

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CINCINNATI, OHIO



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2025
10:00 AM

Welcome to worship this morning!

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Calvary Episcopal Church.

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." We believe that as we come together to hear the Word proclaimed in Holy Scripture and to partake in the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion, Jesus is truly present.


Our mission at Calvary is to be "confident in God's love for us and fearless in our love for all." We achieve this mission by growing in faith together, reaching out as the hands, heart, and feet of Jesus, and extending God's grace to one another. May we each receive the spiritual nourishment we need to go into the world and share the love of God this week in this hour of worship.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

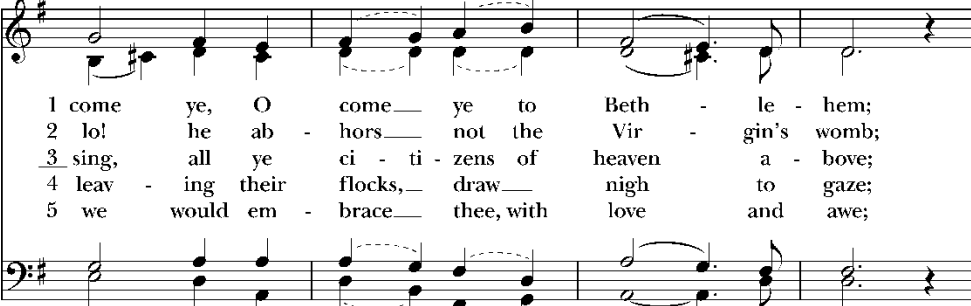
Prelude *Let the Valleys Be Raised!*

Dan Schutte, SJ

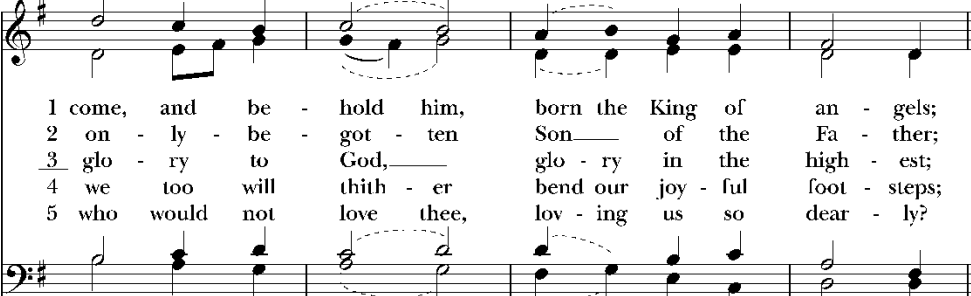
ENTRANCE HYMN ('82) 83 O come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

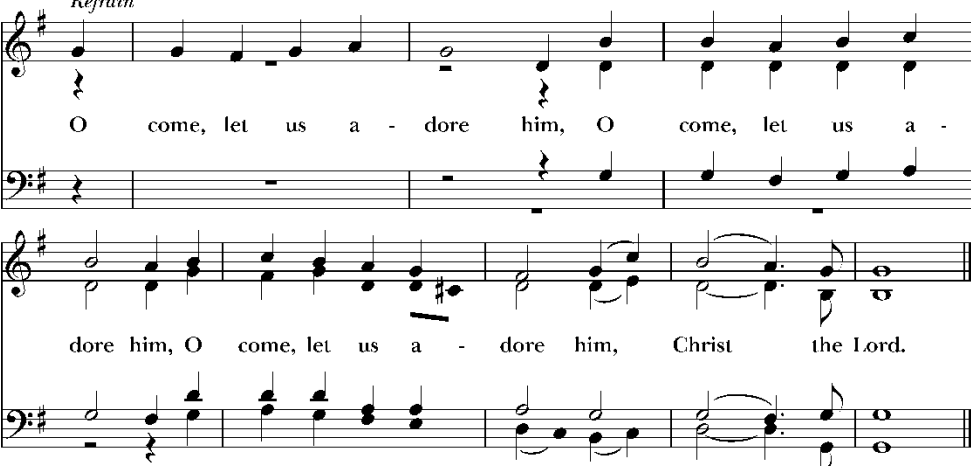


1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The *English Hymnal*, 1906.

Please stand as you are able.

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

Presider continues

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.

THE GLORIA said by ALL

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

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

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you

Presider 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.**

Please be seated.

READING: Isaiah 52: 7-10

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 ruin 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM 98 chanted by Sherman Smith

Psalm Antiphon sung by **ALL**

(Bob Hurd)

All the ends of the earth have seen salvation. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God, the saving power of God!

Time for silent reflection

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*

Finton O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Please stand if you are able

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Allison English, Rector

A period of silence follows the sermon

THE NICENE CREED said by ALL

This text is the contemporary revision of the Nicene Creed found in Enriching Our Worship 1 (1997), authorized for use in the Episcopal Church (USA). It offers a gender-expansive, modern English translation of the traditional creed, reflecting inclusive theological and linguistic updates. At the same time, it draws us closer to the earliest unifying form of the creed, harkening back to the words shared by the undivided church of the fourth century.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May the works of your hand glorify you.

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away into the joy of your presence.

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. We pray especially for especially Carol Bussey, Julia, Denise, Pam Armstrong, Jay, Philomina, Bridgid Cornell, Brad Caldwell, Troy, Patrick and Chrissy: *For whom else do you pray?*

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Silence

Glorious Lord, **Grant us your peace.**

Presider

O God, the source of light and sound, your word dispels our darkness, and your light speaks to our hearts. As we praise you, we beg that your power overwhelm us, that all the world might find us the more perfect ministers of your presence. Thus, may you be glorified this Christmas Day and forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord



Loose Offerings will be matched both by a generous donor and by Calvary's Outreach Budget to support the Sanctuary Coalition family's asylum legal fees.

You are invited to give today via the plate passed or by texting to give.
Simply text CalvaryEpiscopal (capitalize each word, no space) to 73256

OFFERTORY HYMN ('82) 93 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

THE HOLY COMMUNION Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching our Worship*

Offertory: The People bring up the bread and wine, and the Lord's Table is set.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider 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 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 say:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor 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 Presider invites the people to Communion.

THE SHARING OF COMMUNION

This altar does not belong to any church, it belongs to God and all are welcome. Jesus is the host at this feast and he goes out into the highways and byways inviting all to come to the feast.

Please know you are welcome to participate in this communion, where we share holy food and drink, not only with Jesus, but with all who now feast at the Great Banquet in heaven.

Gluten free bread available.

You are invited to receive the bread in your hands and to sip from the cup. If you prefer not to receive, you may come forward for a personal blessing. In that case cross your arms in front of your chest to indicate you wish to receive a blessing only.

COMMUNION HYMN ('82) 111

Silent Night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**



CLOSING HYMN ('82) 100 Joy to the world!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal to which the People respond
 Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Night of silence

Dr. Kantor D. Haas, L. True

Worship Leaders

Presider: The Reverend Allison English, Rector

Musician: Sherman Smith



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

And in loving gratitude for the life of Tom Bible *by Miriam Hill*
Margaret Bowman and Mabel Rose *by Tammy Bowman*
Margaret, Bob, Barbara & Victor *by Bob Moore and Nedi Rivera*
In loving honor of the valiant family and friends who struggle but refuse to give up
by Cindy Bourgeois
Beloved members of the Housman, Logan and Burns Families *by the Logan Family*
Pauline Marshall and Ruby C. Bowman *by Tammy Bowman and Marlie Montgomery*
Jess and Helyn Coen *by Reed Coen*
Jo Anne Davis *by Jamie Leslie*
Jane, Nancy and Richard Bernard and Emmy Lou and "Mac" MacLachlan
by Maris Bernard and Rob McLachlan
David and Louise McKnight *by Mary and Randy McKnight*
Bea and Barney Kobrin *by Carol and Jeff Spero*
Jacqueline Berry *by Tyrone Holmes*
Betty and Jerry Kernan, Virginia Bedree, Mike and Becky Bedree
by Mel and Kathy Bedree
Mrs. Sandy Martin *by Mr. Sandy Martin*
Howard Koehl *by Leslie Koehl*

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS GIVEN

In Thanksgiving for Calvary *by Anonymous*
In Thanksgiving for all those who cook, serve and clean up at Tender Mercies
by Bob Moore and Nedi Rivera
In Thanksgiving for friends and family *by Maggie and Paul Davis*
In Thanksgiving *by Flanders Family*
In Honor of Bethany and Michel Bourgeois *by Cynthia Bourgeois*
In Thanksgiving for God's grace *by Shirley Adams*
In Thanksgiving for Calvary Volunteers *by Judy Gardner*
In Thanksgiving for the Logan family, Allison, Kelsey, Franklin, Henry and Jane
by Ruth and Roger Foote
In Thanksgiving for family and friends, especially the Cook and Walda family this
Christmas *by Maris Bernard and Rob Mac Lachlan*
In Thanksgiving for our Family and Friends *by Janet Keller, Dave and Abby Lockard*
In Thanksgiving *by Jan and Bridgid Cornell*