



# *Christmas 2023*

*Christmas Eve  
at eight o'clock in the evening*



# The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

*Christmas Eve*  
*December 24, 2023*  
*eight o'clock in the evening*



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

*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 cards found in the pew rack.*

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

## **Choral Eucharist on Christmas Eve**

Prelude at half past seven o'clock in the evening

Thomas Marvil, organ

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### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

Chorale Prelude on <i>In dulci jubilo</i> , BWV 729	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1725)
Carol Prelude on <i>Greensleeves</i>	Richard Purvis (1913–1994)
Carol Prelude on <i>The holly and the ivy</i>	Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)
Carillon	Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Six Antiphons for the Christmas Season, Op.48

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

- I. Ecce Dominus veniet, et omnes  
sancti ejus cum eo et irit in die illa  
lux magna, alleluia. *Behold, the Lord comes and all his  
saints with him and on that day there  
will be great light, alleluia*
- II. Omnipotens sermo tuus, Domine, a  
regalibus sedibus veniet, alleluia. *Thy Almighty word, O Lord, came down  
from heaven from thy royal throne*
- III. Tecum principium in die virtutis  
tuae splendoribus sanctorum.  
Ex utero ante luciferum  
genui te. *In the day of thy power shall the people  
offer thee free-will offerings with holy  
worship. From the womb before the  
morning star have I begotten thee.*
- IV. Germinavit radix Jesse, orta  
est stella ex Jacob, virgo peperit  
salvatorem, te laudamus Deus noster. *The root of Jesse has sprouted, a star has  
risen out of Jacob; a virgin has borne for  
us a saviour. We praise you, our God.*
- V. Stella ista sicut flamma coruscat, et  
Regem regem Deum demonstrat:  
Magi eam viderunt, et magno Regi  
munera obtulerunt. *This star shines as a flame, and points  
out God, the King of Kings: the  
Magi saw it and offered gifts to the  
great King.*
- VI. Lumen ad revelationem gentium: et  
gloriam plebis tuae Israel. *A Light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.*



THE MUSIC ON CHRISTMAS EVE IS OFFERED  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
KATHARINE RANDALL SCHWEPPE AND HER MOTHER,  
LAURA RANDALL SCHWEPPE; THE GIFT OF THEIR FAMILY.

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

eight o'clock in the evening

THE VERY REV. NATHANIEL KATZ, *Dean*

Celebrant

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*The people stand for the Procession. The people's responses are printed in bold.*

## HYMN 83

*Adeste fideles*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 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. | 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. |
| 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.           | 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.          |

— *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.**

*Celebrant* The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

*People* **And we beheld his glory. Alleliua.**

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE, HYMN 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 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.

## 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 sit.*

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*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.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

*Priest* 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.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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



*The people stand.*

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

*The Leader and People pray responsively, standing.*

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, Kai, and Hector, our Bishops, and for all who serve God's 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 the leaders of the world, for those in positions of public trust, 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 you 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 you, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, 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 also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. The people then sit for brief announcements.*

# *The Holy Communion*

## AT THE OFFERTORY

### ANTHEM

Traditional English;  
arr. Philip Ledger (1937–2012)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels on high with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God in earth and heavn’,  
Now and for evermore. Amen.”

— *“Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs”* (1684)  
by Luke Wadding (c.1628–1691)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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 him 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:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS S 125

Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

**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.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we

may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The sacrament of Holy Communion has been precious to Christians for 2,000 years. It is a way in which many sense the reality of God's forgiveness, our union with God and each other, and the eternal life to which we belong. Please know that you do not have to be an Episcopalian to receive Communion. To receive, you may kneel or stand 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; simply ask at the altar rail. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.*

## AT THE ADMINISTRATION

ANTHEM

Bob Chilcott (b.1952)

A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure!  
The virgin bears the infant, with virgin honor pure.

*Now let the hymn resound, to God on high be glory and peace on earth abound!*

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high:  
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.  
Since all he comes to ransom, by all be he adored,  
The infant born in Bethlehem the Savior and the Lord!

— *Greek, St. Germanus (634–c.733); trans. J.M. Neale*

ANTHEM

Paul W. Lohman (20th c.)

What child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
The silent word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

— *William Chatterton Dix (1837–1865)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People pray, kneeling.*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HYMN 111

*sung kneeling*

*Stille Nacht*

- 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,  
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.

— *Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)*

## 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.**

*The people stand.*



# 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

*Priest* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Traditional French carol  
arr. Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

*The Parish Choir*

Chelsea Berner

Anne Flanagan

John Flanagan

John Gallagher

Michelle Girardot

Joel Goodloe

Steve Godowns

Barbara Hamilton

Joby Hughes

Laura Lisk

Rebecca Marcontell

Kirstie McCallaum

Ben McGee

Mike McKann

Sally Miller

Nan Morris

Jane Mumey

Flo Ray

Richard Schafer

Emily Schuck

Justin Shen

Sean Stultz

Martha Williams

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## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*  
The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, *Bishop Suffragan*  
The Rt. Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan, *Bishop Suffragan*  
The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso, *Assistant Bishop*  
The Very Rev. Nathaniel Katz, *Dean*  
The Rev. Canon Simón Bautista Betances  
The Rev. Canon Bradley Varnell  
The Rev. Edward L. Stein, *Assisting Priest*  
The Rev. Elizabeth Parker, *Assisting Priest*  
The Rev. Ray Wilson, *Assisting Priest*  
Robert L. Simpson, *Canon for Music*  
Thomas Marvil, *Cathedral Organist*  
Lucy Chambers, *Bookstore Manager*

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*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.*