Christmas Day FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

O the magnitude of meekness! Worth from worth immortal sprung; O the strength of infant weakness, If eternal is so young! —Christopher Smart "The Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"

Christmas 2015 arrives at an unusually fraught time in our national and international life. We seem this season to be assaulted by distressing news on an almost daily basis. Life seems ever more fragile and at risk. Civility seems all but absent from our public discourse. We spend our days alternating between postures of anger and fear.

It is natural in times like these to want to defend ourselves and to strike back at those who either threaten our sense of security or offend our values. Our safety, we believe, resides either in our corporate and personal power or in our superior principles.

As vexing as today's world can be, it is no more disturbed than the one into which Jesus came two millennia ago. Then as now the arrogant overwhelmed the meek. Then as now the preciousness of life seemed of no account to those bent on enmity and control. Then as now the answers on offer seemed to revolve around getting more—resources, power, control—with which to overwhelm those who posed a threat either in fact or imagination.

But it has always been the affirmation of the biblical tradition—from the Hebrew prophets to Jesus himself and to his earliest followers—that security resides neither in power nor money nor status. Real safety—the kind that Isaiah, Jesus, and Paul both live out and offer—consists in what might seem like a counterintuitive set of emotions. Real security consists in trust—trust that reality is finally friendly, trust that the world is actually good, trust that God keeps promises. The One behind the world—the One who comes into it then and now at Christmas—is ultimately trustworthy. And we are finally safe.

The eighteenth century English poet Christopher Smart understood what Isaiah and Jesus and Paul proclaimed and what Jesus's mother Mary lived out in her faithful nurture of her infant son. We normally think of and describe God as ultimate power, but such a construction gets it totally wrong. The truth is really the other way around. God is not to be seen in ultimate power. God is on view in ultimate weakness. God comes among us not as a warrior but as a baby. Our image of God is not of a mighty king but a helpless infant. Our fantasies of power are fakes. What Smart calls the "strength of infant weakness" is the real truth about God, the world, and us.

We gather in this cathedral church during the season of infant weakness to celebrate the strength and endurance of those values and virtues that Christopher Smart names "the magnitude of meekness". The One born at Christmas will come to stand with and for us humans in ways that will outlast the pretensions and postures of power in all its pompous self-display. The infant Jesus embraces us in his weakness, and beckons us to share that embrace around. The problems of 2015 lose their power to frighten us. We can live, with God and Jesus and our neighbors in gratitude and trust.

May the God we meet in infant weakness bless you in the magnitude of meekness to live in hope and thanksgiving, both now and throughout the year. Welcome to Christmas at Washington National Cathedral.

As R. Aup

Gary Hall Dean, Washington National Cathedral

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST DECEMBER 25, 2015 • 11:00 AM



CARILLON PRELUDE

Once in royal David's city Joy to the world! the Lord is come Ding dong merrily on high The holly and the ivy Paraphrase on Gloria in excelsis Hark! the herald angels sing

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV 541 Gigue – Go, tell it on the mountain Partita – In dulci jubilo

WELCOME

INTROIT

What cheer?

What cheer? Good cheer! 'Lift up your hearts and be glad in Christ's birth', The angel bade, say each to other, if any be sad: "What cheer?"

Now the King of heav'n his birth hath take, Joy and mirth we ought to make; Say each to other, for his sake: 'What cheer?'

I tell you all with heart so free: Right welcome, ye be to me; Be glad and merry, for charity! What cheer? Good cheer! Be merry and glad this good New Year!

(Richard Hill's Commonplace Book, 16th century)

Irby; arr. Edward M. Nassor (b.1957) Antioch; arr. Frank P. Law (1918-1985) Jehan Tabourot (1519-1595); arr. E. Nassor Traditional; arr. Milford Myhre (b. 1931) Sjef van Balkom (1922-2004) Mendelssohn; arr. Albert C. Gerken (b. 1938)

> Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) A. D. Miller (b. 1972) James Vivian (b. 1974)

> > William Walton (1902-1983)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Sung by all, standing

Irby

Once in Royal David's city



ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Presider People	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace, full of truth.
Presider People	And we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son.
Presider People	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace, full of truth.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest Sung by all Glo-ry to God in the high-est, peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. P7 6 0 0 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin



William Mathias (1934-1992)

and peace to God's

Fa- ther,

Lord

Je- sus

of the

5



COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY

PresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLet us pray.Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be
born of a pure virgin; grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may
daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The people are seated.

The Word of God

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.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

PSALM 98

The choir introduces the antiphon, then all repeat.



All sing the antiphon.



SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4

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.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

The people stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come



THE	HOLY	GOSPEL
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Gospeller							•		-•			
The	Holy	Gospel	of our	Lord	Jesus	Christ	ac -	· cord	· ing	to	John.	
People												

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller People Description of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED Said by all, standing.

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who 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.

Dean Hall

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Loving God, in this holy time, your Son our Savior is born; bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ; a people of your love incarnate; a people of joy, a people of peace.

Canto	r People						
6 7							
U	Ho - ly God, hear our prayer.						
Intercessor Cantor People	In this holy time, Mary and Joseph find no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, those for whom we make no room, those who live in crushing poverty. <i>Holy God,</i> <i>Hear our prayer.</i>						
Intercessor	In this holy time, Mary, in the pain of labor, brings your Son to birth. Keep watch over all who know any pain or						
Cantor People	distress; any anxiety or fear; and bring them to newness of life. <i>Holy God,</i> <i>Hear our prayer.</i>						
Intercessor	In this holy time, your Christ comes as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to the suffering; tender mercy to the sorrowing; assurance of your presence to the struggling.						
Cantor People	Holy God, Hear our prayer.						
Intercessor	In this holy time, the angels sing "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen the will of those who work for						
Cantor People	peace. Quicken in us all a holy impatience for justice throughout the world. Holy God, Hear our prayer.						
Intercessor Cantor	In this holy time, shepherds in the field hear good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redeeming love, and stamina to witness the truth of your compassion.						
People	Holy God, Hear our prayer.						
Intercessor	In this holy time, strangers find the Holy Family, and behold the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all beloved to us. Bless the stranger and the vulnerable; may they find in us a welcoming place.						
Cantor People	Holy God, Hear our prayer.						
Intercessor	In this holy time, heaven stoops down to earth, and earth rises up to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death, trusting in that which they cannot see; believing in your promise of light and life in the eternal company of heaven.						
Cantor People	Holy God, Hear our prayer.						
Intercessor	In this holy time, Christians in every place celebrate the birth of your Son. Open our hearts to receive this mystery						
Cantor People	of your love; come to heal us, come to save us, come to set us free. <i>Holy God,</i> <i>Hear our prayer.</i>						
Presider All	God of grace, in this holy time, angels and shepherds worship at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.						

THE PEACE

PresiderThe peace of Christ be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

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

THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral's work of sharing God's love with the world.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Zither Carol

Malcolm Sargent (1895–1967)

Girls and boys, leave your toys, make no noise, Kneel at his crib and worship him. At thy shrine, child divine, we are thine, Our Saviour's here.

"Hallelujah!" the church bells ring, "Hallelujah!" the angels sing, "Hallelujah!" from ev'rything. All must draw near.

On that day - far away - Jesus lay, Angels were watching round his head, Holy Child - mother mild - undefiled, We sing thy praise.

Shepherds came - at the fame - of thy name, Angels their guide to Bethlehem. In that place - saw thy face - filled with grace, Stood at thy door.

Wise men too - haste to do - homage new, Gold, myrrh and frankincense they bring. As 'twas said - starlight led - to thy bed, Bending their knee.

Oh, that we - all might be - good as he, Spotless with God in unity. Saviour dear - ever near - with us here Since life began.

The people stand for the presentation hymn and remain standing.

Angels we have heard on high



Gloria

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.

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



The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Presider People	Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Presider	Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
People	Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Presider People	Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary and Joseph and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- *Presider* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray—each of us in the language in which we first learned this prayer—as our Savior Christ taught us,
- People Notre Père..., Padre nuestro..., 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 AND THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Michael McCarthy (b. 1966)



INVITATION

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

ANTHEMS AT THE COMMUNION

Here is the little door

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more but enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold, Gold that was never bought nor sold; Myrrh to be strewn about His Bed; Incense in clouds about His Head; All for the Child that stirs not in His sleep, But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep. Bend low about His Bed, for each he has a gift; See how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword (Defend with it Thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red Myrrh for the honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet, Touched by such tiny hands and Oh such tiny feet.

(Frances Chesterton, 1875-1938)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance:

Sing O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

John Gardner (1917-2011)

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor this was my chance, Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance, My Father's voice heard from above, To call my true love to my dance.

(Traditional English)

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION

Sung by all, standing

Personent hodie



"Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!" is Latin for "Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Said by all.

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

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS

Presider People	May Almighty God, who sent Jesus to take our nature upon himself, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of holiness. Amen.
Presider	May God, who sent the 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 the peace and favor of this holy feast.
People	Amen.
Presider	And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.
People	Amen.

DISMISSAL



HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Sung by all.

Mendelssohn



ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Finale,* from *Symphonie No.* 1

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Very Reverend Gary Hall Dean, Washington National Cathedral

The Reverend Canon Gina Gilland Campbell Canon Precentor, Washington National Cathedral

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope Provost, Washington National Cathedral

The Reverend Canon Michele Hagans Canon for Ministry Initiatives, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

The Reverend Stuart Kenworthy Vicar, Washington National Cathedral

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 Dulin and Maurine Stuart Dulin Families.

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir

Canon Michael McCarthy Director of Music, Washington National Cathedral

Benjamin Straley Organist and Associate Director of Music, Washington National Cathedral

> Edward M. Nassor Carillonneur, Washington National Cathedral

READERS

William Kachadorian Barbara Powell Johnson

INTERCESSOR

Paula Mays

PERMISSIONS: *Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis.* Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). © 1976 Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. *O little town of Bethlehem.* Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Public Domain. Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright:Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. *Once in royal David's city.* Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Public Domain. St. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) © 1982, James Warring McCrady. © 1957, Novello and Company Limited. Permission requested. Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929). Public Domain. *Joy to the world!* Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Public Domain. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Public Domain. *Angels we have heard on high*. Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Public Domain. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958). Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. *On this day earth shall ring*. Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929). Music: Personent hodie, melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582; harm. Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934). Copyright: Words: G. Schirmer, Inc. Reprinted by permission. Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. *Sanctus and benedictus: Holy, holy. holy. Setting*: William Mathias (1934–1992). © 1976 Oxford University Press. *Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709283. Hark! the herala angels sing*. Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Public Domain. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). Public Domain. Selected prayers from *Common Worship* and *Common Worship*: Times and Seasons. Church House Publishing. Copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.



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

HIGH ALTAR: in memory of Hibbard G. James; HIGH ALTAR SANCTUARY CANDELABRA: in loving memory of Charles and Mary Russell Bounds; ST. MARY'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, and in loving memory of the Reverend and Mrs. Norman Egerton and Robert Marsden Goodchild; ST. MARY'S CHAPEL GATES: in loving memory of Stephen Mark Walsh; HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Ann Wilson, and in loving memory of Frank Murray and Rosanna Milner Warner; ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; ST. JOHN'S PRINCE TOMB: in honor of Norman Prince; ST. JOHN'S GATES: in memory of Athanasius Tapera; CHILDREN'S CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Wayne Evan Matejik; CHRIST CHILD TREE: in honor of Andrew, Kurt, and Stefan Moss; Jennifer and Robert Vettori Jr.; and Lydia Hynson, and in honor of The Great Mystery of the Incarnation; CHILDREN'S CHAPEL FONT: in joyful thanksgiving for Jane and Anne Guidera and Jack, Will, and Kate Rogstad; WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL ALTAR: in memory of Margaret H. Howard; DULIN BAY: given in memory of and thanksgiving for Blanche Scott Dulin, Edward Milton Dulin Sr., and Dr. William C. Dulin; FOLGER BAY: given in memory of J. Clifford Folger; WOODROW WILSON TOMB: in thanksgiving for and in honor of President Woodrow Wilson; BETHLEHEM CHAPEL ALTAR: in honor of David, Michael and Peter Lee, and in loving memory of Favour Hazeltine Slater; ANGUS DUN FONT: in honor of Helen Barnard and in thanksgiving for her service to the Cathedral; PRINCE TOMB CRYPT: in honor of Frederick Henry Prince and Abigail Norman Prince; RESURRECTION CHAPEL ALTAR: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL COLUMBARIUM GATES: in memory of and thanksgiving for the Seferlis and Tidball families; USHERS' CARNATIONS: in memory of Lieutenant James Norbert Matthews.

COVER: An acolyte lights the high altar candelabra on Christmas. Photo by Danielle E. Thomas.

