

TRINITY CATHEDRAL
Of The Diocese of New Jersey

When
they saw
the star,
they
rejoiced
exceedingly
with great

joy.

MATTHEW 2:10, ESV



December 24, 2023

The Eve of The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

9:30 pm - Christmas Carols

10:00 pm - The Holy Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher – The Rt. Rev. Sally French, Bishop

WELCOME! We're honored that you're worshipping with us today. Masks are optional while in the Cathedral buildings. Please use the hand sanitizer that is provided throughout the building before and after touching any surfaces.

If you're not familiar with our Episcopal worship service, we hope this will help. For sanitary purposes, all of our prayers are printed in this bulletin.

Thank you for helping us to remain as safe as possible while enjoying in-person worship. "This is how we love one another!"

CHRISTMAS CAROL PRELUDE

The People are seated

Hymnal # 102 vs. 1 & 2
The Hymnal 1982

Once in Royal David's City
(*Irby*)

Anthem

All My Heart This Night Rejoices
Johann Georg Ebeling
The Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

Hymnal # 109 vs. 1 & 2
The Hymnal 1982

The First Nowell the Angel Did Say
(*The First Nowell*)

Solo

Mary Had A Baby
Traditional Spiritual
Codi James Yhap, tenor
The Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

Hymnal # 79
The Hymnal 1982

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(*St. Louis*)

Anthem

Away In A Manger
William Kirkpatrick, arr. Mack Wilberg
The Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

All stand

Processional Hymn # 83

The Hymnal 1982

1

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;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;

Refrain

3

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;

Refrain

Remain standing

A Station Prayer

V. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

R. And we beheld his glory.

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(Adeste Fideles)

4

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

5

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?

Refrain

6

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

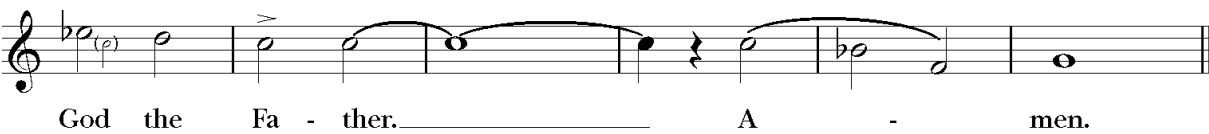
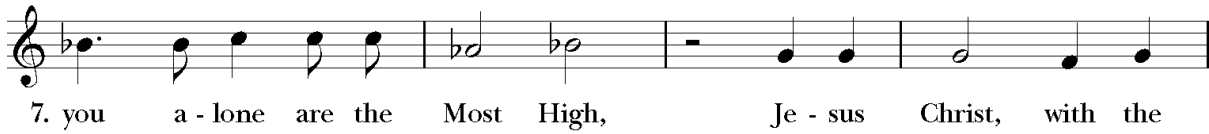
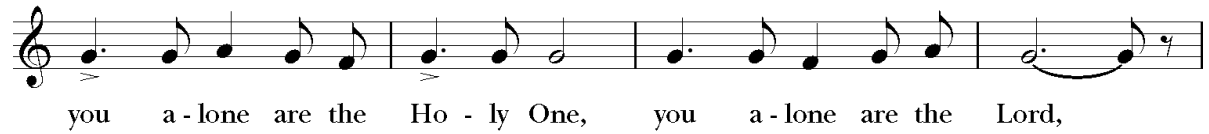
Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sing together

Hymnal # S-278

Gloria

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The People are seated

The Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: Bobbie Powell

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Remain seated; sung by the Choir

Psalm 97

Dominus regnavit

Henry Thomas Smart



- 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth re¹joice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah re¹joice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.

- 9 For you are the LORD,
 most high over¹all the¹earth; *
 you are exalted¹far above¹äll¹gods.
- 10 The LORD loves¹those who hate¹evil; *
 he preserves the lives of his saints
 and delivers them from the¹händ¹of the¹wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung¹up for¹the¹righteous, *
 and joyful gladness for¹those who are¹trüe¹hearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the¹LORD, you¹righteous, *
 and give¹thanks to his¹holy¹Name.

Remain seated

The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Lector: Sue Gummere

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand

Sequence Hymn # 96

The Hymnal 1982

1
 Angels we have heard on high,
 singing sweetly through the night,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their brave delight.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2
 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why these songs of happy cheer?
 What great brightness did you see?
 What glad tidings did you hear?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Angels We Have Heard on High
 (*Gloria*)

3
 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.

4
 See him in a manger laid
 whom the angels praise above;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
 while we raise our hearts in love.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Remain standing

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Voluntary

Prelude from Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12

Camille Saint-Saëns

Asher Wulfman, violin

Amy Wulfman, violin

Anita Hill, cello

The People are seated

Sermon

The Right Reverend Sally French

Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

All stand

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.**

Remain standing

Prayers of the People

Lector: Virginia Harmer

Deacon: Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the believing community throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership, that they might always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the church gathered in this place, that we might always bear the good news of God's living presence in our world, towards deepening of Christmas faith and living that faith in love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war; and for all our brothers and sisters in any need, that the light and life that is the Lord might touch their hearts this night, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the homeless, and for the children born in the midst of poverty and pain, that there be room at the inn for all God's people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the sick and the dying among us, and for those who care for them, that the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross might bless them this night with the gift of peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: All loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your son. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same Christ, newly born this night, our Lord and Savior, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please remain in your pew for the Peace

All stand. The Celebrant greets the People in the name of Christ, saying . . .

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Anthem

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

French carol, arr. David Willcocks

The Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

Please remain seated while Ushers collect the offertory.

All stand

Offertory Hymn # 21

LEVAS

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant.

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

1

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.

Refrain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Negro Spiritual)

2

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.

Refrain

3

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

**The Great Thanksgiving:
Eucharistic Prayer B**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

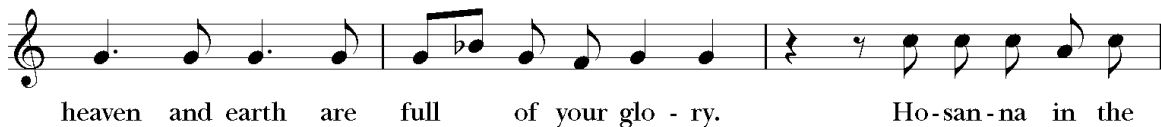
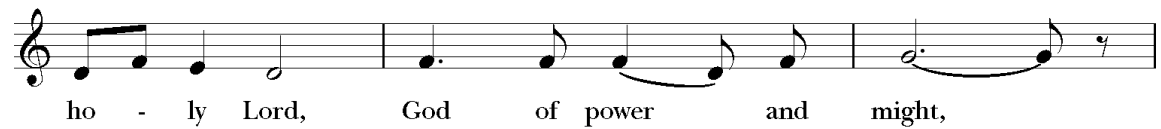
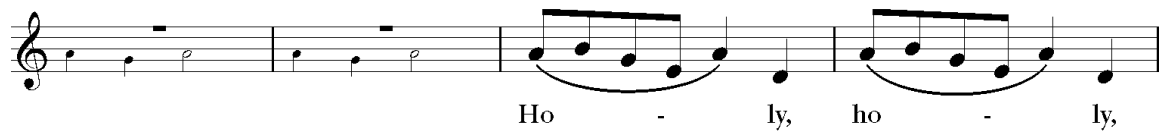
The Celebrant proceeds . . .

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:

All sing together

Hymnal # S-128

Sanctus



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues . . .

We 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." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues . . .

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 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. **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray . . .

All say together:

**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.**

Fraction

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

All sing together
Hymnal # S-165

Agnus Dei



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion:

***Celebrant:* My Jesus, We believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things, and long for you in our soul. Since some cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into their hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you; never permit us to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)**

Please proceed to the Altar for Communion

Communion Anthem

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish carol, arr. David Willcocks

The Absalom Jones Inspirational Choir

Communion Hymn # 81
The Hymnal 1982

1
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2
Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
(*Es Ist Ein Ros*)

the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

3
O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

The People are seated

The Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says . . .

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Remain seated

Post-Communion Hymn # 111

The Hymnal 1982

1
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.

2
Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,

All stand

Recessional Hymn # 100

The Hymnal 1982

1
Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

2
Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

The Blessing

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Silent Night, Holy Night

(Stille Nacht)

*Choir & Congregation with
Lee Whiteman, flugelhorn*

glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3
Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joy to the World!

(Antioch)

3
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

4
He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people with these words . . .

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of our Lord Jesus.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Passacaille, HWV 399(3)

George Frideric Handel

TRINITY CATHEDRAL WELCOMES TONIGHT'S GUEST MUSICIANS:

ANITA HILL, VIOLONCELLO ~ LEE WHITEMAN, FLUGELHORN

AMY WULFMAN, VIOLIN ~ ASHER WULFMAN, VIOLIN

CODI YHAP, TENOR

Our Vision:

A visible agent of God's love in Christ, joyfully embracing all people.

Our Mission:

God is here; Jesus loves you.

We are a welcoming, diverse community sharing God's love,
spreading the Gospel, and caring for all people and God's creation.

Come join us.

*The Bishop, Dean, Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and Staff of Trinity Cathedral
wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and New Year!*

CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Sally French, Bishop
The Very Rev. René Rory John, Dean
The Rev. Cn. Dr. Noel Amadi, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. John Luttrell, Priest Associate
The Rev. Cn. Bruce Montgomery, Priest Associate
The Rev. Carol Gilbert, Deacon
The Rev. Chris Cox, Deacon

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Dr. Kerry Heimann, Director of Music/Cathedral Organist
Fay Manicke, Associate Director of Music
Patrice A. D'Angelo, Cathedral Administrator
Al Shaw, Sexton Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn, Associate Sexton

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:30 am – Holy Eucharist in All Saints Chapel – Rite I (in-person, 1st & 3rd Sundays)
10:00 am – Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral - Rite II (in-person & livestreamed)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

In-person and livestreamed (when available):
Christmas Day: 10:00 am Rite II Eucharist
New Year's Day: 10:00 am Rite II Eucharist

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Cathedral Office will be closed December 25, 26, 30 and January 1.