

Family Christmas

SERVICE



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

W elcome to our celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each year we tell again the story of the Incarnation, of God's love breaking through to all of humanity. Christmas is a time for thanksgiving and renewal; we give thanks for God's gift of love.

The words and music of our service speak from an ancient tradition and give voice to what is waiting to be expressed in our own hearts. We proclaim boldly and joyfully, "Jesus is the light of the world."

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember that the promise of Christmas is not only that God will bring us from darkness to light, but also that we have a part to play in that promise. We are to be messengers of the love of God and to bring the light of Christ to the everyday places of our lives, showing the mercy of God in action.

May the Lord bless you and all who you love and care for this Christmas, and may the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and lives.

Merry Christmas!



FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 23, 2024 • 11:00 AM

The people's responses are in bold.

Carol Prelude

Sung by all, remaining seated.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

The First Nowell

English carol

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

All stand as able to sing.

Procession

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!



A Christmas Prayer

God of heaven and earth,
whose Son was born for all the world
as a child in Bethlehem;
we praise you for the shepherds in the fields,
who with the animals and angels
greeted the Word made flesh with wonder and joy.
Through the telling of the Christmas story,
may we join with the shepherds and angels
in singing and praising
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All are seated.



A Christmas Pageant

The people join in singing the hymns during the pageant.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

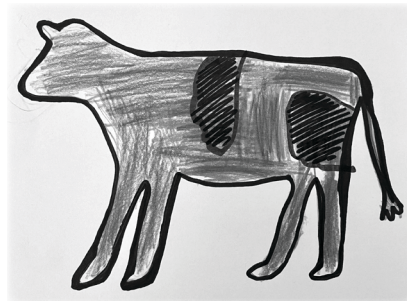
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! *Repeat*
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent
us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Silent Night

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.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O—star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!



Carl Mueller

Gloria

Negro spiritual

Stille Nacht

Three Kings of Orient

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

All are invited to make a gift as they depart the Cathedral, online at cathedral.org/give, or by scanning the QR code on the back cover of this leaflet.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

All stand as able.

Prayer

Prayed by all.

Lord, by the song of the angels
you disclosed your birth to your own people,
and by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you now,
and to make you known to all.
Amen.

Blessing

Dean Hollerith offers a blessing and the people respond, Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to proclaim Jesus' birth!
Glory, thanks, and praise to God!



Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Antioch

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

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.



CLERGY

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Dean, The Right Reverend Ann M. Ritonia, Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church, and Canon, The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope, Provost, The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello, Canon Vicar, 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 Patrick L. Keyser, Associate Priest for Worship, The Reverend Spencer W. Brown, Priest Associate, The Reverend Jo Nygard Owens, Pastor for Digital Ministry.

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Narrator: Laura Choi Stuart.

Holy Family: Shanda Cooper-Goff, Hans Goff, and Sloan Goff.

Pageant Participants: Catherine Able-Thomas, Trinity Benitez, Shona Bramble, Simone Bramble, Addie Carter, Julianna Cooper, Louis Crisostomo, Zoe Davis, Julie DeBoer, David S. Deutsch, Meghan Foster, Edward Hayes, Jr., Joseph Hubbard, Jeanne Jones, Luke Jones, Sam Jones, Josie Jordan, Carole Lambert, Amber Lin, Carmini Luther, Paula B. Mays, Anna Muller, Peter Muller, Ken Myrie, Allie Plummer, Norman Pugh-Newby, Margaret Rawls, Scott Sanders, the Simpson family, Foster Tello, Torrence N. Thomas, Lennon Thompson, Atlas Tubbs, Giselle Tubbs, Liam Vallozzi, Faith Wang, Rylea Whitfield, Robbie Wyeth.

Costumer: Monica Leland.

Wardrobe support: Emily Vallozzi.

Animal handlers: Mary Cox, Joseph Cox.

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please know that your participation with us today has been a blessing.

From the candles used in worship to the cranes that lift pinnacles, the work of this House of Prayer For All People is made possible by individuals like you. Because the Cathedral receives no operating support from the federal government or national church body, your generosity truly sustains our mission and ministries.



Make your special Christmas season gift today.

As the plate is passed. • By scanning the QR code at the left. • Online at cathedral.org/give.

Thank you for your generosity.

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PROGRAM ART

Cover Art: Dominic Brockway, St. Albans School, Class of 2032.

Leaflet Art: Jack Brown, Isabelle Ewart, Lilia Kryshko, Tess Leiter, Leila Makris, Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School.

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