The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

9:30 o’clock p.m. Choral Music and Carols
10:00 o’clock p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2023
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
The Right Reverend Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont
The Very Reverend Greta Getlein, Dean and Rector
The Reverend Canon Dr. Robert Leopold, Canon for Adult Formation
The Venerable J. Stannard Baker, Cathedral Deacon & Diocesan Archdeacon
The Reverend Deacon Susan F. McMillan, Cathedral Deacon and Diocesan Liaison
   David Neiweem, Interim Director of Music
   Jennifer C. Sumner, Office Administrator
   Barbara F. Comeau, Financial Administrator
   Katie Gonyaw, Children’s Formation Coordinator
   Ian Lawler, A/V & Social Media Coordinator
   Adam Skiff, Property Steward

Vestry
   Marley Skiff, Senior Warden
   Karl Fandrich, Junior Warden
   Kenzo An
   Miriam Burns
   Buffy Caflisch
   Barrie Montross
   Macaulay Onuigbo
   Maureen Ramos
   Alice Winn
   Kim Fitzgerald, ex officio
   Peter Jones, Treasurer
   Shannon Williamson, Clerk
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
DECEMBER 24, 2023

CHORAL MUSIC AND CAROLS
9:30 p.m.
Streamed live on YouTube

+ The congregation stands to sing the hymns and carols and is seated for music sung by the choir.

Voluntary: Excerpt from Amahl and the night visitors
Voluntary: Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007)

Carol All singing

Words Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872-1960) • Music UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk melody, 16th c.

Good King Wenceslas looked out
Bring me flesh and bring me wine
On the Feast of Stephen
Bring me pine logs hither
When the snow lay round about
Thou and I shall see him dine
Deep and crisp and even
When we bear them thither.
Brightly shone the moon that night
Page and monarch, forth they went
Though the frost was cruel
Forth they went together
When a poor man came in sight
Through the rude winds wild lament
Gathering winter fuel
And the bitter weather

Refrain
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is
born, in excelsis gloria.
Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou knowest it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.
Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how
I can go no longer.
Mark my footsteps, good my page
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his masters step he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye, who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.


Carol

Anthem sung by the choir

Masters in this hall, Hear ye news today Brought from over sea, And ever I you pray:

Refrain
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all fold on earth, Born is God's Son so dear: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we loud! God today hath poor folk raised And cast adown the proud.

Going o'er the hills, Through the milkwhite snow, Heard I ewes bleat While the wind did blow: Refrain
Shepherds many an one Sat among the sheep, Noone spake more word Than they had been asleep: Refrain
Then to Bethlem town We went two and two, And in a sorry place Heard the oxen low': Refrain

Words London carol, 18th cent. • Music GOD REST YOU MERRY, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850
Therein did we see A sweet and goodly One And a fair old man, Upon the straw she lay: And a little child On her arm had she, “Wot ye who this is?” Said the hinds to me: Ox and ass him know, Kneeling on their knee, Wondrous joy had I this little babe to see: This is Christ the Lord, Masters, be ye glad! Christmas is come in And no folk should be sad:

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Words Medieval • Music French, arr. Vaughan Williams

Hymn 82

1 Of the Fa ther’s love be got ten, ere the worlds be
gan to be, he is Alpha and Omega,
the source, the ending he, of the things that
are, that have been, and that future
years shall see, ever more and ever more!

2 O that birth for ever blessed, when the Vir gin,
full of grace, by the Holy Ghost con ceiv ing,
ex tol our God and King; let no tongue on
sac red face, ever more and ever more!

3 Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his
praises sing; powers, domin ions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King; every voice in
concert ring, ever more and ever more!

4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa ther, and, O Ho ly
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks giving,
and unwear ied praises be; honor, glory
victory, ever more and ever more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: 

Words Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877), alt.
Music DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582
FESTAL HOLY EUCHARIST
10:00 p.m.
This service is streamed live on YouTube

Organ voluntary: Pastoral Symphony, from Messiah
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Procesional hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from God,
light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb:
only-begotten Son of the Father:
Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
glory to God, glory in the highest;
Refrain

4 See how the shepherds,
summoned to the cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we, too, will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain

+ The procession pauses for the Blessing of the Crèche:

Celebrant: The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

+ The Celebrant says a Collect at the Crèche:

A mighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence
in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary:
Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity
in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

+ The procession resumes during the singing of the last stanzas of the hymn:

5 Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
Refrain

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
Refrain

Celebrant: Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People: And blessed be God’s reign, now and for ever. Amen.
Gloria in excelsis

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. A short period of stillness is kept.

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.

People: Amen.

+ The people sit.

The Word of God

First lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

After the reading

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People: Thanks be to God. + A short period of stillness is kept.
Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascrbe to the Lord honor and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

Repeat second half of chant
He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second lesson  Titus 2:11-14
After the reading
Lector  Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People  Thanks be to God.

+ A short period of stillness is kept. Then all stand and sing

Sequence hymn
**IN DULCI JUBILO**, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944)

*The people remain standing.*

**Gospeller** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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


**Gospeller** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

*The people stand to say 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.
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 people remain standing for the Prayers of the People. After each petition, the people respond

Intercessor Holy God
All hear our prayer.

+ At the end of the prayers, the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you. + The people greet one another in the name of Christ.

+ Announcements may be made.

The Holy Communion

+ Ushers pass a plate to collect an offering for the work of the Church. Electronic giving is available on-line or through the QR code or Venmo on the back of this bulletin. The choir sings an anthem:

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

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

Words Latin carol, 15th cent. • Music Puer nobis nascitur, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw

+ The people stand for the presentation of the Alms and sing:

Offertory hymn
The Great Thanksgiving

+ The people remain standing.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Setting William Mathias

+ The Celebrant continues with the prayer. After the words said over the bread and wine, all join in saying the Memorial Acclamation:

People

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

+ The Celebrant continues with the prayer, ending with

Celebrant

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All

AMEN.
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

\[\text{People}\]

\begin{aligned}
\text{Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done,} \\
\text{on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.}
\end{aligned}

\[\text{Celebrant}\]

\begin{aligned}
\text{those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.} \\
\text{For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.}
\end{aligned}

\[\text{Setting Ambrosian chant, har. Mark Howe}\]

+ The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A short period of stillness follows, and then the Fraction Anthem is sung:

\[\text{Cantor or Choir}\]

\begin{aligned}
\text{This is the true bread, which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.} \\
\text{Who ever eats this bread will live forever.}
\end{aligned}

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

+ Ushers guide the people to the foot of the steps.

+ The table fellowship we experience together is for everyone. The bread may be received directly into your hand, one palm crossed over the other. The wine may be taken by sipping from the cup or touching the bread to the cup. Please note that there is a separate shallow bowl for intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available; please indicate your need at the time you receive Communion. Those who prefer not to receive the sacrament may come forward for a blessing.

+ The congregation and choir sing the Communion hymns:
Hymn

Verse 1, choir only

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?

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear:
for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Refrain

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
 come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. Refrain

Refrain
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Hymn 112

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can not hold him, nor earth sustain;
3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak midwinter, long ago,
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

Words Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) • Music CRANHAM, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)
Postcommunion hymn

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.
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!
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.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Postcommunion prayer said by all

Eternal God,
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 Savior. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

Celebrant May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him,
bless you in this holy season, scatter the shadows of sin,
and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People Amen.

Celebrant May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth,
fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People Amen.

Celebrant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven,
give you his peace and favor.

People Amen.

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People Amen.

Deacon Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

The people extinguish their candles, the lights of the church are raised and all sing the final joyful hymn:
Closing hymn

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 new-born 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! 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 or Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Refrain

Postlude Jubilate deo (Psalm 100) Giovanni Gabrieli (1554-1612)
Upcoming Services at St. Paul's Cathedral

Sunday, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 31, 2024 – The First Sunday after Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 7, 2024
The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Transferred)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, followed by
Undecorating of the Church and Potluck Lunch

Sunday, January 14, 2024– The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Cathedral office is closed Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29, 2023.

Electronic Giving Options

QR Code to access the website for electronic giving

OR

Venmo to @St-Pauls-Cathedral