CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut
First Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2026, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

We acknowledge the Tunxis, Sicaog, Wangunks and Poquonook people, the traditional custodians of 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 wish to speak with a priest following the service, please contact an usher.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: First Week

Prelude – Arioso (Yun-Yang Lin, cello) *J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

The Celebrant and People say together:

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.

Then, the first blue candle of the Advent Wreath is lit and the Celebrant says:

Celebrant Our Savior and Redeemer now draws near;
People **Come, let us adore him!**

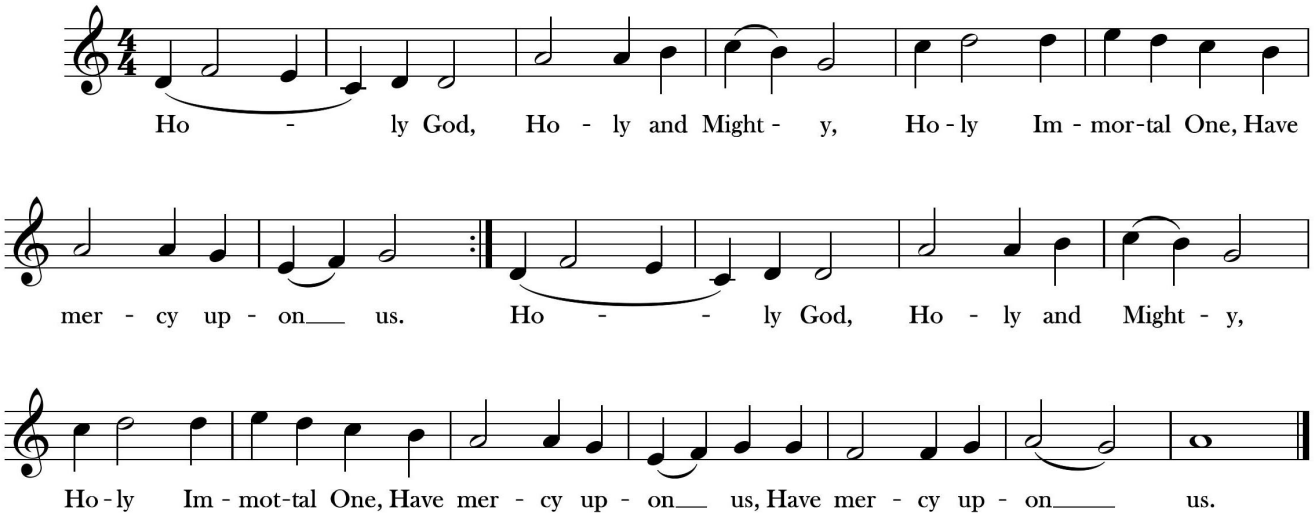
The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal #391 Before the Lord's eternal throne *Winchester New*

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant: Our Lord and Savior now draws near;
People: **Come, let us adore him!**

Collect for Purity
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.**

Trisagion *R. Fabian*



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

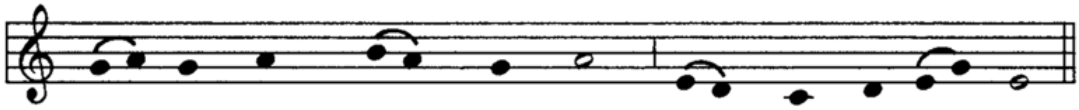
Please be seated.

Isaiah 64:1–9

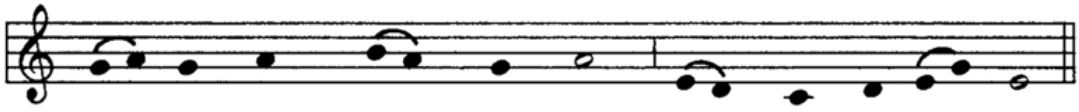
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18 *Qui regis Israel*
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal #636 How firm a foundation *Foundation*

Mark 13:24–37

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon ~ The Rev. Linda Spiers

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.

The Prayers of the People
Gracious God, you proclaimed comfort for your people and sent your son to embody that love. Give us hearts ready to prepare a way for you that we may be a strong word of faith to the world in your name as we pray Come, O come Emanuel.

Bless the church in all its imperfections as it strives to live out your steadfast love to those in the seats and outside our doors. Grant wisdom and strength to those who guide and shape its life. We pray especially for: Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our bishops; Harlon, our Interim Dean; Tony, our Canon for Latino Ministry; Melina, our Vicar/Chaplain; Bonnie, our Deacon; and all our priests associate.
Come, O come Emanuel.

Shower your blessings on the leaders of the nations, and this country, that they might seek solutions to the world's problems through peaceful cooperation.
Come, O come Emanuel.

Open our eyes to the majesty of your creation and strengthen our resolve to preserve its abundance for the sustenance of all future generations.
Come, O come Emanuel.

Help us to hear and accept gratefully, your call to be God's people. Lead us to where your loving presence is most needed and help us to be your agents of love to our neighbors.
Come, O come Emanuel.

Bring wholeness to what is broken, relief to what causes pain, and healing to our illnesses. May your healing presence bring wholeness and reconciliation to all who suffer that they may find peace through you. We especially pray for: **Will, Kathleen R. Joan Z, Maïa, Lee, Almeta, Camille, Gerard, Lourdes, Lenora, Ardyce, Mike R., Adrianne, Felicity, Sherrod, Graham, Richard, Betty Jo, Michael, Jason, Andrew, Jeannie, Denise, Shelly N., Dennis, Charlene, Marcia, Sean, Diane, David, Shaun, Thomas, Alberto, Kelley, Allison, Aubrey, Bill, Grace, Ben, Frank, Nelson, Joan,**

Treviana, Bob, Tyrone, Todd, Javon, Debbie, Julian, Rose, Samy, Eugenia, Louis, Sylvia, Anne, Harmony, Cristianne, Joslin, Sheila, Priscilla, Guale, Mercy, Deborah, John, Heather, Susan, Lanny, Edgar, Goodwin, Pam, Allen and Sally M., Rayfield, Desiree, Evelyn O., Mark, Sharon, Phil, Norma, Jay, Peter, Reid, Yvonne, Emily, Jessica, Micheline, and Charles. We also pray for those who we hold in our hearts. (*Silence)*
Come, O come Emanuel.

Deal tenderly with those who are grieving and with those whose wounds from loss are reopened at this time of year. May we remember the assurance of your promises that we will be united in your presence in the new age as we remember those who have gone before us.
Come, O come Emanuel.

Celebrant
As we enter this time of waiting, strengthen our faith that we may know the joy of your presence and that our lives might be a reflection of your glory. All this we ask through Jesus, the light of our lives.
Amen.

Confession of Sin
The Deacon or Celebrant says:
Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:
God of all mercy
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 Christ be always with you.
*People***:** **And also with you.**
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

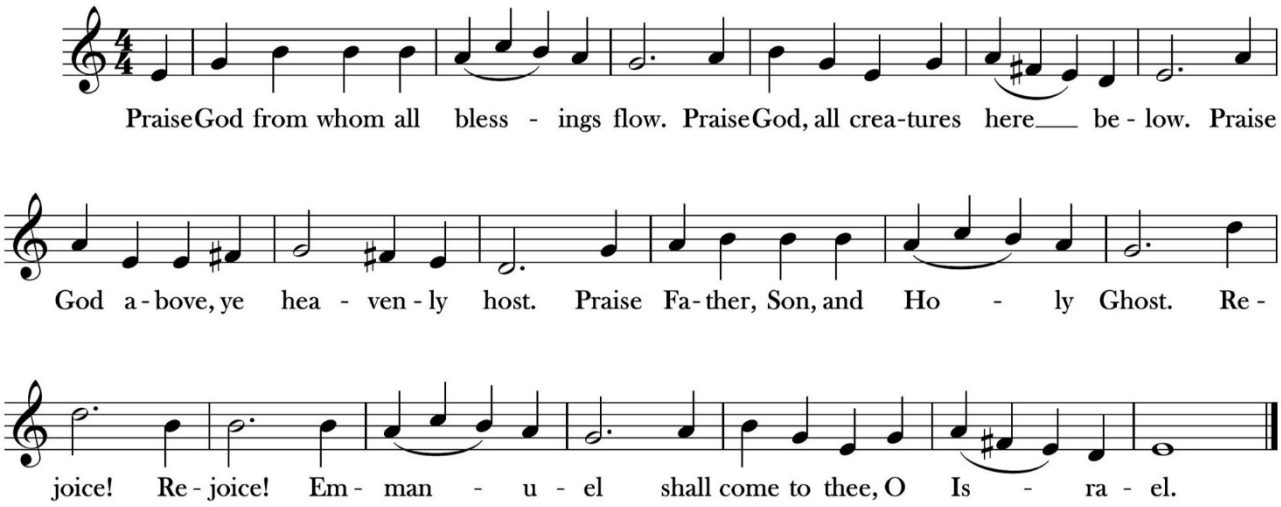
Welcome and Announcements: 8:00, Dr. Jilda Aliotta, Chair, Congregation Committee
10:00, John Decker, Vice-Chair, Congregation Committee

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem ~ O Come, Emmanuel (Yun-Yang Lin, cello) *Kyle Pederson (1971–)*

Veni, veni, Rex Gentium, veni, Redemptor omnium, ut salvas tuos famulos peccati sibi conscios.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel.
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
[Translation of first verse: O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bind envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.]

Doxology ~ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow *Veni Emmanuel*



The Great Thanksgiving

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**.

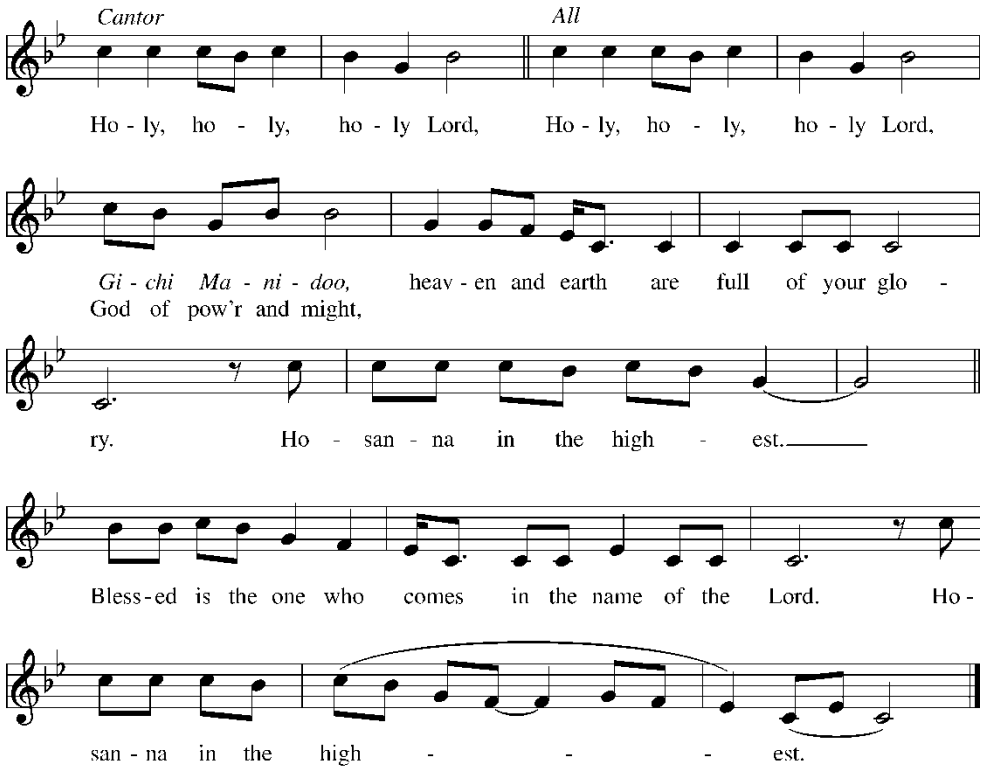
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs of everlasting life; that when Christ shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Celebrant and People:
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.

Sanctus *Monte Mason (1949–)*



The Celebrant continues
Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

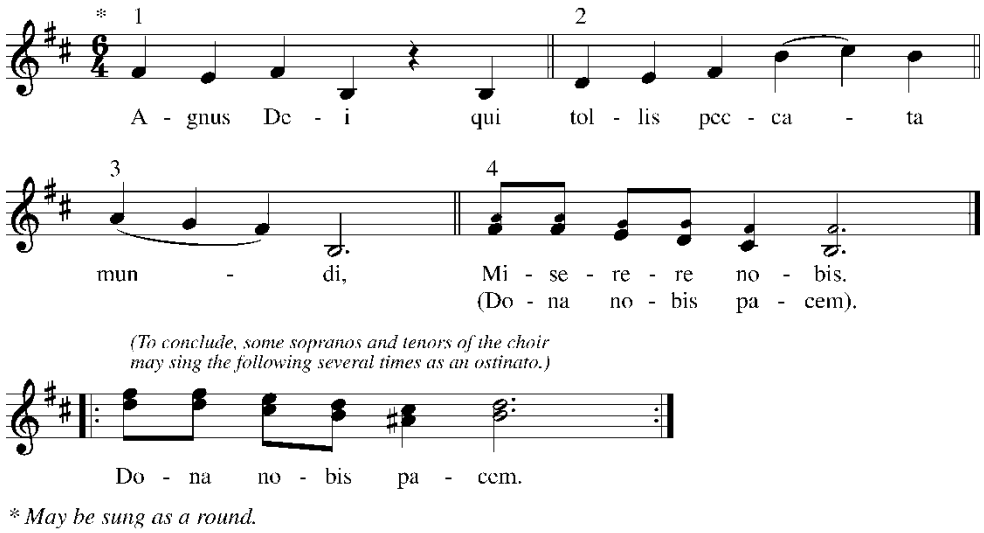
All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei *Jacques Berthier (1923–1994)*



** May be sung as a round.*

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. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. If you are unable to come to the front, please let an usher know and the Sacraments will be brought to you.

Communion Hymn ~ LEVAS II #145 Have Thine Own Way, Lord *Pollard & Stebbins*

Postcommunion Prayer
Celebrant:
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:
Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Blessing

Recessional Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal #57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending *Helmsley*

The Dismissal
Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ Finale in D Minor *Eric H. Thomas*

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If you are visiting us for the first time, WELCOME!
We would like to keep you informed of the blessings we experience in this house of prayer. Please introduce yourself to Interim Dean Dalton, Canon Garcia, or Rev. Dezhbod.

Please join us for fellowship in the Cathedral House Auditorium following the 10:00 service.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, November 29:
First Sunday in Advent; beginning of Capital Community College Advent drive; Christmas wreath-making class, with live music by Irish to the Last Drop, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 1:
Church Street Lounge, 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3:
Regular Chapter meeting, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 6:
Advent Retreat, 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; lunch, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
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An Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan
The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton, Interim Cathedral Dean
The Rev. Canon Ramon Antonio Garcia, Canon for Latino Ministry
The Rev. Melina Dezhbod, Vicar/Chaplain
The Ven. Bonnie Matthews, Cathedral Deacon
The Rev. Dana Campbell, The Rev. Dr. Jay Cooke, The Rev. Canon Rebekah Hatch, The Rev. Canon D Littlepage, The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews, and The Rev. Canon Kevin Olds, Priest Associates
Dr. Jilda Aliotta, Chair of Congregation Committee
John Decker, Vice-Chair of Congregation Committee

Serving at 8:00 a.m.

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Linda Spiers
Deacon	The Ven. Bonnie Matthews
Verger/Psalm	John Scott
Intercessor/Altar Server	Dr. Jilda Aliotta
Lector	Nancy Jacobs

Serving at 10:00 a.m.

Preacher	The Rev. Linda Spiers
Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton
Assisting	The Rev. Canon Ramon Antonio Garcia and The Rev. Melina Dezhbod
Dean's/Gospel Verger	Peggy Ornell
Altar Server	Marcia Barnett
Crucifer	John Scott
Virtual Vergers	Richard Baraglia and Dr. Deborah Simmons
Digital Evangelist	Samuel Hernandez
First Lector	Carolyn Dorais
Second Lector	Andrew May
Ushers	Gilbeean Scott, Carlene Taylor
Guild	Gilbeean Scott, Sheila Green, David Marcano, and Nagda and Ramon Echevarria
Choir	Kelley Kelly, Trish Leonard, Viola Mullin, Scott Patrick, Emily Riggs, Phoenix Sheerin, Kristen Williams
Cello	Yun-Yang Lin, cello
Organist	Marianne Vogel

CATHEDRAL STAFF

David Borawski, Facilities Caretaker
Cindy Hursty, Finance Officer and Archivist
Carolina Pujols, Operations Manager
Marianne Vogel, Director of Music
Pedro Cirilo Coral, Spanish Music Coordinator
Nelson Mena, Spanish Music Coordinator
John Scott, Sacristan
Gary Tomassetti, Executive Assistant and Program Coordinator

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