

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 21, 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 Conditor alme siderum*

Rebecca Groom te Velde

- at the sound of the bells, all stand

Hymn 56 *O come, O come, Emmanuel*



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



- 1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



- 1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.;
 adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

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 fourth candle to remind us that visions and angels may still light our way.

**We open our hearts to light from heaven, and ask for help bravely
to believe in our dreams.**

• *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 Plainson*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

<i>celebrant</i>	<i>people</i>	<i>celebrant</i>
-----	-----	-----
God be with you.	And also with you.	Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

|-----|

A - men.

- *all be seated*

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the

young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 • *antiphon sung by all*

desc. Show the light of your coun-ten-ance O God, and we__ shall be saved.

Choir Show the light of your coun-ten-ance O God, and we__ shall be saved.

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.

antiphon

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.

antiphon

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.

antiphon

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom

we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

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

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 54 *Savior of the nations, come!*

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397);
tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524

77. 77

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of

the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her

as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Very Reverend 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, Angie Halliday, Vickie James, George Hubbard, Edgar Wallace and John Kiesel, for the anniversary of Jan & Konrad Margerum, 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



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 *O come, divine Messiah!*

arr. Howard Helvey

O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away.

refrain:

Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah!
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph
and sadness flee away.

You come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see.

refrain

O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come, break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.

refrain



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our 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.

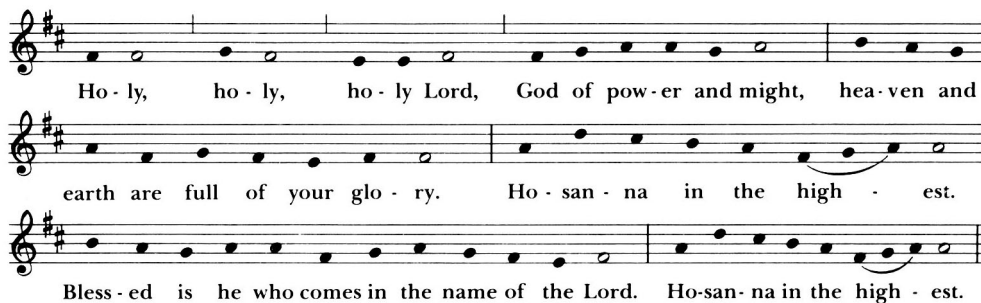
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

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



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

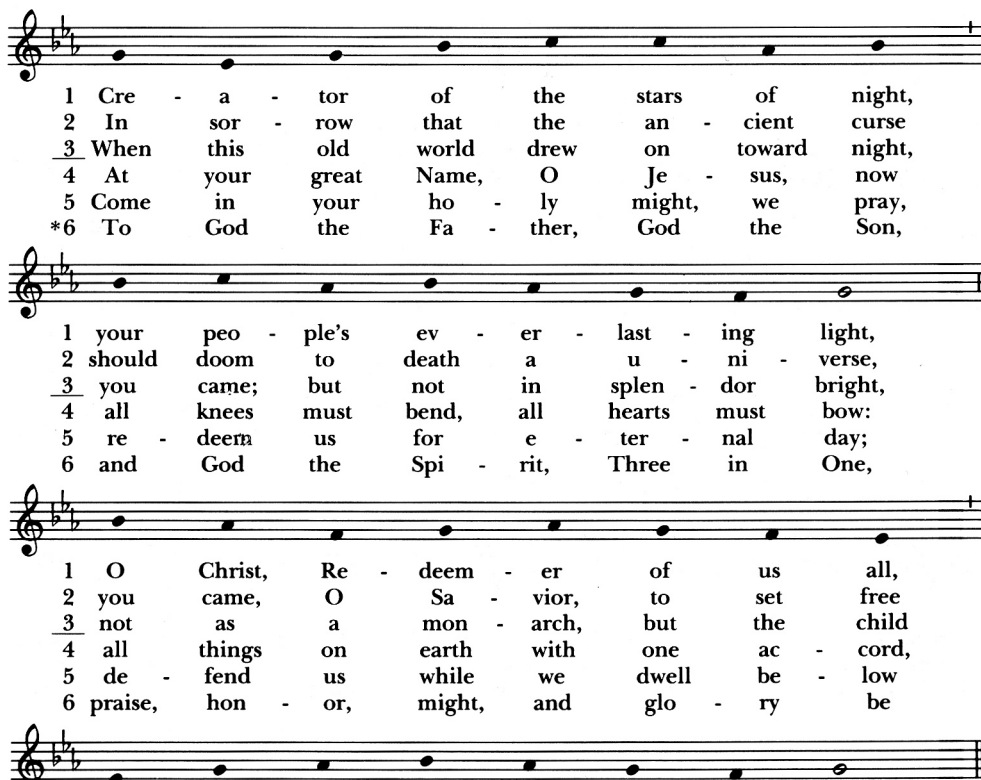
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ
died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- *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.

Hymn 60 *Creator of the stars of night*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 *6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 6 from age to e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

LM

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 66 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining four lines. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the four lines of the hymn.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

87. 87

Dismissal

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

Postlude *Veni Emmanuel*

Noel Rawsthorne

serving today . . .

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, *celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, *deacon*

Austin Echols, *organist & choir director*

Bill Shelton, Joy Stultz, *lectors*

Liam O'Daniel Munger, *intercessor*

Blossom Marshall, Carolyn VanZant, *wreath candle lighters*

John Werst, Dorothy Converse, Tim Tice, *eucharistic ministers*

Carolyn VanZant, Graham Whatley, Kim McDaniel, *acolytes*

Bill Shelton, *altar guild*

Sissy Lanier, Kirt Jacobs, Susan Wettle, *greeters/ushers*

Bing Jacobs, *bell ringer*

Dave Barbieri, *live stream*

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

Joshua 24:15



*Here am I,
the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me
according to your word.*

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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