

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Dear friends,

Welcome to Washington National Cathedral. Thank you for joining us for our Christmas celebrations. Whether you are here every Sunday or you are just visiting this one time, we are blessed to have you with us, and we hope you will find something of God's love, hope, and peace in this sacred space.

The great miracle of the Christian faith is that God becomes one of us. The infinite becomes finite, and the unknowable God, beyond space and time, becomes a helpless infant totally dependent on the love and care of a young unwed couple. Why? Why would God do such a thing? Why would the Creator of all things deign to be born in a stable? Because of love. God loves us so much that God becomes one of us in order to reach us, in order to lift us toward God. In the process, God hallows all human existence and provides us, in Jesus, with a living example of what it means to be fully human.

Two thousand years ago, Mary and Joseph wandered their way through the city of Bethlehem looking for a home, searching for a safe place where they could rest. Scripture tells us they were young and in trouble—Mary was not supposed to be pregnant and Joseph was not supposed to stay with her now that she was. But they were in love and they knew that somehow God was calling them to play a role in God's plans for the world. Sometime during the night, a child was born, a special child, a child whose destiny was to be Immanuel—God with us. God with us, not God above us and beyond us, not God transcendent and mysterious, not God out of our reach and free from our experience—but God here, present in this life, in a human person, needing human love. Jesus was born to satisfy our yearnings, to fill that hole in our souls, to bring God closer to us, and to bring all of us closer to our home in God.

A child once said: "I wish I had a picture of God." This is exactly what we are granted in the birth of Jesus. God has shown us God's face. And so, as you leave the Cathedral today, take the Christ child with you. Take his humility and make it your own. Learn to be more patient, more open, more understanding, and more forgiving of others in your life. Take his life of service and make it your life. Learn to take less from others; learn to give more of yourself without the thought of getting anything in return. And finally, take his love and let God's love for you become the source of your love for one another. May we all this Christmastide find the Christ Child again and again, and bring him afresh into our Jesus-starved world. Because he is needed now more than ever.

Merry Christmas and may God bless and keep you this day and always.

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith Dean, Washington National Cathedral

RMHO with



DECEMBER 22, 2023 • 6:00 PM

The people's responses are in **bold**.

Prelude

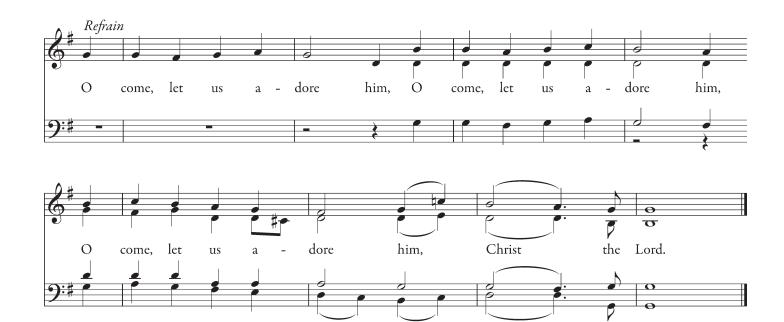
Away in a Manger
Center of My Joy
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Magnificent and Holy
Silent Night
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

James Ramsey Murray (1841–1905); arr. Anthony Walker
Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)
Traditional English carol; arr. A. Walker
Israel Houghton (b. 1971)
Kirk Franklin (b. 1970)
plainsong; arr. A. Walker

Нуми





WELCOME

My sisters, brothers, and siblings: in the name of Christ I welcome you this night. We have come together in the presence of God as Christmas draws near to prepare for the Good News of Jesus' birth. Let us hear again the wonderful story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer, and praise, and song.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;

make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to the Lord a new Song!

People Sing of Christ's glorious birth!

Officiant Come! Hear the news of great joy!

People A child is born to us.

Officiant Great joy for all people of the earth.

People A child is born to us.

Officiant A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!

People A child is born to us who is Christ the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

Officiant Holy and merciful God,

like the shepherds of old, we listen for news of great joy, in the words of the herald angels. You are coming into the world at last. Open our hearts and our souls, O God,

that we may welcome your Son

into our lives with joy.

People Amen.

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING • ISAIAH 9:2, 6

The righteous reign of the coming King.

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.
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.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Joy to the World

Lowell Mason (1792–1872) after George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); arr. Mervyn Warren (b. 1964)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,

Let heaven and nature sing.

Refrain Everybody sing joy to the world!

For the Lord is come: Let earth receive her king;

Let every heart prepare him room,

Heaven and nature sing.

Go tell of his glory, Shout out the story, That the Savior is born. Let heaven and nature sing.

Let fields and floods, Rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy. Go tell of his glory, Shout out the story, That the Savior is born. Let heaven and nature sing.

Sing joy to the world! For the Savior reigns

And makes his blessings flow. Joyful all ye nations rise. Join the triumph of the skies, With angelic hosts proclaim.

Glory to the king. While the angels sing.

Refrain

Everybody sing joy, Sing, joy to the world!

(after Isaac Watts, 1674–1748)

THE SECOND READING • LUKE 1:26-31

The Annunciation.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Holy Night

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 soul rejoices For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices. O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

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 come the wise men from Orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend.

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856); arr. Roberto Burton

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before him lowly bend.

Truly he taught us to love one another,
His law is love, and his gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy Name.

Christ is the Lord; O praise his Name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim. O night divine.

(Placide Cappeau, 1808–1877; trans. John Sullivan Dwight, 1813–1893)

THE THIRD READING • LUKE 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus.

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.

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

Hymn



The people are seated.

THE FOURTH READING • CHRISTMAS CAROL

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906)

Ring out, ye bells! All Nature swells

With gladness at the wondrous story,—

The world was lorn, But Christ is born

To change our sadness into glory.

Sing, earthlings, sing! To-night a King

Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.

The outstretched hand O'er all the land

Is raised in pity to caress us.

Come at his call; Be joyful all;

Away with mourning and with sadness!

The heavenly choir With holy fire

Their voices raise in songs of gladness.

The darkness breaks And Dawn awakes,

Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.

The rocks and stones

In holy tones

Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.

Then why should we

In silence be,

When Nature lends her voice to praises;

When heaven and earth Proclaim the truth

Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?

No, be not still, But with a will

Strike all your harps and set them ringing;

On hill and heath Let every breath

Throw all its power into singing!

CAROL

Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells

I heard from heaven today, heard from heaven today, Oh Lord, I heard, I thank the Lord, the Savior is born.

Peter, go ring dem bells!

Negro spiritual; arr. Noble Cain (1896–1977)

The Fifth Reading • John 1:1-18

The Incarnation of the Word of God.

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Revelation 19:1

Hallelujah,

Salvation and glory, Honor and power To the Lord, our God.

For the Lord, our God is mighty. The Lord, our God is omnipotent.

The Lord, our God, He is wonderful. A. Jeffrey LaValley (b. 1953); arr. Stephen Hurd (b. 1968)

All praises be

To the King of kings, And the Lord, our God.

He is wonderful.

Hallelujah,

He is wonderful.

Hallelujah,

Salvation and glory, Honor and power, He is wonderful.

THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, online at cathedral.org/give, or by scanning the QR code on the back cover of this leaflet.

Anthem at the Offertory

We Are Christmas

A baby was born.

Born of a virgin,

In a stable in Bethlehem,

So, this Christmas please remember,

What the true meaning is. Remember Gabriel and Mary, And the Savior who lives.

God's only son.

And the Savior who lives.

Angel Gabriel told them to have joy, Remember we are Christ among us,

Have no fear.

For this baby, our Savior,

He would dry every tear.

And we live for his cause

To fulfill His purpose daily

As we bring joy to all

Mary magnified the Lord in her soul and she cried, We are comfort for the hurting For this baby, she would bear, Mending each broken heart

held all power and all might. We are friendly to the lonesome

Born for all people to be free and redeemed.

And He lives today within us,

And We're His hands who touched the sick

Though we don't always see.

Refrain We are Christmas.

And they're instantly whole We are water for the thirsty

We are God's hands.

To care for one another

And speak peace to every soul

Refrain

in these war-torn lands.

We are Christmas.

He lives in me

The love that we share.

He lives in you

Will carry one another 'til we understand.

We are Christmas.

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

Refrain

Kevin P. Johnson, Sarah Stephens blease remember.

Нуми



THE PRAYER OF HOPE AND JOY

People On this holy night, O God, Officiant we turn our hearts to you.

You are our hope, our light our salvation.

People On this holy night, O God,

Officiant we celebrate the joy of your coming,

and yearn to be born anew.

People On this holy night, O God,

Officiant we celebrate the mystery of your coming,

awed at how you humbled yourself to be one with us.

People On this holy night, O God,
Officiant we welcome the Christ Child:

born among the animals, wrapped in bands of cloth, and laid in a manger.

People On this holy night, O God,

we rejoice in your Son, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

The officiant offers concluding words.

THE SENDING • THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

Officiant When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

People To heal the broken,
 Officiant To feed the hungry,
 People To release the prisoner,
 Officiant To rebuild the nations,

People To bring peace among brothers,

To make music in the heart.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant Christ among us, who brings joy to the world, heal our brokenness, and bring us to wholeness, ease our

pain, and bring us hope, strength, and life. Give us a new heart, new hope, and a new song, that our

prayers and deeds may be one. We ask it in your Holy name.

People Amen.

THE BLESSING

Officiant May the love that made the stars, be your guiding light. May the love revealed in Jesus be your hope and

joy; and may the love of the ever present Spirit give you courage and inspiration; now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

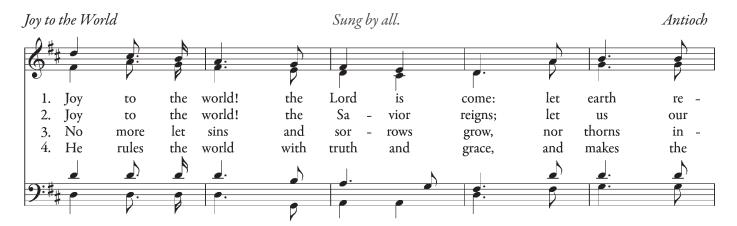
We have celebrated this wonderful gift of God this night.

As we go, may we share the good news with all we meet!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN





Postlude

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" from *Great Joy* Michael McElroy (b. 1967), Joseph Joubert, Buryl Red (1969–2013)

JASON MAX FERDINAND SINGERS

The Jason Max Ferdinand Singers was founded in 2021 by conductor, composer, and author Jason Max Ferdinand. This malleable ensemble contains a wide range of professionals that range from award winning artists and singers to lawyers and college professors. The ensemble is on a mission to promote Black excellence through choral literature of contrasting styles, while advocating for inclusion, diversity, and unity within our various societies throughout the world.

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS CHILDREN OF THE GOSPEL CHOIR

Formed in 1993, Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG) is one of Washington Performing Arts' resident ensembles. COTG has become a destination choir for local students who look to develop excellence in artistry and technique as a performance ensemble. Chosen through a competitive audition process, choir members from DC, Maryland, and Virginia commit to participating in a year of choral training, intensive workshops, and a variety of performances on Washington Performing Arts' main stage and through community events. The COTG program provides opportunities for youth in grades four through twelve and promotes an environment of self-confidence, teamwork, and respect.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Michele Fowlin, the COTG hase been featured at the White House (with Sara Bareilles at the Canadian State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Justin Trudeau); the Inaugural Prayer Services for President Barack Obama and the National Memorial Service for Nelson Mandela at Washington National Cathedral; the Washington Performing Arts Gala with Broadway star Matthew Morrison; the historic Howard Theatre; the U.S. Department of State; and on NBC's Today. Performances by the Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir are made possible through the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

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THE 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 and Minister of Equity and Inclusion

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

The Right Reverend Ann M. Ritonia
Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries,
The Episcopal Church
Canon

The Reverend Canon Samuel Van Culin Canon for Anglican Communion Ministry

Canon Jon Meacham

Canon Historian

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser Associate Priest for Worship The Reverend Spencer W. Brown Priest Associate The Reverend Jo Nygard Owens

Pastor for Digital Ministry

READERS

Jared Hughes Michelle Miller MaryHall Surface

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble Jason Max Ferdinand Singers

Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir

Michele Fowlin Associate Director of Music for Contemporary Worship Artistic Director, Children of the Gospel Choir

> Thomas M. Sheehan Organist and Associate Director of Music

> > Jason Max Ferdinand Director, JMF Singers

Anthony Walker, piano
Nathaniel Gumbs, organ
Marshall Keys, saxophone
Hamilton Hayes, bass
Quincy Phillips, drums
Joe Herrera, trumpet
Ken Rittenhouse, trumpet
Reginald Cyntje, trombone
Carl Lundgren, trombone
Donny Johns, timpani

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 • PULPIT: in loving memory of Lynn Laun Lindert • LECTERN: in memory of George Walker Guthrie • 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 • GATES OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN: in memory of Sheila Lyons • 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 • WELCOME URNS AT THE WEST END OF THE NAVE: in memory of Marie and Frank T. Anania, and in memory of Frances and Robert A. Reed • ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL OF THE NATIVITY: in honor of David, Michael, and Peter Lee • 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 • CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: in memory of William S. Lassiter • ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL OF THE RESURRECTION: in thanksgiving for the Charles Ray Long family and friends • GATES OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA COLUMBARIUM: in memory of the Seferlis and Tidball families • ALTAR IN THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: in memory of Alice and George Bohlinger, Jr., Jane Bohlinger Yago, and Harriet Barrow • USHERS' CARNATIONS: in memory of Lieutenant James Norbert Matthews.

> 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.

All are invited to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love, hope, and peace this Christmas season.

From the candles used in worship services to the materials used in restoration projects, the ministries of this House of Prayer for All People are funded entirely through gifts from individuals like you. Because the Cathedral receives no operating support from the federal government or national church body, your generosity truly sustains our mission.



Make your gift as the plate is passed, online at cathedral.org/give, by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005, or scanning the QR code at left.

