



Christ Church Cathedral
Catedral Iglesia de Cristo
Springfield, Massachusetts



- THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER -

Christmas



December 28, 2025, 8:00am

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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 fortalecidos** por el Espíritu Santo

Christ Church Cathedral | 35 Chestnut Street | Springfield, MA 01103 | www.cccspfld.org | 413.736.2742

Service Times on Sundays: 8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:15PM en Español
Wednesday Service at 12:00 Noon

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral. We are the Cathedral for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and an active community serving greater Springfield. It is a blessing to have you with us today. If you are new here, we encourage you to fill out a Visitor's Card to receive more information. Our clergy and leaders would love to make a connection with you. Christ Church Cathedral is an open and inclusive community which invites all people to the incredible love of God, with no barriers of race, culture or sexual orientation. You are loved and welcomed here.



Cathedral Staff

The Right Rev. Douglas Fisher
The Very Rev. José Reyes
The Rev. Canon Jerry True
The Rev. Dr. Kate Derosé
Dr. Colin Britt
Mr. Sergio D'Orsini, Honorary Canon
Ms. Amanda Paredes
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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.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM - Psalm 147

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING - Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL – John 1:1-18

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend José Reyes

THE NICENE CREED

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor

With all our heart, and all our mind, let us pray to the lord, saying “Lord, hear our prayer”.

For this cathedral, and for all churches everywhere celebrating the birth of your son, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our families and friends, for all our loved ones, for those who are with us, and for those who are far away, we pray to you O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who travel during this Christmas season, that they may reach their destinations safely, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, for those who are alone, for those who are hungry, to whom we name in our hearts with special concern. Especially for Katie and her family, Gladys Owusu Sekyre, Andre, Elba Pagán, Calista Dibble, Cecily Perez, Sherry Branstetter, Karen and Bob Soderstrom, Kathy McBride, Monique Ray Burwell, Milagros Lopez, Charlie Murrin and his family, Robert Jewell, Sr. and his family, Charlotte Carrington, Todd Shepard, Beverly Rourke, Joyce Howard, David and Kathy Johnston, Karen and Rich Authier, Louise Amerman, and Blaise and her family. We pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the places in the world where we are at war with one another, and for wisdom for our leaders, that our struggles may be transformed into a new peace for all people, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, for all those for whom the flowers adorn our Cathedral and

for whom our Christmas music is played, for all those who fully rest in your arms of mercy this Christmas, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Most of all, for the gift of love in your dear son, Jesus Christ, that we may be so filled with your love that we, too, maybe gifts of love to others, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

All this we ask in the name of him who came into the world two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant

At Christmas, God sends us love: He comes to us where we live: He loves us as we are.

Our hearts are his birthplace; our lives are his home. Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the Offertory, the Altar is prepared. People may place pledges and donations in the collection basket during the offertory. You may also donate, and pledge online, just point your phone at the QR code.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your

only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 ever blessed Virgin Mary, to be the Savior 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God.

Everyone is invited to receive the Holy Communion. Our practice is to stand or kneel at the altar rail in front, where the clergy will give you the host and then will give you the chalice. If you desire only a blessing and not the Communion, please indicate by crossing your arms before you. If you prefer Gluten-Free wafers or non-alcoholic grape juice, please tell the eucharistic ministers.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior, baby who makes every birth holy.

May we, who like the shepherds have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love, return to our communities with joy. May we, for whom the heavens have opened to proclaim that God is with us, we who have fed on living bread and drunk the wine of heaven, go out to be instruments of your peace, day by day. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!