CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Harvest Sunday
November 8, 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 Liturgy of the Word

Prelude – Dolcezza *Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)*

Processional Hymn ~ LEVAS II #111 Come, Thou fount of every blessing *Nettleton*

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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.**

Gloria ~ 1982 Hymnal S280 Glory to God *Robert J. Powell (1932–2025)*

The Collect of the Day
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Psalm 78:1–7 *Attendite, populе* (sung by Choir) *C. Hylton Stewart (1884–1932)*

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn ~ LEVAS II #60 How Great Thou Art *Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989)*

Matthew 25:1–13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon ~ The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens

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

Holy God, creator and sustainer of life. We come together in prayer to put before you our needs and our hopes that you may teach, encourage, tend and challenge us to engage with you as we live into our sacred stories.

God of Hope, we pray for our church leaders that their lives may be shaped by your grace and clarity and that they will lead us with humor, compassion and creativity, calling us to share with them our faith, love and hope to the world. 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.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of Bold Vision, we pray for our Cathedral congregation and staff that during this time of transition our hearts and minds may be open to trust in your goodness and the knowledge that you are a constant presence guiding us in our lives.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of Peace, we pray for the leaders of our nation and every nation that they may come together to work toward a transformed world where all people thrive and live into their God created potential.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of Creation, we give thanks for the rhythm of times and seasons. Make us more aware of the beauty around us and vigilant in our daily lives to respond with wisdom and foresight to the threat of climate change.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of Healing, stay near to those who despair, those who live with illness and pain, and strengthen and encourage those who care for them. We pray especially 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,** and those we now name in our hearts. (*Pause*)

God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of Comfort, we give thanks for the gift of those who have gone before us and for the ways they continue to enrich our lives and who now live with you and all the saints in heaven.
God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant
God our creator and sustainer, we ask that you hear our prayers offered this day by your faithful people. Give us strength and courage to walk on the path of Christ, and embolden us for mission to fulfill the purpose for which you have created us. All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.

At the 8:00 a.m. service, healing prayer is available in the chapel immediately following the service. At the 10:00 a.m. service on the second Sunday of the month, we offer a time for healing prayers and anointing with Holy oil. If you desire a prayer for healing, please come forward to the priest or minister of healing with a healing request, and a prayer will be said privately for you. During this time, music will be offered. All are welcome to participate.

Healing Prayers
Healing Anthem ~ LEVAS II #109 What a Friend We Have in Jesus *Scriven & Converse*

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 ~ Total Praise *Richard Smallwood (1948–2025)*

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, You give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength, You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.

Doxology ~ 1982 Hymnal #380, v. 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow *Old 100th*

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2
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**.

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 parent cares for 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 (say):

Sanctus ~ 1982 Hymnal S130 Holy, holy, holy Lord (*Sanctus*) *Franz Schubert (1797–1828)*

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.***

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.

Fraction Anthem ~ 1982 Hymnal S164 Jesus, Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*)
Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

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 #188 It Is Well with My Soul *Horatio Spafford and Philip P. Bliss*
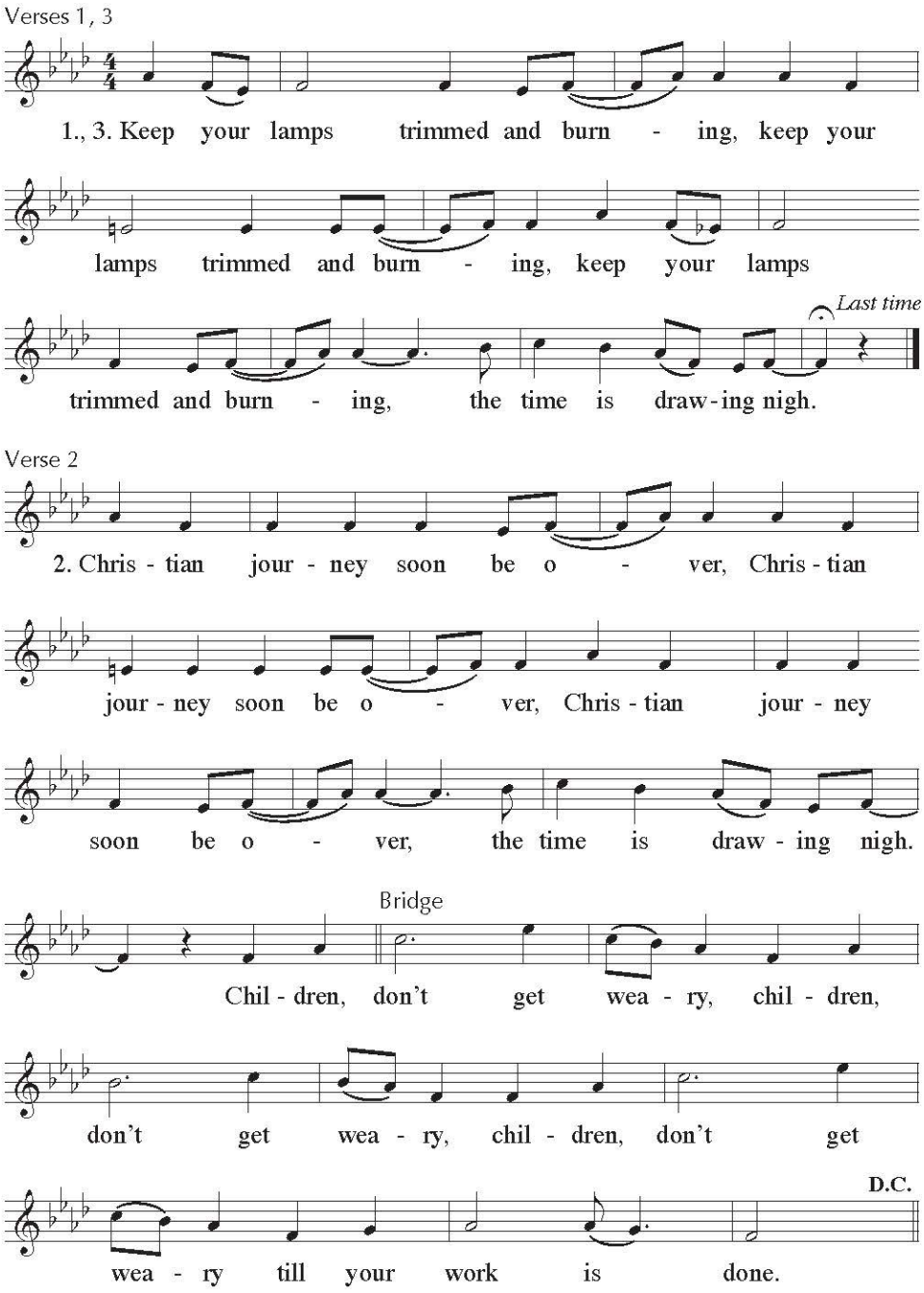
Postcommunion Prayer

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.

Children's Choir ~ Open My Eyes, Lord

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn ~ Keep your lamps trimmed and burning *African-American Spiritual*



The Dismissal

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

Postlude ~ Ode to Joy *Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)*

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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, Rev. Dezhbod, or Archdeacon Matthews.

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

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, November 12:
Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 12:
Special Chapter meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 15:
Formation series: Plenty Good Room, 9:00–9:45 a.m.

Tuesday, November 17:
Church Street Lounge, 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17:
Congregation Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27:
Cathedral office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Sunday, November 29:
Christmas wreath-making class, with live music by Irish to the Last Drop, 1:00 p.m.

A FAREWELL FROM ARCHDEACON BONNIE:

Dear Companions in Christ,

I write to you with mixed feelings of joy and sadness. As you may be aware, I have been contemplating moving closer to my daughter and her family in Pennsylvania. This past month I found a home that is perfect for me. I have made an offer, which was accepted, and hope to close on the property on November 17th with plans to move on November 30th.

You are my church family and I will miss you dearly. Since I began serving at our cathedral in 2019 you have embraced me and I have received many blessings through your kindness, hospitality, faithfulness, and love. Most importantly in serving with you, you have shown me what it means to be kind, have mercy and do justice.

Celebrate the gifts you have been given in feeding those who are food insecure, supporting CT State Community College Capital Food Pantry, kidney screenings, advocating for those who have no voice, visiting those who are homebound, faithfully praying for and with those in our community in need of prayer, and taking the time to celebrate one another's accomplishments while eating cake.

I have praised God, laughed, cried, built relationships with you, and have been supported by you. Please know that while distance will hold me separated from you, you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

Archdeacon Bonnie

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 Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Deacon	The Ven. Bonnie Matthews
Verger/Psalm	Dr. Jilda Aliotta
Intercessor/Altar Server	John Scott
Lector	Nancy Jacobs

Serving at 10:00 a.m.

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Assisting	The Rev. Canon Ramon Antonio Garcia and The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton
Deacon	The Ven. Bonnie Matthews
Bishop's Verger	Dr. Jilda Aliotta
Deacon/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	Carlene Taylor
Second Lector	Vernelle Davis
Ushers	Carlene Taylor, Vernelle Davis
Acolytes	Sean Nham, Jerel Noel
Guild	Gilbeean Scott, Sheila Green, David Marcano, and Nagda and Ramon Echevarria
Choir	Emily Gillespie, Kelley Kelly, Trish Leonard, Mary McCue, Viola Mullin, Scott Patrick, Phoenix Sheerin, Deborah Simmons, Kristen Williams
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

Christ Church Cathedral / 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103
office@cccathedral.org * www.cccathedral.org * 860-527-7231