

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,

RMH0 inthe +

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith Dean, Washington National Cathedral



GOSPEL CHRISTMAS

December 21, 2024 • 6:00 PM

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

Prelude

Sung by the Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble.

King of Israel The First Nowell Center of My Joy God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen How Great/He's a Wonder

Joe Pace (b. 1965) arr. Anthony Walker Richard Smallwood (b. 1948) Traditional English carol; arr. A. Walker Israel Houghton (b. 1971)

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

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful Sung by all. Adeste fideles 1. 2. 3. all faith - ful, Ο joy - ful come, ye and tri - um - phant, O come ye, Ο come ye to Light from Light e - ter God,_ ab - hors_ not the God from_ lo! he - nal,___ how the shep - herds, leav - ing their flocks, draw_ See sum-moned to his cra dle,___ 4. Child, for us sin - ners poor and we would em - brace thee, with in the man ger,___ 5. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta tion,_ sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of -Refrain 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. born the King of Son_____ of the an - gels; Fa - ther; Beth be - hold him, le - hem; come, and O come, let us a on - ly - be - got - ten we too would thith - er Vir gin's womb; to gaze; and awe; nigh bend our joy - ful foot - steps; love who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly? a - bove; God,___ in the high - est; heaven glo - ry to glo - ry dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord. 6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,

now in flesh appearing;

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	Come! Hear the news of great joy!
People	Born is the King of Israel.
Officiant	Great joy for all people of the earth.
People	Born is the King of Israel.
Officiant	A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord!
People	Born is the King of Israel.

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.
Dectlo	Amon

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

Celebrate the Wonder

Sung by the Children of the Gospel Choir.

Born in a manger, Wrapped in swaddling clothes Hail the newborn King, Jesus Christ our Lord. For he was laid in a stable full of hay. He came, our souls to save, So we're gonna declare, decree, Great is the mystery.

RefrainWe're gonna celebrate the wonder,
We're gonna celebrate the wonder, Jesus.
Come on let's celebrate the wonder.
Come on let's celebrate the wonder, Jesus.

He came to earth to bring to us God's plan of salvation for all the world. So tonight we tell the story, How He came to earth from glory. He gave His life for us, He sacrificed. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah We're gonna celebrate the wonder, Jesus.

Glory to ya, We're gonna celebrate the wonder, Jesus.

Lord we thank ya, Lord we thank ya, Thank ya, thank ya, thank ya, thank ya, We're gonna celebrate the wonder, Jesus.

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sung by the JMF Singers.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), W. H.Cummings (1831–1915); arr. Cedric Dent (b. 1962)

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain 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 th'incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

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

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

The First Nowell Sung by all. English carol, 17th century The an-gel did first No - well was to cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; 1. the say They 2. looked and shin-ing in____ up saw_ a star the east_ be - yond_ them far, fields lay, keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night_ that was they so deep. in as earth it con - tin-ued both and night. and to the it gave____ great light, and___ so day - well, No - well, of No No - well, No - well, born is the King Is ra - el. -

The people are seated.

Нуми

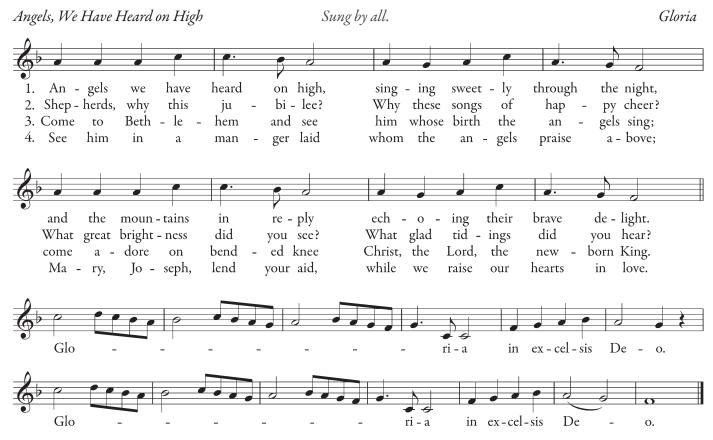
The Third Reading • Luke 2:1-20

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.

Langston Hughes (1902–1967)

Look there at the star! I, among the least, Will arise and take A journey to the East. But what shall I bring As a present for the King? What shall I bring to the Manger? I will bring a song, A song that I will sing, In the Manger. Watch out for my flocks, Do not let them stray. I am going on a journey Far, far away. But what shall I bring As a present for the Child? What shall I bring to the Manger? I will bring a lamb, Gentle, meek, and mild, A lamb for the Child In the Manger.

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

- In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter Long ago.
- Angels and archangels May have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air, But only His mother In her maiden bliss, Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.

(Christina Rossetti, 1830–1894)

I'm just a shepherd boy, Very poor I am— But I know there is A King in Bethlehem. What shall I bring As a present just for Him? What shall I bring to the Manger? I will bring my heart And give my heart to Him. I will bring my heart To the Manger.

Sung by the JMF Singers.

Gustav Holst (1874–1934); arr. Damon Meader (b. 1961)

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

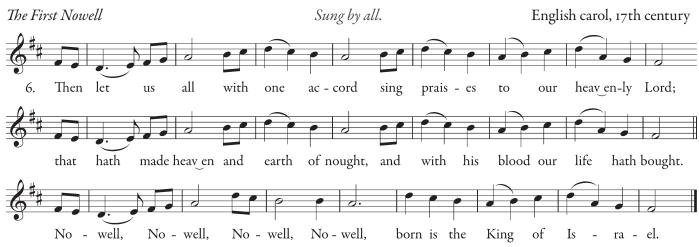
The Fifth Reading • John 1:1-18

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 people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.





The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.

The Homily

The Reverend Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Emmanuel, You Are Worthy

Sung by the Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble and the Children of the Gospel Choir.

Who is this child who reigns above the angels, Lord of all, who made His bed a manger in the straw? Emmanuel.	Jesus Christ, personal enough to know my name, Powerful enough to break my chains. Emmanuel.
 Who is this King who laid aside the privilege of His throne? And choose the hearts of sinners as His home? Emmanuel. <i>Refrain</i> Worthy, worthy, worthy Worthy, worthy, worthy is your name, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Hallelujah, you are worthy. 	<i>Refrain</i> Glory, glory, glory, Lord we give you glory in the highest, highest. Glory, glory, glory, Worthy, worthy, worthy is your name, Emmanuel. <i>Refrain</i>
The Son of God royalty was always in your blood	

The Son of God royalty was always in your blood You became humanity for us Emmanuel.

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 Not Ashamed

Sung by the Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble, the Children of the Gospel Choir, and the JMF Singers.

We are not ashamed Of the gospel of Jesus Christ, For it is God's power of salvation. It's to everyone that believes it. It's to everyone that receives it. We shall have everlasting life!

God's word is a light unto my pathway, His word is a lamp unto my feet. God's word is guaranteed to set you free, Set the captives free, live eternally.

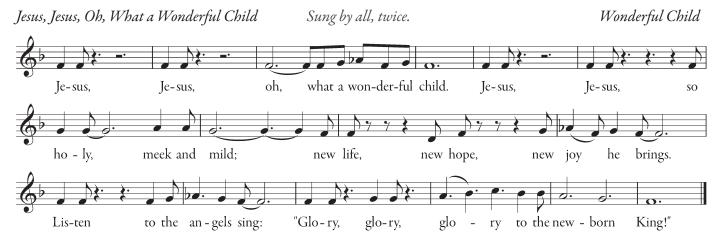
The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

Andraé Crouch (1942–2015)

God's word is healing to every nation. His word is the power unto salvation. God's word came all the way from glory, Set the captives free, make the blind to see.

We are not ashamed, We are not ashamed Of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We shall have everlasting life!

Hymn



The Prayer of Hope and Joy

Officiant	Nowell. Nowell. Born is the King of Israel!
People Officiant	On this holy night, O God, we turn our hearts to you. You are our hope, our light our salvation.
People Officiant	On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the joy of your coming, and yearn to be born anew.
People Officiant	On this holy night, O God, we celebrate the mystery of your coming, awed at how you humbled yourself to be one with us.
People Officiant	On this holy night, O God, 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, Born is the King of Israel. Amen.

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 all,
-	To make music in the heart.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Officiant All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; 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.

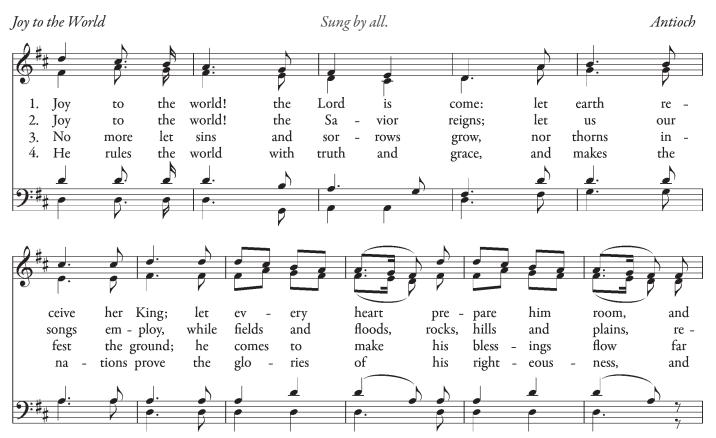
THE BLESSING

OfficiantMay 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.PeopleAmen.

The Dismissal

OfficiantNowell. We have celebrated God's gift of love—Jesus our Lord. As we leave this place, may we
share the good news with all we meet! Born is the King of Israel!PeopleThanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN





Postlude

Sung by the Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble, the Children of the Gospel Choir, and the JMF Singers.

"Hallelujah Chorus" from *A Soulful Celebration*

George F. Handel (1685–1759); arr. Mervyn Warren (b. 1964), Michael O. Jackson, Mark Kibble (b. 1964)

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 has 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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COVER Details from the *Lineage of Jesus* window, Rowan LeCompte.

All Cathedral worship services are livestreamed via video for our online congregation. By participating in this service you acknowledge that you may be visible on live broadcast or archived video. If you are uncomfortable about the possibility of appearing on video, please see an usher to be reseated in a more private area.



The cathedral church of saint peter $\dot{\mathcal{C}}$ 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 Patrick L. Keyser Associate Priest for Worship The Reverend Spencer W. Brown Priest Associate The Reverend Jo Nygard Owens Pastor for Digital Ministry

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

READERS

Jacquie Gales Webb C. Howie Hodges II Lillian Miles

MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble Jason Max Ferdinand Singers Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir

Thomas M. Sheehan Organist and Interim Director of Music

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

> Jason Max Ferdinand Director, JMF Singers

Anthony Walker, *piano* Marshall Keys, *saxophone* Hamilton Hayes, *bass* Quincy Phillips, *drums* Joe Herrera, *trumpet* Josh Kaufman, *trumpet* Kal Cooper, *trombone* Reginald Cyntje, *trombone*

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 loving memory of Lynn Laun Lindert, and in loving memory of Favour Slater and Mary and Sherman Hazeltine • 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 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 • NARTHEX: in memory of Christina Bauer • 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 LEVEL: in honor of Frederick Henry Prince and Abigail Norman Prince, and in honor of 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 Harriet Mitchell and Barbara Poolos • 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.

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.



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Tap the link or small box that appears and you will be taken to our secure donation page.

