



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Christmas Day  
December 25, 2021  
10 a.m.

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*We welcome you to Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1839,  
this Christian community has gathered for worship.*

 *The Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.*

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral! Fully vaccinated worshipers are encouraged to wear masks indoors on campus. Worshipers who are not fully vaccinated, including children over the age of two, are expected to wear masks.

We have a socially distanced and masked seating section available. The east transept and first rows near the pulpit are reserved for those who choose both to physically distance and wear masks. If you're sitting in the marked sections, you're expected to wear masks and sit socially distanced.

We have resumed administering wine at Holy Communion. Intinction (i.e.-dipping the wafer in the chalice) is permitted. However, in accordance with Bishop Doyle's guidelines, at Communion we will not drink from the common cup. It is also acceptable to receive bread but not wine, as each element of Communion contains a full measure of grace. The congregation will be invited to the altar rail to receive Communion. If you choose to sit in the area reserved for physical distance, Communion will be brought to you in your pew.

We're glad you're here! Let us prepare to worship the Lord.

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

THE REV. SIMÓN BAUTISTA BETANCES,  
*Canon Missioner for Latino Ministries and Outreach*  
Celebrant

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

Voluntary on *Adeste fideles*

Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

## HYMN 83

*Adeste fideles*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O come, all ye faithful,<br/>Joyful and triumphant,<br/>O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;<br/>Come, and behold him<br/>Born the King of angels;<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ, the Lord.</p> <p>2 Sing, choirs of angels,<br/>Sing in exultation,<br/>Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;<br/>Glory to God,<br/>Glory in the highest;<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ, the Lord.</p> | <p>3 See how the shepherds,<br/>Summoned to his cradle,<br/>Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;<br/>We too will thither<br/>Bend our joyful footsteps;<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ, the Lord.</p> <p>4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,<br/>Born this happy morning;<br/>Jesus, to thee be glory given;<br/>Word of the Father,<br/>Now in flesh appearing;<br/>O come, let us adore him,<br/>Christ, the Lord.</p> |
|---|--|

— *John Francis Wade (1711–1786)*

## *The Word of God*

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

*The Celebrant continues*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## HYMN OF PRAISE 96

*Gloria*

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.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 98

*Cantate Domino*

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.

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.

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.  
 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.

## THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1–4

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN 79

*St. Louis*

- 1 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.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
 and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
- 3 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
 cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

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

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Bradley Varnell,  
Canon Missioner for Community Life

## THE 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

The coming of the Son of God was heralded by the angels' song "Peace on earth, good will toward men": let us pray for the peace of the world, for an end to war, and for justice to reign among the peoples of the earth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

A star rose in the east to proclaim the coming of Christ to all nations and peoples: we pray for all his holy catholic Church, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Andrew, Jeff, and Kai, our Bishops, and for all who serve God in his Church, for the mission of the Church throughout the world and in our own community, and for the salvation of all.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Kings came with offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh: we pray for our country and our President, for all entrusted with the responsibility of government, and for all who serve the common good.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Poor shepherds were the first to hear of the Savior's birth: we pray for the renewal of the earth and all its creatures, for wise and just use of its resources, for those without homes or without work, and all who are in need.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family found shelter only in a stable, and the Son of God had only a manger for his cradle: remember, O Lord, the sick and those in the hospital or in any kind of trouble, and all who are alone.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Son of God received the first gift of human love from Mary his mother: we thank thee for our families, friends, and all those we love; and we pray that they may live in peace, health, and safety.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Lord Jesus came to proclaim the good news of repentance and forgiveness: let us pray now for the grace of his Holy Spirit to change our hearts, and for God's gift of love, mercy and forgiveness of all our sins.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Eternal Word of God was born in human flesh, to bring the gospel of hope and life to light: let us pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ and for all the departed, that they may rest in the hope of the resurrection and life eternal.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing with the angels and archangels, with the ever Blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE PEACE**

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

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

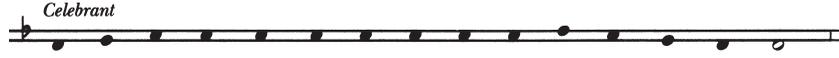
And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

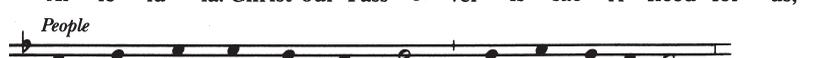
## FRACTION ANTHEM

*Celebrant*



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*People*



There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized Christians are welcome and encouraged to receive Holy Communion. Communion is received either kneeling or standing at the altar rail. Receive the Bread in the palm of your hand, and the Wine by intinction, touching the Bread to the Wine. Gluten-free Bread is available; ask at the altar rail.*

# AGNUS DEI S 158

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
 on us. O Lamb of God, that  
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
 world, grant us thy peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

# THE BLESSING

## HYMN 87

*Mendelssohn*

- 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!  
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.  
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!
- 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!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King!

— Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Finale on *Mendelssohn*

Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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### *The Book of Remembrance*

This week we remember Henry Anthony Grichuk.

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*Please be advised that our services are Livestreamed to Vimeo and Facebook. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.*

*Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.*

*Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly.*