

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,

RMH6 Sith+

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!

ORGAN PRELUDE

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

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)

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)

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

16th century French; arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

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

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION





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.



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.

The Word of the Lord. Reader Thanks be to God. People

PSALM 98:1-6

chant: Douglas Major (b. 1953)

The choir introduces the refrain, then all repeat.



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.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

GospellerThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory 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	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The people stand as able.

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

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.

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 People	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, Hear us, we pray.
Intercessor People	Let your healing presence be known to all who are sick, that they may be comforted and lifted up. God of love and peace, Hear us, we pray.
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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 Sung in Latin. Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

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)

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION



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:



PresiderWe 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."

People Therefore, according to his command, O Father, 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 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 ${\mathscr C}$ the fraction anthem

The presider breaks the bread in silence.



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



ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION

Hush, my dear one

Hush, my dear one, sleep serenely; Now, my lovely, slumber deep. Mother rocks you, humming lowly; Close your eyes, now go to sleep. Angels hover ever nearer, Looking on your smiling face. I will hold you, close enfold you; Close your eyes, now go to sleep.

Lovely darling, I will guard you, Keep you from all woe and harm. Softly, gently I will rock you, Resting sweetly on my arm. May you slumber e'er so softly; Dream of visions wondrous fair. I will hold you, close enfold you; Close your eyes, now go to sleep. Traditional Welsh, arr. K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

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

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

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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



THE DISMISSAL

GospellerGo in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.PeopleThanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Fantasy on "Adeste fideles," Op. 1322 (World premiere)

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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

I: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.

SOURCES & PERMISSIONS Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Opening acclamation (adapted), collect, psalm, Eucharistic Prayer B, and postcommunion prayer taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979. Public domain. Prayers of the people (adapted) taken from *Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2002*, Copyright 2001, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Blessing taken from *The Book of Occasional Services, 2003. Copyright 2004, Church Pension Fund.* Used by permission. All rights reserved. *O come, all ye faithful.* Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others, alt. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody attr. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain. *Gloria in excelsis Deo: Glory to God.* Music: William Mathias (1934-1992), Copyright 1976, Oxford University Press. Reprinted under One License #A-709283. *Go tell it on the mountain.* Text: Negro spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John Wesley Work, Jr. (1871-1925). Music: Negro spiritual, 19th cent. Public domain. *Angels, from the realms of glory.* Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879). Public domain. *Sanctus & Benedictus.* Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chanson populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860. Public domain. *Joy to the world!* Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Public domain. *Hark! the herald angels sing.* Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915). Public domain.

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)



Cathedral church of saint peter $\dot{\mathcal{C}}$ saint paul

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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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Thomas M. Sheehan Organist and Associate Director of Music

George H. Fergus Associate Director of Music and Assistant Organist

> Dr. Edward M. Nassor *Carillonneur*

Washington Ringing Society Robert Bannister, *Ringing Master*

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Kerry Fergus *Head Usher*

Angela Wilson Deputy Head Usher

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

High Altar: in memory of Hibbard G. James; Candelabra in the High Altar Sanctuary: in loving memory of Charles and Mary Russell Bounds; Canterbury Pulpit: in memory of George W. Guthrie; Stone Lectern: in loving memory of Marilyn Ehrlich and Nancy J. McKee; Altar in the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin: in memory of Mr, and Mrs. Larz Anderson, and in loving memory of James H. Lewis and Betty Prater Lewis; Altar in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit: in memory of Ann Wilson; Altar in the Chapel of St. John: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends; Norman Prince Tomb in the Chapel of St. John: in honor of Norman Prince; Altar in Children's Chapel: 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; Altar in War Memorial Chapel: 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 and Kathrine Dulin Folger; Altar in the Chapel of the Nativity; in honor of David, Michael, and Peter Lee; Angus Dun Font: in honor of Frederick Henry Prince and Abigail Norman Prince; Altar in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd: in memory of Charles Ray Long family and friends; Altar in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd: in memory of Charles Ray Long family and Sherman Hazeltine; Columbarium Gates in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea: in loving memory of Favour H. Slater and Mary and Sherman Hazeltine; Columbarium Gates in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea: in memory of Favour H. Slater and Mary and Sherman Hazeltine; Columbarium Gates in the Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea: in memory of the Steferlis and Tidball families; Ushers' carnations: in memory of Licutenant James Norbert Matthews.

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.



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