

St. Paul's Cathedral



Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2025

5:00 p.m.

“Come to Bethlehem”
Journey of Light & Eucharist
December 24, 2024– 5:00 p.m.

Prelude

Variations on the Huron Carol by Giles Bryant

Welcome

The Dean

Blessing & Lighting of the Wreath

The time of waiting is over; our Lord is born. Now we light the Christ candle to remind us that all of God's gifts - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love - are to be found in God's greatest gift, his Son, Jesus Christ. (*The Christ candle is lit.*) Let us pray: Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary. Upon him rests all your grace, through him comes all your mercy. As the light shines from these candles, so may the light of Jesus shine within our hearts. Help us to make your Church the light of the world. We ask in the name of the One born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn **118**..... ‘O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL’

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the king of angels;
Refrain:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.
2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created: *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*
4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: *Refrain*

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Glory to God

Celebrant 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.**

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First 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 ruins 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading..... Titus 3: 4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn **123**..... ‘ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY’

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly
cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a
manger for his bed, Mary was that
mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and
Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his
cradle was a stall. With the poor and mean and
mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen
standing by, we shall see him, but in heaven, set at
God's right hand on high, when like stars, his
children crowned all in white shall gather round.

The Gospel Story

Luke 2: 1-20

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

The Dean

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith, as we say,

All **I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Birth of Jesus and Prayers for the World
 The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us share a sign of peace with one another

Offertory Hymn 122..... 'IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER'

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
 heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
 In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
 the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
 cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
 but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
 worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and gladness,
accept all we offer on this joyful feast.
May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;
for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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.**
Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of salvation
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Now, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.
All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**
Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love

you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.
On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,

All

Celebrant

we await his coming in glory;
and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All

**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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion at this service. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, you may cross your arms and approach a priest at the communion station.

Communion Reflection "Recit" from *Variations on the Huron Carol* by Giles Bryant

Prayer after Communion

Father of all,
tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending your Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Taking the Light to the World

Deacon Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

All **A light no darkness can extinguish.**

The servers will assist members of the congregation in lighting individual candles.

Hymn 119 'SILENT NIGHT'

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born,
Christ, the Saviour, is born.
3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
our eternal Father and David's king.
You have made our gladness greater and increased our joy
by sending to dwell among us
the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace.
Born of Mary, proclaimed to the shepherds,
and acknowledged to the ends of the earth,
your unconquered Sun of righteousness
destroys our darkness and establishes us in freedom.
All glory in the highest be to you,
through Christ, the Son of your favour,
in the anointing love of his Spirit,
this night and for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as our sin is found,
far as our sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.
Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Postlude *'Angels We Have Heard on High' by Christopher Uehlein*

Blessed Christmas!
May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
be with you all at this holy season and always.





Ministers at the Liturgy

Presider	<i>The Very Reverend Michael Sinclair</i>
Sub-Deacon/ Intercessor.....	<i>Janet Craig</i>
Sub-Deacon	<i>Tannia Patterson</i>
Servers	<i>Charlotte Bowering</i> <i>Lillian Bowering</i>
Readers	<i>Dr. Doug Turnbull, Basil Pogue</i>
Communion Assistants	<i>Valerie Cade, Merrilyn Dubreuil,</i> <i>Jean Keeley</i>
Greeters.....	<i>Doreen Bradshaw, Basil Pogue</i>
Camera.....	<i>Averyl Dogao</i>
Organist	<i>Valerie Hall</i>





*The flowers and the plants that enhance the beauty of the Cathedral this
Christmas season are given to the Glory of God and...
... in loving memory of all loved, gone but not forgotten by Margaret Ball.
... in loving memory of our parents Harry and Winnie Goodale and Willard & Lois Kendel,
loved ones gone but not forgotten by their families.
... in loving memory of Ed, our parents and all family members gone but not forgotten,
by Elvira Beday*



Christmas-Epiphany Service Schedule

- December 25 - Christmas Day Eucharist ~with The Reverend Anne Marie MacNeil
at 10:00 a.m.**
- December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas ~ at 10:00 a.m.**
- January 4 - The Epiphany of the Lord - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
- January 11 - Baptism of the Lord - 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist**
- January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul
Patronal Festival & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**



**The Cathedral office will be closed
December 27th -January 5rd, 2026
For any pastoral emergencies please call
Dean Mike at 306-537-6439 or Rev. Ed Dunfield at 306-551-6213**

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*We wish to acknowledge that St. Paul's Cathedral sits in **Treaty 4 Territory**, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Assiniboine, Saulteaux and Metis People. We do so with the deepest respect for the traditions and nations who have been in this place for thousands of years, and as a reminder to the Church that reconciliation is our most important task.*