

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*



TRINITY CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

DECEMBER 25, 2025

CELEBRANT: THE VERY REVEREND RENE JOHN

TRINITY CATHEDRAL
Of The Diocese of New Jersey

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 Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day
December 25, 2025**

**10:00 am - the Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher: The Very Rev. René R. John**

WELCOME! We're honored that you're worshipping with us today. If you're not familiar with our Episcopal worship service, we hope this service bulletin will help. 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. Thank you for helping us to remain as safe as possible while enjoying in-person worship.

Prelude

Resonet in laudibus

Luneberg Tablature

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

Introit: **Puer natus est**

Cantor: **Canon Paul Cooper**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given
And the government shall be upon his shoulder
And his name shall be called, Angel of mighty counsel
Ps. O sing unto the Lord a new song
For he hath done marvelous things
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be
World without end. Amen.

(Repeat until Ps.)

All stand

Processional Hymn # 87

The Hymnal 1982

1

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!

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

2

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

3

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.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

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 say together

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect for Christmas Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People are seated

The Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector: Erica Warner

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.

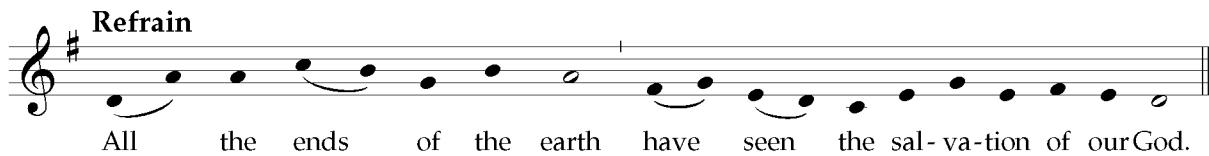
People: Thanks be to God.

Remain seated – all sing Antiphon together

Psalm 98

Cantor: Cn. Paul Cooper

Antiphon



Refrain

All the ends of the earth have seen the sal-va-tion of our God.

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

Antiphon

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.

Antiphon

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.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Antiphon

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Antiphon

Remain seated

The Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Lector: Virginia Harmer

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 forever 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."

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Sequence Hymn # 98

The Hymnal 1982

Unto Us a Boy is Born

1
Unto us a boy is born!
The King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

2

Cradled in a stall was he
with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see
that he all men surpasses.

4

Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.

3

Herod then with fear was filled;
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlehem in his fury.

5

Unto us a boy is born!
The King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.

Remain standing

The Gospel: John 1:1-14

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: **Glory 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The People are seated
Sermon

The Very Rev. René John, Dean

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.

All remain standing

Prayers of the People

Lector: Erica Warner

Deacon: Dear Sisters and brothers, God has pitched a tent in our midst. God's word has taken our flesh. That all may know God's presence bringing us together, it is fitting that our flesh should call to God in holy words of petition, saying: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That the feet of each of us might be made beautiful through our proclamation of peace at table, desk, and lathe, as well as in every place where violence threatens, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That the word which conquers darkness may enlighten the blindness which keeps Christ's followers separated and at odds, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That our celebration of God's first-born might inspire and quicken in us protection and nurture of all human life, and especially the children, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That God's dwelling among us might lead us to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and support those who minister to them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That the power of the word might fill our hearts and minds, so that the gospel be preached with greater courage and strength to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lector: That the love of God following upon love might work for the healing of the sick, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: O God, the source of light and sound, your word dispels our darkness, and your light speaks to our hearts. As we praise you, we beg that your power overwhelm us, that all the world might find us the more perfect ministers of your presence. Thus may you be glorified this Christmas Day and forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. **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.

The Celebrant then begins the Offertory with a sentence from Scripture. Please remain seated while Ushers collect the offertory.

Printed on next page

Offertory Hymn

Hymnal # 105

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

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

1

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.

Refrain

3

"Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might."

Refrain

4

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.

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.**

Chalice bearer: Virginia Harmer

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 say together:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 . . .

People and Celebrant:

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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

All say together

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

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

Please proceed to the Altar for Communion

Communion Anthem

In dulci jubilo

arr. Marcel Dupré

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

After Communion, the Celebrant says . . .

Let us pray.

All pray together

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.

Announcements

All stand

Recessional Hymn # 107

The Hymnal 1982

1

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

2

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!

3

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND GREENS HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

Lucy Adams, in thanksgiving for Keith, Andrew, Geoffrey, Jeffrey and Angelica

Nkeoma Akaeme, in memory of her parents

Jane and Peter Bridge, in honor of Joey Steele

Cynthia Coleman, in memory of Cynthia Woodson, Eva Coleman, and Eula Coleman

Patrice and Joe D'Angelo, in thanksgiving for Stormy D'Angelo,
and in memory of Lobo, Nikita, Codey, Max and Stanley D'Angelo

Winifred Daniels, in memory of Mable Daniels, John C. Hall, Richard Daniels,
Athalia Jackson, Margaret Shiffler, Chester Reasoner, Janet Lewis, Rocky Daniels
and Eugene Harris

Bill & Ginny Harmer, in thanksgiving for 55 years of wonderful marriage

Dennie Higgins, in memory of Dr. Fred Rogers

OUR CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND GREENS HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

Mary Johnson, in memory of Hugh M. Jolley and Marie E. Jolley

Georgia Koenig, in memory of Alva and George Brenner, Margaret and William Koenig, Steven Koenig, Albert Lengyel, Pam Gazda Rickette Holden, Dorothy and Bert Petersen, and Myrtle Goetz

Fay Manicke, in memory of Roger J. Van Sant, Rose and Albert Manicke, Jr., Agnes and Albert Manicke, Sr., Theresa and Stephen Finta, Carolyn Linarello and Anita Hill

Cheryl Nagy, in memory of James and Relda Szenasi, Peter and Joyce Schmitt, Cecelia and Elek Nagy, and Sister Lisa

Margaret Nartey, in memory of Victoria A. George

Jennifer Ng'andu, in honor of Joseph Chileshe Ng'andu, Spencer Conover Lancaster, Sheila Ward Rome and Donald Lee Rome

Rev. Cn. Arthur and Lynn Powell

Susan Remmers, in memory of Robert Remmers and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Smith

Irene Sanz, in memory of Robert Sanz

Many thanks to all who helped decorate the Cathedral for Christmas!

***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. Canon 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. Christopher 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

Tyree Bodiford, 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

New Year's Day: 10:00 am Rite II Eucharist (in-person & livestreamed when available)

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Cathedral Office will be closed December 25 & 26 and January 1. The Cathedral staff will be on limited and varied hours until the New Year; kindly call before visiting.