

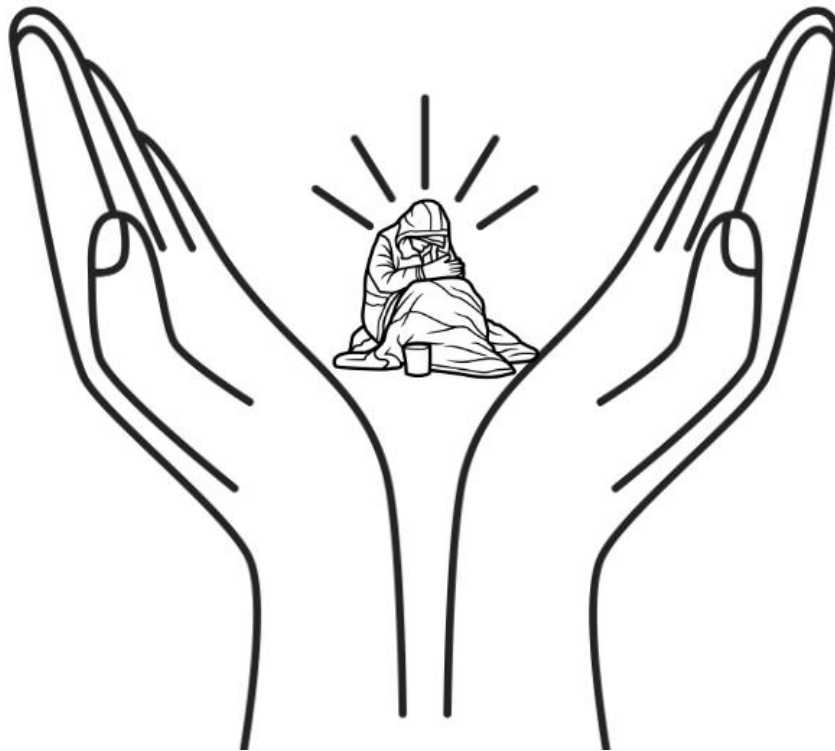


Christ Church Cathedral  
Catedral Iglesia de Cristo  
Springfield, Massachusetts



# A Memorial Service

*for the homeless Children of God in the greater  
Springfield area who have died in the past year.*



**1:00 PM – Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

Christ Church Cathedral broadcasts and shares images and video taken at our services through social media. If you prefer not to have your image shared, please let the Clergy or the Ushers know.

**WELCOME**

The Reverend Eric M. Elley

**OPENING PRAYER**

Today, we remember and honor our brothers and sisters who have died while living on the streets. We lift them up to God in prayer.

God of faithfulness and love, you created all of us in your own image and call us Children of God. Bless us this day as we bring to light the precious memory of our brothers and sisters who were homeless and now rest eternally with You. **Amen**

### **HYMN - A Stable Lamp Is Lighted (On Back Page) v. 1&4**

#### **READING**

Spirit of God who hovers around all of us- Whether we abide on the highest peak or in the lowest valley, Whether we abide in lengthening shadows or growing light- Fill us with peace that comes from you. Night has reached its pinnacle, But the victory has not been delightful. With it comes the chills of shadow- The frigid loneliness of grief. In this season when daytime's gloom sneers at all of us, Nighttime's shadows are anything but cover. Night has shed its duty to its people, To the ones looking for its stars of hope.

#### **POEM – “Alone,” by Maya Angelou**

Lying, thinking, Last night  
How to find my soul a home  
Where water is not thirsty  
And bread loaf is not stone  
I came up with one thing  
And I don't believe I'm wrong  
That nobody, But nobody  
Can make it out here alone.  
Alone, all alone, Nobody, but nobody  
Can make it out here alone.  
There are some millionaires  
With money they can't use  
Their wives run round like banshees  
Their children sing the blues

They've got expensive doctors  
To cure their hearts of stone  
But nobody  
Can make it out here alone  
Alone, all alone, Nobody, but nobody  
Can make it out here alone  
Now if you listen closely  
I'll tell you what I know  
Storm clouds are gathering  
The wind is gonna blow  
The race of man is suffering  
And I can hear the moan,  
'Cause nobody, But nobody  
Can make it out here alone.  
Alone, all alone, Nobody, but alone

#### **READING FROM LUKE 9:12-17**

As the day declined, the Twelve said, “Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the farms or villages around here and get a room for the night and a bite to eat. We're out in the middle of nowhere.” “You feed them,” Jesus said. They said, “We couldn't scrape up more than five loaves of bread and a couple of fish – unless, of course, you want us to go to town ourselves and buy food for everybody.” (There were more than five thousand people in the crowd.) But he went ahead and directed his disciples, “Sit them down in groups of about fifty.” They did what he said, and soon had everyone seated. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread and fish to the disciples to hand out to the crowd. After the people had all eaten their fill, twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered up.

*El día comenzó a declinar, y los doce se acercaron a él y le dijeron: --Despide a la gente para que vayan a las aldeas y a los campos de alrededor, y se alojen y hallen comida, porque aquí estamos en un lugar desierto. El les dijo: --Dadles vosotros de comer. Pero ellos dijeron: --No tenemos más que cinco panes y dos pescados, a no ser que vayamos nosotros y compremos comida para todo este pueblo. Porque eran como cinco mil hombres. Entonces dijo a sus discípulos: --Haced que se sienten en grupos de unos cincuenta cada uno. Y así lo hicieron, haciendo que todos se sentaran. Entonces Jesús tomó los cinco panes y los dos pescados, y alzando los ojos al cielo, los bendijo. Luego los partió e iba dando a sus discípulos para que los pusiesen delante de la gente. Todos comieron y se saciaron, y de lo que sobró recogieron doce canastas de pedazos.*

## RESPONSIVE READING

Amazing God, you love us so much that you came to us as an infant,

**Born in a stable because there was no room at the inn.**

You call us to love the world as we have been loved by you.

**Wrapped in swaddling clothes, you slept in a manger because there was no crib.**

You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Shepherds welcomed you.**

You want us to create an inclusive church in which everyone is welcomed and loved.

**No one was turned away from the stable door.**

You keep calling to us to open our doors, to welcome the outcasts, to house the homeless, to feed the hungry.

**Lambs and cows, chickens and donkeys, men, women, children, angels of all kinds surrounded you.**

Help us, holy child of the stable, to create a world in which all children have safe and loving homes, enough to eat, and a community of angels to surround them.

**One star brighter than the rest led the world to your door.**

May our love and work in the world be a beacon of hope to the hopeless, a ministry of food for the hungry, homes for the homeless and peace for all who have been wounded by violence.

**Dear child of Bethlehem, as we remember the stable and the manger, give us the faith and courage to work together to create a world of peace and justice in your name.**

**Holy Words – The Reverend Eric M. Elley;**

Words of care for those who have died

## LIGHTING OF CANDLES TO REMEMBER THE HOMELESS WHO DIED THIS YEAR

*If you know a person who died this year, please name them and come light a candle.*

### A PRAYER FOR THE LIVING HOMELESS CHILDREN OF GOD

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

## HYMN The Hymnal 1982, #111 Silent Night, Holy Night (verse 1)

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).

### CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING

by The Reverend Eric M. Elley

Loving God, we know you accompanied these loved ones to their shadow-filled corners. No matter how far they could flee in this world, they could never flee from you. We commend their spirit to you knowing they abide with you forever, knowing they live in your eternal refuge. May their spirits be free from the pains of this earth, and may they see your everlasting light. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

As night recedes  
And the days now lengthen,  
May we share the light of hope with our neighbors,  
May we abide in Divine peace,  
May we walk with God, our Holy Sojourner,  
And may we embrace the comfort of the Spirit  
Who is forever in our company and forever our refuge.  
Go in the peace of the Divine Love. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in peace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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*Following the service, all are invited to a reception in the Kendrick Room sponsored by*  
**Open Pantry/ Loaves and Fishes**

## **THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR**

*Each year since 1990, on or near the winter solstice and the longest night of the year, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless friends.*

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CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CATEDRAL IGLESIA DE CRISTO  
*Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts*

**Gathered** by God from many cultures | **Reunidos** por Dios de muchas culturas  
**Transformed** by the grace of Jesus Christ | **Transformados** por la gracia del Jesucristo  
**Sent out** empowered by the Holy Spirit | **Enviados** en el poder del Espiritu Santo

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[www.cccspfld.org](http://www.cccspfld.org) | 413.736.2742

*Christ Church Cathedral is an inclusive parish welcoming all people regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. You are loved here and we remind you that God loves you, too!*  
*La Catedral Iglesia de Cristo es una parroquia que es inclusiva y da la bienvenida a todos no importa su fe, etnicidad, genero, orientacion sexual, o creencias. Aquí usted es amado y amada y Dios les ama tambien!*



<b>The Right Rev. Doug Fisher</b>	<b>Bishop of Western Massachusetts</b>	<a href="mailto:dfisher@diocesewma.org">dfisher@diocesewma.org</a>
<b>The Rev. Canon Michael DeVine</b>	<b>Assisting Priest</b>	<a href="mailto:ap735@earthlink.net">ap735@earthlink.net</a>
<b>The Rev. Canon Jerry True</b>	<b>Assisting Priest</b>	<a href="mailto:jerry5185@gmail.com">jerry5185@gmail.com</a>
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# A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose  
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's Ci - ty Shall  
 3 (Yet) He shall be for - sak - en, And  
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The

glow shall wake the sky;  
 ride in tri - umph by;  
 yield - ed up to die;  
 low is lift - ed high;

The stars shall bend their voic - es, And  
 The palm shall strew its branch - es, And  
 The sky shall groan and dark - en, And  
 The stars shall bend their voic - es, And

ev - 'ry stone shall cry.  
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry.  
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry.  
 ev - 'ry stone shall cry.

And ev - 'ry stone shall  
 And ev - 'ry stone shall  
 And ev - 'ry stone shall  
 And ev - 'ry stone shall

*Christ's birth culminates in His death and resurrection. Even the very stones of creation praise God for such redemptive love. This message is here further underscored by the poignant tone.*

Text: Richard Wilbur, b. 1921  
 Music: David Hurd, b. 1950  
 "Text: 'A Christmas Hymn' from ADVICE TO A PROPHET AND OTHER POEMS, copyright © 1961 and renewal 1989 by Richard Wilbur, reprinted by permission of Harcourt Brace & Company. Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

ANDUJAR  
 76-76 66-76  
 Luke 2:6-7; 19:37-40; 2 Cor. 5:18

cry, shine; And A  
 cry, dumb, And God's  
 cry, men: By  
 cry, Child

And Through For In  
 straw heav - y, dull, and shall and of the  
 heav - y, dull, and shall and of the  
 ston - y hearts of  
 prais - es of

barn shall har - bor heav - en, A stall be - come a  
 lie with - in the road way To pave His king - dom  
 whose de - scent a - mong us God's love re - fused a -  
 The worlds are rec - on -

shrine. 2 This  
 come. 3 Yet  
 gain. 4 But  
 ciled.