis Deo.

Gloria
THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeller  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeller  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the bishop.

THE SERMON  The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde

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

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.

Everlasting God, let your radiance shine forth and renew in your people an eager desire to proclaim the good news of salvation to those who still wait in darkness. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor Creating God, on this blessed night the heavens and the earth rejoice. Make us ever mindful of our calling to be faithful stewards of all you have given us, so that generations to come may flourish and praise you. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor Peacemaking God, bring glad tidings of peace to the ends of the earth. Lead and guide the nations of the world and those who govern them, that your justice and peace may rule over all. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor Wonderful Counselor, shelter those who seek refuge and safety but find no welcome. Bring hope to the lives of those who are lost or helpless. Send your Spirit of healing and comfort to all who are in need. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor Mighty God, watch over those who are lonely or grieving. Bless all who seek you, and open our hearts to receive the gift of your love. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Intercessor God with us in every time and place, your steadfast love never ends. We give thanks for the faithful of every generation as we wait in hope to join the multitude of the heavenly hosts in praising and glorifying you forever. God of light and peace,

People Hear us, we pray.

Dean Hollerith 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.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

Dean Hollerith 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

O holy night

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

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,
Till 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! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O 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 the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.

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

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Angels, from the realms of glory

Placide Cappeau, 1808-1877; English translation John Sullivan Dwight, 1813-1893, alt.

Chem with you is now re - sid - ing; yon-der shines the in - fant Light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Refrain

come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.
The Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dean Hollerith  The Lord be with you.
People       And also with you.
Dean Hollerith  Lift up your hearts.
People       We lift them to the Lord.
Dean Hollerith  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People       It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Dean Hollerith  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

Song by all. Picardy

Dean Hollerith  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;
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

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

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

Dean Hollerith breaks the bread in silence.

Sung by all.

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.

Picardy

1. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads it van-guard 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 away.

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!"

ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION

O magnum mysterium
Sung in Latin.

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the birth of the Lord and him lying in a manger.

O blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy to carry the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

(Matins Responsory for Christmas Day)

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

Silent night
Sung by all.
Stille Nacht

1. 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. Christ, the Savior is born!

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
   glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
   Sleep in heavenly peace. Christ, the Savior is born!

3. 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.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The bishop blesses the people, and the people respond, 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 everlasting Lord;

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

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!
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.

THE DISMISSAL

Gospeller Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

People Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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

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

Festival Holy Eucharist  
11:15 AM

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 worshiping 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.

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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

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FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE CATHEDRAL ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.