



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Mobile, Alabama

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Christmas Day

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Ten o'clock in the morning



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GIBSON

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, the oldest Protestant church in the state of Alabama. Today, as we gather to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we join generations of worshipers who have sung and prayed and heard the Bethlehem story in this sacred place. As you settle yourself before our worship begins, spend a few minutes imagining the moments in history seen by that “cloud of witnesses”—times of wars and of longed-for peace, times of economic hardship and of prosperity, times of national or personal crisis and of joy and celebration. If we place ourselves within the context of those worshippers and their moments in time, we may gain a new perspective on the matters we carry in our hearts today. We may also gain strength and courage from the prayers and the hopes and dreams that linger all around us.

Our worship today also takes us outside of time, into the eternal life of God, as we hear the words of scripture, sing the psalms and hymns, and say the ancient creeds and prayers. We will be lifted to other dimensions through the music. We will be drawn into the sacred mystery of the Eucharist.

Whether this is your first visit to Christ Church or the repeating of long-standing tradition for you, I am glad that you are here and extend the welcome of the Vestry and the whole Cathedral Family to you. Please know that all Christians are welcome to receive from the Lord’s Table. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms to receive a blessing.

I wish you a blessed Christmas: may you know God’s peace and share the Good News of God’s love with the world.

Faithfully,

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., Dean

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MISSION

Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Ten o'clock in the morning

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in The Book of Common Prayer. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Page numbers refer to the Prayer Book for those wishing to use it. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Unless requested, applause isn't necessary; please give quiet thanks to God for the elements of worship that are meaningful for you.



*A gentle reminder: please turn off all wireless devices before the service.
Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing impaired are available in the west vestibule.*

Prelude

Improvisation

The First Noel

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Antioch

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.**

Song of Praise

Regent Square

Hymnal 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: **Refrain**

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: **Refrain**

Collect of the Day

BCP 213

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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.**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all he ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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.**

Sequence Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing vs. 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!

Mendelssohn
Hymnal 87

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing vs. 3

Hymnal 87

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!

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.**

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.

Celebrant: In Christ God's Word has become flesh, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world, asking that all creation may receive grace upon grace from the fullness of God, saying: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Intercessor: You have called the Church to witness to the light which enlightens everyone: Empower our testimony that all persons may know themselves to be children of God and share the gospel of the Word made flesh.

What has come into being in Christ was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

Inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may no longer be a people enslaved under the law, but know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as God's own children.

What has come into being in Christ was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

Be light in the darkness for all the world; let the fullness of Christ's heart may be made known for the healing of the earth.

What has come into being in Christ was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light.

What has come into being in Christ was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

May your people sing a new song for your marvelous work. Hear our gratitude for your glory manifest among us. Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life.

What has come into being in Christ was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

Celebrant: Loving and gracious Creator, from the beginning you have brightened our darkness with the light of your life: Let your vindication shine out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch, that your Word made flesh may bring grace upon grace to all the earth, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

BCP 393

Leader and People:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

Celebrant:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Organ Solo

Improvisation

Jacob Navarro

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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 continues: 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

Hymnal S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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

Fraction Anthem

Christ our Passover

Hymnal S-155

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, 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.

Music at Communion

Hymn

Greensleeves

Hymnal 115

What child is this

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?

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.

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**

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**

Hymn

Cradle Song

Hymnal 101

Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

**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.**

Christmas Blessing

BOS 23

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

Closing Hymn

In dulci jubilo
Hymnal 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

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!

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude

Improvisation

Joy to the world!

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANK OFFERINGS

*The wreaths on the front doors are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lauda Eleanor Leak Corwin, Paul Charleton Corwin, junior, Corinna Herndon McCafferty,
E. L. McCafferty, junior, Marion McCafferty Sparkman, Edwin Brandoa Sparkman.*

*The flowers on the silver cross are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Russell Ladd III, Norman Michael Pharr, and Kay and Banks Christian.*



IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE CATHEDRAL FAMILY AND FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST



Mr. and Mrs. Alton R. Brown III
Rives and Jessica Brown



Mr. and Mrs. Ismail Caglaroglu
Murat and Betsy Caglaroglu
Lewis Beecham Carter
William Creary Carter

Louise, Neal, Margaret, Kate, and William Collins
The Children and Grandchildren
of Johnny and Mary Cook
Mr. and Mrs. David Jones Cooper



Hamp Eichold and Macie Windhaus
Samuel, Paulina, Isabella, and Paula Eichold
Tres, Elizabeth, Ford and Whit Eichold
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Guy, Kimberly, Lee, Lillian, and Ann Barnett Etherton
Russ and Blair Etherton
Rayford Lee Etherton, Sr.



Blake, Livy, and Sophie Ferguson
Mona and Ted Ferguson



Tom and Susan Garth and Family
Dylan and Elinor Gibson
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson
and Mr. J. Michael Gibson



Walter Charles Haffner
Jeffrey Edward Halley
Leslie Stanton-Halley
Elizabeth Grace Harris
Mrs. Julia (Judy) S. Henson

Julia, Chris, Christopher, Louise, Mary Mac Hoitink



Lyon, Jackson, Hutch, and Hudson Israel



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Caroline, Benton, Ann, Campbell, Edward, Louise, Sarah
Jerod Lance Lucas
Virginia Collier Lucas
Virginia Hamilton Behlen Lucas



Doy Leale McCall III
Caroline, John, John, Molly, Charlotte McClelland
Homer Leon McClure
Louise Vass McClelland McClure



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Ted Middleton
Kress and Annalee Behlen Mullis



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Breck Pappas
Bo Prichard

Forrest Pritchard

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Laura Campbell Behlen Sindel
Catherine Fay Snider
Mary Rose Snider



The Reverend Eric J. Zubler and Mrs. Connie Zubler
Harrison and Catherine Zubler



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Leighton P. Arsnault



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Virginia Pollard Oliver Bear
Charles Henry Behlen II
Walton Avery Biggs, Jr.
Thomas Chester Blansett
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Hymnal 93: Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

Hymnal 87: Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

Hymnal S-130: Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Hymnal S-155: Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942), © 1985 by Aureole Editions, Dallas, Texas.

Hymnal 115: Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Hymnal 101: Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921).

Hymnal 107: Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).



MINISTERS FOR TODAY

Preacher and Celebrant The Reverend Eric J. Zubler
 Chalice Bearer..... Douglas B. Kearley
 Psalmist and Intercessor Douglas B. Kearley
 Lay Reader..... Leigh R. Taylor
 Organist..... Jacob Navarro
 Singers Mollie A. Adams, Myles Garver
 Usher Leigh Taylor
 Altar Guild..... Barbara Archer



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*

The Very Reverend Beverly Findley Gibson, Ph.D., *Dean and Rector*

The Reverend Eric J. Zubler, *Clergy Associate to the Dean*

Elizabeth Ann Bemis, *Organist and Music Director*

Corner of Saint Emanuel & Church Streets

115 South Conception Street

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