



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Christmas Day
December 25, 2023
10 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 Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.*

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

THE REV. CANON BRADLEY VARNELL
CELEBRANT

*The Liturgy is found in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP).
Hymns and service music (S) are in The Hymnal 1982.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo* Deiterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

HYMN 83 omitting * stanzas *Adeste fideles*

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.**

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

People **And we beheld his glory.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY AND THE SUMMARY *page 323*

HYMN OF PRAISE, HYMN 96 stanza 1 *Gloria*

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 stanzas 1, 2, and 5

St. Louis

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

Priest 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Canon Bradley Varnell

THE NICENE CREED

page 326

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

The Holy Communion

Offerings of alms and bread and wine are received.

AT THE OFFERTORY

HYMN 100

Antioch

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer II, page 340

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.**

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

page 339

THE BLESSING

HYMN 87

Mendelssohn

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

This day full of gladness, Op. 28 No. 1

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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.



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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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.