



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut
The First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

We acknowledge the Tunxis, Sicaog, Wangunks and Poquonook people, the traditional custodians on the land on which Christ Church Cathedral is located. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. We respect their people and traditions as a continued call to live out the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.

Welcome to our community! Wherever life is taking you, know that we are honored by your presence and invite you to experience God's life-giving grace with us at Christ Church Cathedral. As a community of faith we celebrate God's graciousness by proclaiming in word and deed that God's love is abundant and unconditional. At the Lord's Table, all baptized are welcome to receive Communion. Please turn off your cell phones once the prelude begins. Should you like to speak with a priest following the service, please contact an usher.

Hymns are in The Hymnal 1982 and Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS).

At the 8 a.m. service, hymns and the second reading are omitted.

The Gloria is recited at the 8 a.m. service. It can be found on page 356 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of Holy Scripture.

A Reading From ~ Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

The Gospel ~ John 1:1-18

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon ~ The Rev. Canon Ranjit Mathews, Priest Associate

Following the Sermon, the Celebrant stands. Please stand as you are able.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord who has come to be among us, to be one of us, to be a light to shine in the darkness of our world.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: empower the church to show forth your glory, reveal the mystery of your love, and fill it with the Spirit of truth. Pray for Justin Welby and the See of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our Bishops; Lina, our Dean; Tony, our Canon for Latino Ministry; Bonnie, our Deacon; Julia, our Intern; Jay, Tim, Ranjit, D, and Rebekah, our Associate Clergy; and for our Congregation Committee and Ministry Teams. We also pray for our sister diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, and all other ministers in the Church.

Oh Emmanuel, God with us,

Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, may the peace of your presence be upon your troubled world; give humility and wisdom to all the leaders of the nations, and bring them to the kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Oh Emmanuel, God with us,

Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, fill us with wonder and awe, with joy and thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim your grace and glory. Be known in our homes, in our communities, in our lives, and in the lives of our loved ones.

Oh Emmanuel, God with us,
Hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, as there was no room for you in the inn, we remember this Christmas Season the homeless and hungry who can find no place of safety and rest. For those who walk in darkness, the sick, lonely, and depressed that by your healing power they will know the gift of wholeness and peace.

Oh Emmanuel, God with us,
Hear our prayer.

Christ, your radiance filled a lowly manger; we give thanks for all the saints and all who have shone out as lights in our world, especially our friends and loved ones who have enriched our lives and are now departed from us.

Oh Emmanuel, God with us,
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

O God, bring your light to the world; hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

Welcome and Announcements ~ Ms. Anne Bartholomew, Chair of Congregation Committee

Offertory Sentence

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3

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 our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant 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.

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming forward to receive Holy Communion, please follow the direction given by the ushers. If you are unable to come to the front, please let an usher know and the Sacrament will be brought to you.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

If you are visiting us for the first time, **WELCOME!** We would like to keep you informed of the amazing blessings we experience in this house of prayer. Please introduce yourself to Dean Howell, Canon Garcia, or Deacon Matthews.



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An Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion

All faithful lay people and clergy of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Cathedral Dean

The Rev. Ramon Antonio Garcia, Canon for Latino Ministry

The Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Cathedral Deacon

Julia Warren, Cathedral Intern

The Rev. Jay Cooke, the Rev. Canon Rebekah Hatch, the Rev. Canon Timothy Hodapp,
the Rev. Canon D Littlepage, and the Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews, Priest Associates

Anne Bartholomew, Chair of Congregation Committee

John Decker, Vice-Chair of Congregation Committee

Since 1762, this Christian community has gathered for worship. To learn more about the ministries we share in this place, you are invited to speak to the clergy or parishioners after the service.

Serving at 8:00 a.m.

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews, Priest Associate
Assisting	The Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Cathedral Deacon
Psalm Leader / Altar Server	John Scott
Intercessor / Verger	Jilda Aliotta
Lector	Tom Smith

CATHEDRAL STAFF

David Borawski, Building Manager	Pedro Cirilo Coral, Spanish Music Coordinator & Custodian
Katherine Frisoli, Media Coordinator	Sean Glenn, Office Assistant
Cindy Hursty, Accountant & Office Manager	Nelson Mena, Spanish Music Coordinator
John Scott, Sacristan	Gregory Simmons, Event Coordinator & Assistant to the Dean
Marianne Vogel, Director of Music	

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