

GATHERING

A warm welcome to all those worshiping at the Cathedral today.

All are invited to take an active part in today's worship taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Please join in the prayers and responses printed in **bold**. Everyone is encouraged to join in the hymns, chants, and the sung parts of the liturgy.

Choral Prelude

Divinum Mysterium

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410) Music: Plainsong – Mode V, 12th Century Translation by John Mason Neale and Henry Baker

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

Remaining seated, the congregation is invited to sing on the final verse:

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee. Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be; honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore. Amen.

Behold a Star from Jacob Shining

Words: Numbers 24:17 Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations.

Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow.

Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, Hail the brightness of Thy rising.

Gloria

Words: Luke 2:14 Music: Antonio Vivaldi: (1648-1741)

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the Highest!



Shepherd's Carol

We stood on the hills, Lady, Our day's work done, Watching the frosted meadows That winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady, The air so still, Silence more lovely than music Folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, Shone in the night,

Joys Seven

Words and Music: Robert Chilcott (b. 1956)

Larger than Venus it was And bright, so bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, It seemed to us then Telling of God being born In the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, Our day's work done, Our love, our hopes, ourselves, We give to your son.

> Words: Traditional Medieval Carol Arranged by Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

The first good joy that Mary had it was the joy of one, To see the blessed Jesus Christ, when he was first her son When he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good Joy that Mary had it was the joy of two, To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go, To make the lame to go, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of three, To see her own son Jesus Christ to make the blind to see. To make the blind to see, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of four, To see her own son Jesus Christ to read the bible o'er. To read the bible o'er, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of five, To see her own son Jesus Christ to bring the dead alive. To bring the dead alive, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of six, To see her own son Jesus Christ upon the crucifix, Upon the crucifix, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had it was the joy of seven, To see her own son Jesus Christ to wear the Crown of Heaven. To wear the Crown of Heaven, good man, and blessed may he be, Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

Words: Joshua Smith, 1784 Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

Nowell

Geistliches Wiegenlied

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Music: Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

Words: Lope de Vega;

German translation: Emanuel Geibel (1815–1884) Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Autumn Boyle, Soprano; Sharon Myer, Viola

Die ihr schwebet Um diese Palmen In Nacht und Wind, Ihr heilgen Engel, Stillet die Wipfel! Es schlummert mein Kind.

Ihr Palmen von Bethlehem Im Windesbrausen, Wie mögt ihr heute So zornig sausen! O rauscht nicht also! Schweiget, neiget Euch leis und lind; Stillet die Wipfel! Es schlummert mein Kind.

Der Himmelsknabe Duldet Beschwerde, Ach, wie so müd er ward Vom Leid der Erde. Ach nun im Schlaf ihm Leise gesänftigt Die Qual zerrinnt, Stillet die Wipfel! Es schlummert mein Kind.

Grimmige Kälte Sauset hernieder, Womit nur deck ich Des Kindleins Glieder! O all ihr Engel, Die ihr geflügelt Wandelt im Wind, Stillet die Wipfel! Es schlummert mein kind. You who float Around these palm trees In night and wind, You holy angels, Silence the treetops, My child is sleeping.

You palms of Bethlehem In the roaring wind, How can you today Bluster so angrily! O roar not so! Be still, bow down Softly and gently; Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping.

The child of heaven Does not complain Oh, how tired he has become Of earthly sorrow. Oh, now in sleep, Gently softened, His pain fades, Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping.

Fierce cold Comes rushing, How shall I cover The little child's limbs? O all you angels, You winged ones Wandering in the wind. Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping.

Processional Hymn 102

Once in royal David's city Verse 1 solo; verse 2 choir; Congregation joins on verses 3-6

Acclamation

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. **And we beheld His glory.** Light and Peace in Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this night, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. Glory to God for ever and ever.

Song of Praise, Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Isaiah 9:2-7

Irby

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you. 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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Antiphon:



To-day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

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 sal- / <u>vation</u> from / day to / day. **Antiphon**

Declare his glory a- /mong the / nations * and his /<u>wonders</u> a- /mong all / peoples. For great is the LORD and / <u>greatly</u> <u>to be</u> / praised; * he is more to be / feared than / äll / gods. **Antiphon**

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 / <u>peoples</u> with / equity." Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and / all <u>that is</u> / in it; * let the field be joyful and / all that/ is there- / in. **Antiphon**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the / LORD <u>when he</u> / comes, * when he / comes to / judge the / earth. He will judge the / world with / righteousness * and the / peoples / with his / truth. **Antiphon**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

	/	
Sequence Hymn 107	Good Christian friends, rejoice Verses 1 & 2	In dulci jubilo

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

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

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 behold--- 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!"

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

After the reading of the Gospel we will sing verse 3 of the sequence hymn.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton

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: 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

Prayer Leader:

Incarnate God, your angel host announces that peace is born among us, embodied in frail flesh. With confidence in the power of that miracle, we bring you our prayers for the church and the world. That the child born to us may awaken us to heal this broken and hurting world, and that the peace proclaimed by the angels in the shepherds field will be realized in every place of war and on every violent street. We invite God's presence saying: Come now, O God of love.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor will bring wholeness and healing to all who are afflicted with illness and disease, and that in this time of gift-giving, our lives may be offerings of hope to those who are grieving, we invite God's presence saying: **Come now, O God of love.**

That as you entered the world in the poverty of the stable, you would instill in us the courage to dismantle the barriers that separate rich from poor, so that we may build together the just world you intended, we invite God's presence saying: **Come now, O God of love.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night may be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us, knitting your people into shared life for all eternity, we invite God's presence saying: **Come now, O God of love.**

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us. Fill us with your light, that as we walk in the way of peace, we may join our voices with heaven and earth in singing songs of gladness. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

Words of Welcome

TABLE

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral's mission to worship God joyfully, care deeply and act boldly as followers of Christ. An offering may also be made online at www.incarnationbmore.org.

Offertory Anthem	O Little Town of Bethlehem	Words: Phillips Brooks					
		Music: Sir Henry Walford Davies					
Peter Tomaszewski, Baritone							
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!		ly, how silently, Irous Cift is giv'n:					
above thy deep and dreamless	sleep So God imp	the wondrous Gift is giv´n; So God imparts to human hearts					
the silent stars go by.	the blessi	the blessings of His Heav ´n.					
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;	,	No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,					
The hopes and fears of all the y are met in thee tonight.		Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.					
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,	,	O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;					
And praises sing to God the Kir and peace to men on earth!	ng, Cast out ou	Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.					
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,		We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;					
While mortals sleep, the angels their watch of wondering love	keep O come to	us, abide with us, Emmanuel!					

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation Hymn 112 (v4)

In the bleak midwinter

Cranham

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can give him give my heart

The Great Thanksgiving¹

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Fraction Hymn 78, (v3)

O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Invitation

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Receiving

All are welcome to receive the Holy Communion. To receive either bread or wine is considered full communion. You may receive the bread or a gluten-free rice wafer; please indicate to the minister your need. Please assist the Chalicists by holding the base of the chalice (cup) and guiding it to your lips or you may dip the bread in the wine (intinction). If you choose to receive a blessing instead of communion, please place your arms across your chest.

Communion Music

Solo

Bethlehem Down Barb Ruble, Alto; Sharon Myer Viola; Matt Schnell, Violin Peter Warlock

When he is King we will give him the Kings' gifts, Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph, Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight -Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold, Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets, Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown, He that lies now in the white arms of Mary, Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming, Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Hymn 115	What child is this, who, laid to rest	Greensleeves
Hymn 105	God rest you merry, gentlemen	God Rest You Merry

The lights are dimmed and candles are lighted.

Hymn 111	Silent night, holy night	Stille Nacht

Prayer after Communion²

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

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

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. **Amen.**

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

And the blessing of God Almighty, Sovereign, Savior and Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever, **Amen.**

Hymn 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Antioch

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people and they respond: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Fugue on "Antioch"

Shepherd

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

PRESIDER: The Very Rev. Rob Boulter, Dean PREACHER: The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland DEACONS: The Rev. Dr. Jon Shematek & The Ven. Lauren Welch ORGANIST: Ken Brown, Canon for Music and Worship VERGERS: Tricia Shellhorn, John Reynolds READERS: Ann Koch, Sharon Myer PRAYER LEADER: Deborah Hazlett EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: James Reaves, Tim Edlund ALTAR MINISTRY: Cheryl Hazel, Amy Forsberg, James Reaves USHERS: Lambert Ezeala, Dominique Cadet, Joan Wisner-Carlson, Paul Watsic, Terry Tabler.

COVER IMAGE: ©Julia Pearson, from The Christmas Story 2015.

Liturgical Notes

¹Enriching Our Worship I, pp. 60-62; ²Enriching Our Worship I, p. 70.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY BY

- † Katherine M. Chin, Stephanie Ann, Kerwin & Katherine Lois Chung for Calvin Chin, Kristen Elizabeth Chung, Richard Moy,Ruth Moy, Edwina M. Wong, Jennie M. Wong, & our parents, grandparents & loved ones
- † Ed Clark for Catherine A. Neill MD FRCP and Lady Annie Stracham Neill
- † The Rev. Charles Cloughen and her loving family for Judy Cloughen
- † Grace Crowder for the Rev. Tomlin Peacock Crowder
- † Sans Gundlach for Ralph and Joan Gundlach
- † Anne Mickle and John Watt for Jocelyn and John Mickle, Helen and Bill Watt
- † Terry Pritt for Bobby Pritt
- † Tricia Shellhorn for Marion and Gerard Mehlig
- † Sara and David Sides for Mary and Richard Mansure
- † John Thorpe and Clair Francomano for Charles and Ruth Francomano, Eric and Irene Thorpe
- † Adele Wakefield for The Rev. Richard Wakefield, Dorothy and Joseph Albrecht, Becky Albrecht Welte
- + Tish and Dick Weise for Samuel and Elizabeth Dryden, Andrew and Mabelle Weise, William Weise, David Weise, Lucy Weise, James Valiant
- † Sarah Wolfenden and Joe Briggs for James and Pat Briggs, James Wolfenden and Marian Lyle

AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S MERCIES BY

- † Terry Pritt for Joyce Pritt
- † John Thorpe and Clair Francomano for Emily and Charles Thorpe
- † Sarah Wolfenden and Joe Briggs for Isabelle, Simon and Owen Briggs

AND IN CELEBRATION OF

† Joan Frances Crowder by Grace Crowder



The Christmas season continues!

Christmas Day Eucharist Monday, Dec. 25 • 10:30 am

The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 31 • 10:30 am Eucharist No 8am Eucharist or Sunday School **The Feast of the Epiphany** Sunday, Jan. 7 • 8am & 10:30 am Eucharist *Retiring of Children's Memorial Candles*

Have your dream wedding in the heart of Baltimore

Did you know that all are welcome to get married at the Cathedral? We are an open and affirming community. The Cathedral is a wonderful church for your wedding and reception. If you or someone you know is looking for a church in the heart of Baltimore, please call the office at 410-467-3750.



www.incarnationbmore.org • 410-467-3750

Welcoming all people to worship God joyfully, care deeply, and act boldly as followers of Christ.