

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 14, 2025 • 10:30 am  
+ Holy Eucharist



Welcome

- Nave services may be livestreamed for our online congregation. Cameras focus primarily on vested ministers, but others in the cathedral may also be visible in live or archived video.

**Prelude Chorale Prelude on Chesterfield**

John Leavitt

- at the sound of the bells, all stand

**Hymn 72 Hark! the glad sound! the savior comes**

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);  
 harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

CM

## Opening Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
You come to your people and you set them free.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath • Liturgy for the Whole Church

The evening of the year is upon us.

**We enter the darkness and wait for the light's return.**

We light a third candle to remind us of John, who calls us to wade in the waters of new life.

**We open our hearts to our own lights, enkindled in baptism,  
and ask for help to carry that light into a dark world**

- *the candle is lighted*

All of our waiting is waiting for God.

**God of our hearts, we wait for you alone.**

## Song of Praise • S 100 *Trisagion*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

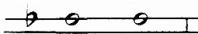


God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.



A - men.

- *all be seated*

## First Reading    Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
    and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
    and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
    the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
    and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
    but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
    nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
    but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
    and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
    they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
        and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**Canticle 15 • antiphon sung by all**

Thomas Pavlechko

desc.

Choir

My spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

My spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

My spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

My spir - it re - joic - es in God my Sav - ior.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

***antiphon***

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

***antiphon*****Second Reading James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is

near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn WLP 889** *Blessed be the God of Israel*

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and  
2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the  
3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to

rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So  
oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that  
tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then

have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God  
we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in  
shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to

would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.  
ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) © 1989 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL, 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: *Shepherd's Pipes* Annabeth McClelland Gay (b. 1925)  
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**Gospel**      Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
    who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of our Savior.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**      The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley

## **Nicene Creed • all stand**

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**

- *the deacon says:*

Almighty God, you have given us grace to worship and praise you. In these days let us seek the paths of justice and righteousness, and let our prayers rise up to you, saying 'Amen. Come Lord Jesus.'

- *the intercessor continues:*

Let us pray for the Church Universal throughout the world; for Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, for the ancient Churches of the East, for Leo, Bishop of Rome and Patriarch of the West, for Sarah chosen to be Archbishop of Canterbury, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Terry our own Bishop, for all bishops, priests and deacons, and for all who minister to God's people, saying

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Let us pray for our country, and for our elected leaders and representatives, especially President Trump, Vice President Vance, Governors Beshear and Braun, and for those newly elected to office, that we may be governed rightly and wisely, and led in peace, saying

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East and West Africa and Sudan, saying

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Let us pray for all who are in danger, for the victims of hunger and oppression, saying

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus**

Let us pray for the needs, concerns and thanksgivings of those who have asked for our prayers, especially Judy Donahue, Kitten Lawless, George Hubbard, Robert Huffman, Carlos LaGantta, Ginger Shackleton, Dean Weller and Marcia Wilmet, for those who celebrate a birthday, Jim Wilkinson, Leonard Sjogren and Paul Real, and for those whom we now mention either silently or aloud . . . . . , as we say

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus**

Let us pray for those who have died or are nearing death, including those whom we now mention either silently or aloud . . . . . , that they may behold your face in your eternal kingdom, saying

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

- *the celebrant concludes*

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.**

**Confession** • *bidden by the deacon*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

- *said by all*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**Absolution** • *declared by the celebrant*

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** • *all greet one another in the name of the Lord*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

# LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

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You can make a gift in support of the Cathedral's ministry online by scanning the QR code or going to <https://abundant.co/christchurchlouky/give>

**Offertory Anthem** *How lovely are the messengers from St. Paul* Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.  
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words.

Romans 10:15, 18



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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## **Eucharistic Prayer C • Expansive Language**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord out God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

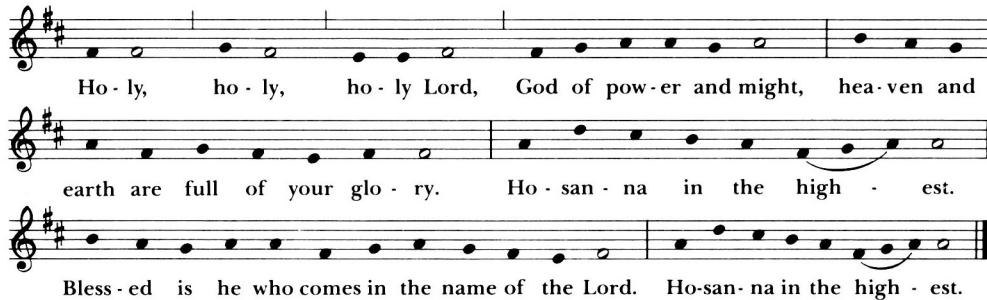
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus S 124**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san- na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

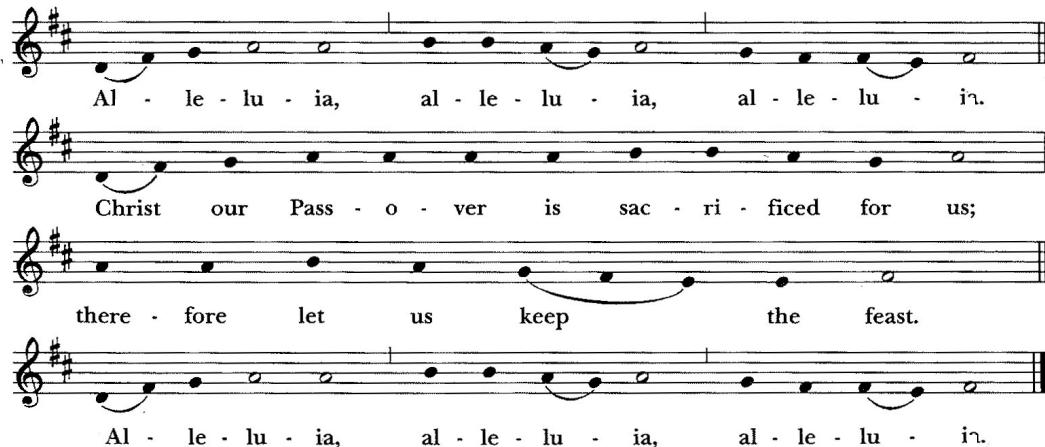
**AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer** • BCP 364 • *contemporary version*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**Fraction Anthem S 154**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

## **Invitation to Communion**

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.

- *any baptized person from any Christian tradition who wishes to encounter the Real Presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood is welcome to receive Holy Communion.  
If you wish to learn more about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak with a priest or deacon following the liturgy.*
- *gluten free wafers are available; as you prepare to receive bread indicate your preference to the priest*
- *if you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest*

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion • for those attending virtually**

Jesus, my Savior, I ask you to come into my heart and fill me with your love. Although I cannot physically join with others to celebrate the Eucharist today, I desire to offer my thanksgivings and prayers in union with all who worship you, wherever they may be. And although I cannot receive you now sacramentally in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, still I desire to receive your body and blood spiritually and feed on your love, that I may be united with you and with all your people in one communion and fellowship, your mystical body the church, now and ever more. Amen.

## **Anthem Ave Maria**

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum,  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.

Bach/Gounod

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee,  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

## **Sending of Eucharistic Visitors**

• *deacon*

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ.

• *people*

**We are all one Body, for we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

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.

## **Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

**Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

**Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

**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.**

**Concluding Hymn 438 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*

Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**    *Chorale Prelude on Gabriel's Message*

Michael Bedford

*serving today . . .*

The Rev. Charles Myers, *celebrant*

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, *deacon*

Austin Echols, *organist & choir director*

Randy Peters, Carolyn VanZant, *lectors*

Kent Echler, *intercessor*

Joy Beth & Kyle De Witt - Riley, *wreath candle lighters*

Mike DaRif, Brenda Runner, Randy Peters, Marilyn Werst, *eucharistic ministers*

Bill Shelton, Louise Isaacs, Susan Shockey, *acolytes*

Linda Sue White, *altar guild*

Becky Collings, Mike DaRif, Lea Ann Garbrough, *greeters/ushers*

Bobbie Fritton, *bell ringer*

Tim Tice, *live stream*

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... as for  
me and my  
household,  
we will  
serve the  
Lord

*Joshua 24:15*

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## **Christ Church Cathedral Land Acknowledgement**

Christ Church Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky gathers and stands on land which has been home, for over 11,000 years, to primarily Shawnee, Cherokee, Osage, Haudenosaunee Seneca, Hopewell and Adena peoples.

Today we acknowledge the role our Church has played in colonialism's devastating legacy of death, stolen lands, dehumanizing removals, and forced assimilation of native people.

We repent of our complicity in perpetuating the dominance of white European culture, even to the present day.

We seek forgiveness.

We honor the original peoples of this land and the presence of native people still living in Kentucky.

We honor with respect their Elders, past, present, and future, their traditions, and the land itself.

We commit to listen, learn, and walk in love.





## Christ Church Cathedral

⇒ *a church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city* ⇪

## Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky

The Rt. Rev. Terry Allen White, Bishop  
The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, Dean  
The Rev. Charles Myer, Associate Dean  
The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, Deacon

Austin Echols, Music Director & Organist  
Dr. Jack Ashworth, Associate Organist  
Susan Shockey, Parish Coordinator  
Thomas Thill, Sacristan

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