Our vision: A spiritually alive world
Our mission: Reimagining church with courage, joy and wonder

Christmas Day
Friday, 25 December 2020
11 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Welcome to Grace Cathedral — online! You are invited to participate in this service as you are able, by standing, sitting, praying and singing aloud as you may be moved. We may not be with you to hear you, but we join our prayers with yours, and offer them to God with joyful hearts.

Know, too that your offerings support the many ministries of Grace Cathedral, and your gift helps realize the vision of a spiritually alive world. Visit www.gracecathedral.org/GiveToGrace to give. Thank you for your generosity, and for being part of Grace Cathedral today.

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in A major, BWV 536  
Johann Sebastian Bach

The Gathering

The people stand as the procession enters.

Introit

Sung in Latin.  
Mode 7

Choir  
Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today on earth angels are singing, archangels rejoicing: today the righteous exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

Station at the Crèche

The procession stops before the crèche.

Presider  
The glory of the Lord has been revealed;

People  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Let us pray. O God the Son, highest and holiest, who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death: bring us with the shepherds and Magi to kneel before your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn 83

Sung by all, standing.

Adeste Fideles

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;  
O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2  
God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten Son of the Father;  
O come, let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

3  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

6  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others;  
music: present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
**Opening Acclamation**

**Presider**  Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

**People**  **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Gloria in excelsis**  
Sung in Latin.  Jonathan Dove  Missa brevis

An ancient hymn inspired by the angels’ song over Bethlehem.

**Choir**  Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s 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.

**Collect of the Day**

**Presider**  May God be with you.

**People**  **And also with you.**

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

**The First Reading**  
*The people sit.*  Isaiah 52:7-10

**Reader**  A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**All**  **Thanks be to God.**
The people remain seated. Percy Buck

Choir, then All  
O sing unto the Lord a new song.  
Sing to the Lord a new song, *  
for the Lord has done marvelous things.  
The right hand and the holy arm of the Lord *  
Have secured the victory.  
The Lord has made known this victory; *  
And has openly shown righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
The Lord remembers mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Sung by all  
O sing unto the Lord a new song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn, *  
shout with joy before the Sovereign, 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,  
who is coming to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall the Lord judge the world; *  
and the peoples with equity.

Sung by all  
O sing unto the Lord a new song.

The Second Reading  
Hebrews 1:1-12  
Reader  A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.
1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
2 O that birth for ever blessed, When the Virgin, full of grace,
3 O ye heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
4 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,

he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race;
powers, dominions, bow before him, And exalt our God and King;
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:

of the things that are that have been,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
let no tongue on earth be silent,
Honour, glory, and dominion,

and that future years shall see, evermore, and evermore!
first revealed his sacred face, evermore, and evermore!
ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore, and evermore!
and eternal victory, evermore, and evermore!

The choir alone sings the first Alleluia; then the people join the singing.

Choir The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us;

People full of grace and truth.

All repeat the three Alleluias.

Before the reading The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

All 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.

After the Gospel The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit.

The Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Clemens Young
Dean
The Nicene Creed

All 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

After each petition God, grant us peace.

All respond Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

Announcements Announcements about your cathedral home, and the many ways you can be a part of this vibrant community.
The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence
Your offerings support the ministries of Grace Cathedral and help realize the vision of a spiritually alive world. Visit www.gracecathedrall.org/GiveToGrace to give.
Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory

1 God rest you merry, gentlefolk, let nothing you dismay;
   remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray.
   O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
   O tidings of comfort and joy!

2 From God our heavenly Father a blessèd angel came
   and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
   O tidings of comfort and joy... O tidings of comfort and joy!

3 “Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright;
   this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan’s power and might.”
   O tidings of comfort and joy... O tidings of comfort and joy!

4 Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
   and with true love and charity, each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace.
   O tidings of comfort and joy... O tidings of comfort and joy!

   text: adapted for local use from London carol, 18th cent.; music: melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
All 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.

Presider, continuing ... 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:

Sanctus

Sung in Latin.
George Malcom
Missa ad præsepe

Choir 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.
Presider concluding  By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.  

Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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

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

**The Breaking of the Bread**

The Bread is broken. Silence follows.

Presider  Alleluia. Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.  

People  The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. Alleluia.

**Invitation to Communion**

Presider  The Gifts of God for the people of God.

**Music during Communion**

**Agnus Dei**

Sung in Latin.  

Malcolm  

Choir  Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

**Postcommunion Prayer**

Presider  Let us pray.  

All  God with us, we give you thanks that at this table you break open our hearts and fill us with peace beyond all fear. Sustain us on our winter pilgrimage, and lead us by a star to the place where your finest gifts are shared and your dream for creation comes to birth, through Mary’s son, Jesus our Savior, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn 100**

Sung by all, standing.  

Antioch  

1  Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  

let every heart prepare him room,  

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  

and heaven, and nature sing!  

Upper Voices  *Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  

repeat the sounding joy... repeat the sounding joy!*  

Lower Voices  *No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  

he comes to make his blessings flow  

far as the curse is found... far as the curse is found.*  

All  4  He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  

the glories of his righteousness,  

and wonders of his love... wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).
The Blessing and Dismissal

The presider pronounces God’s blessing.

All respond

Amen.

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

Fantasy on Divinum mysterium

Gerre Hancock

Voluntary

Fantasy on Divinum mysterium

Gerre Hancock

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Thank you for your generosity.

Presider  The Rev. Kristin Saylor, Director of Formation

Homilist  The Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Clemens Young, Dean

Assisting  The Rev. Canon Jude Harmon, Canon for Innovative Ministries

Assisting  The Rev. Anna E. Rossi, Succentor

Musician  Christopher Keady, Assistant Director of Music

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