



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS

The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
8 a.m.

We welcome you to Christ Church Cathedral. Since 1839, this Christian community has gathered for worship. To learn more about the ministries we share in this place, you are invited to fill in one of the welcome cards found in the pew rack.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

THE REV. RAY WILSON, *Assisting Priest*
Celebrant

The Liturgy is found in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *BCP page 323*
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY AND THE SUMMARY *page 323*

TRISAGION *The Trisagion is said three times. page 324*

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24–37

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the Gospel reading, the Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Ray Wilson, Assisting Priest

THE NICENE CREED

page 326

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form IV, page 388

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

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THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Offerings of alms and bread and wine are received.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer II, page 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER CONTINUES

page 341

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

You do not have to be an Episcopalian 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 either by drinking from the Cup or by intinction, touching the Bread to the Wine. Gluten-free Bread is available; ask at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Readings this Week from the *Revised Common Lectionary*

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24–37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of

the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Book of Remembrance

This week we remember Michael Nelson Becker.

The Beauty of Flowers

The flowers on the Cathedral Altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Linda Anne Baldwin and Dorothy Geiselman Baldwin by the family of Robert B. Baldwin III.

The greenery and candles in the Advent wreath in the Cathedral are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the life and work of Dr. James Reed Cox.

The greenery and candles in the Advent wreath in Golding Chapel are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life and work of Ardell Ray Jr.

Weekday Services

Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m., Monday-Friday on Zoom

Evening Prayer, 6 p.m., Monday- Friday on Zoom

Contemplative Prayer, 11:15 a.m., Mondays in Mellinger Room

Holy Eucharist, Noon, Wednesdays in Golding Chapel

Links available at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/weekdayservices

Welcome

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Announcements

❖ TODAY

Dean's Hour - Secondhand Religion • Our Secondhand Religion series returns today at 10 a.m. in Reynolds Hall. The Dean and members of the Cathedral community will introduce spiritual ancestors whom we celebrate as saints, whether living or dead. Bishop Doyle joins Dean Katz in conversation on Dec. 10.

Poinsettia Memorial • Poinsettias can be given in memory or honor of someone special this Christmas for \$15 per plant. Donations made on or before Dec. 6 will be listed in the Christmas dedications booklet. Visit the table in the Cloister or order online at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/poinsettias

Pick up your Christmas Wreaths • Those who ordered wreaths and garlands from the choir sale may pick them up in Sanders Hall today, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols • The Cathedral Choir ushers in Advent with its annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols, in place of The Well, at 5 p.m. Start your Advent with this beautiful service and the reception that follows. More about upcoming services, visit: www.christchurchcathedral.org/christmas

❖ **Christmas at the Cathedral** • On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Mission Outreach Council and Kids Hope partner to host a festive celebration for the children of Bruce Elementary School. Volunteers are needed, as well as donations of children's Christmas gifts. Learn more and sign up to volunteer at: www.christchurchcathedral.org/christmasatthecathedral

❖ **Las Posadas and Gran Posada** • All are welcome to commemorate the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. Join us each night Dec. 16-23 from 7-9 p.m. in various locations. The Gran Posada and Sancocho Supper will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, in Reynolds Hall at 6 p.m. For more details and contact information visit: www.christchurchcathedral.org/posadas

❖ **Christmas Camp** • Join us Saturday, Dec. 16, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Cathedral to choose costumes, play games, make crafts, and run through the basic highlights of the Christmas pageant as we prepare to welcome the Christ child. Our pageant will be held Christmas Eve at the 4 p.m. service, and attending the rehearsal is not required. All are welcome to participate.

❖ **Make your Every Member Canvass Pledge** • There's still time to make your annual pledge! Submit your pledge by dropping a pledge card in the offering plate or scan the QR code to pledge online. Questions? Contact CFO Patrick Saccomanno at psacomanno@christchurchcathedral.org or 713-220-9759.



❖ **Looking for Children's Ministry** • Follow Agnus to the Jones Building where you can find Sunday School at 10 a.m. for ages 2 years–5th grade, as well as childcare for infants (6 weeks–5 yrs), or the Huffington Playground. Have questions? Contact KariAnn Lessner at kalesner@christchurchcathedral.org



WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL!

We are blessed by your presence. If you are new to the Cathedral, please fill out the WELCOME card in your pew and put it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Tours of the Cathedral are available every Sunday following the 11 a.m. service and on the third Sunday of each month after the 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. services. If you would like a tour, meet the tour guide by the eagle lectern.

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.