



LOVE *at the* CORE.

The Eve of the Nativity

December 24, 2023 6 & 11 p.m.



✧ THE HOLY EUCHARIST ✧

Music Before the Service

Ricercar del duodecimo tuono, Andrea Gabrieli
Yuletide Carols for Brass and Organ, Various/Traditional
Arr. R. Powell
Noël sur les jeux d'anches, Louis Claude D'Aquin
Christmas Suite No. 4, Various/Traditional
Arr. T. Steve
Were You there on that Christmas Night, Natalie Sleeth
Carole Clifford, soprano
Bradley May, baritone

The People remain seated. The lights are dimmed and the Advent wreath is lit. As the Christ Light begins to shine forth, we hear the opening sentences of Saint John's Gospel.

In Procession, Hymn 83

“O come, all ye faithful”
Adeste fideles

✧ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ✧

Celebrant Blessed be God.
People **Forever and 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.

Hymn 87

“Hark the herald angels sing”
Mendelssohn

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *(Sung by the Choir)*

Chant: Thomas Attwood

O SING unto the LORD a new song; sing unto the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the LORD, and praise his Name; be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour unto the heathen, and his wonders unto all people.

For the LORD is great, and cannot worthily be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for the gods of the heathen, they are but idols; but it is the LORD that made the heavens.

Glory and worship are before him; power and honour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, ascribe unto the LORD
worship and power.

Ascribe unto the LORD the honour due unto his Name; bring presents, and come
into his courts.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of
him.

Tell it out among the heathen, that the LORD is King, and that it is he who hath
made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall
judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; *let the sea make a noise, and all that
therein is.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; *then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice
before the LORD.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; *and with righteousness to judge the
world, and the people with his truth.

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Reader A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to
renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that
are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the
manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave
himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his
own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing.

Hymn 89

“It came upon the midnight clear”
Carol

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord 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 Savior, 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 favors!”

People The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All sit.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll

A period of silence is kept.

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader We pray for God's people throughout the world. For the sick, the hungry and those who have no home.

Silence.

We pray for the city of Jacksonville and for this Cathedral district here in the heart of the urban core. Pray that we may bring new life to downtown Jacksonville and serve those in need.

Silence.

We pray for the nations of the earth, especially the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Congo, and all nations torn by war, injustice and oppression. Pray for peace.

Silence.

We pray for this beautiful earth that You have given us. Pray that we may cherish and care for this planet.

Silence.

We pray for all who have died, that they may be welcomed into your loving embrace. Pray for those we love but see no longer.

Silence.

Praise God for the gift of Christ's birth, for the gift of our lives and for all the people we love.

Silence.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Jesus.

Welcome and Announcements



As the altar is prepared for Communion, please place your offering in the collection plate as it is passed. You may also give by texting jaxcathedral \$(amount) to 73256. Or use the QR code to give online. Thank you for your generosity.

∞ THE HOLY COMMUNION ∞

The Offertory

I Saw Three Ships, Traditional English Carol
Arr. Andrew Carter

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.
O, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day in the morning.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

Sanctus *(Sung three times)*

Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart
WLP 785

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
 heart pours out my praise to - you; you are ho - ly, Lord.

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord! As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with John and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant 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.

All baptized people are welcome to receive communion. Please let clergy know if you would like a gluten free wafer. Everyone is welcome to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by folding your arms across your chest. If you like to receive communion and are unable to come to the altar, please ask an usher for assistance. You are also invited to receive prayers in our chapel to the left of the altar.

Music at Communion

What is this lovely fragrance?, Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty
Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?

What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant
Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
Seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure,
Heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
Seek the Saviour, born today.

Madonna and Child, Eric H. Thiman

We saw him sleeping in his manger bed,
And falter'd feet and heart in holy dread,
Until we heard the maiden mother call:
Come hither, sirs, he is so sweet and small.

She was more fair than ye have looked upon,
She was the moon, and he her little sun;
O Lord, we cried, have mercy on us all!
But ah, quod she, he is so sweet and small.

Whereat the blessed beasts with one accord,
Gave tongue to praise their little blessed Lord,
Oxen and asses singing in their stall:
The king of kings, he is so sweet and small.

-Gerald Bullet

Hymn 79, "O little town of Bethlehem"
St. Louis

Hymn 101, "Away in a manger"
Carol

The lights dim. The People remain kneeling for the singing of "Silent Night."

Hymn 111

"Silent night, holy night"
Stille Nacht

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

Blessing

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

All stand.

In Procession, Hymn 100

"Joy to the world"
Antioch

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary

Hodie Christus Natus Est, Giovanni Gabrieli
Arr. S. Drummond Wolff

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We invite you to return to St. John's Cathedral soon.

Two more opportunities to celebrate the Christmas season at St. John's Cathedral:

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, preaching
10 a.m.*

New Year's Eve

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

5 p.m. *

Champagne Reception following in Taliaferro Hall

*These services will be livestreamed on our website
<https://www.jaxcathedral.org/st-johns-live/>

**Every Sunday we worship at
8 & 10 a.m.**



Poinsettias at the Christmas Altar

are given in thanksgiving for

The Cathedral Clergy and Staff
Marie Tarver, Anice Brown, Debbie Scroggins, and Corey Tandy

The Cathedral Choir
Tim Tuller and his gift of music
Lorraine Lewis Corey

The Doiron's Children and their families:
Leslie, Roger & Margo Clark and Laura, Kenny, Savannah & James Kwaak
Pam & David Searcy's Children: Paige & John
Pam & David Searcy's parents: Nina & John



*Poinsettias at the
Christmas Altar*

are given in loving memory of

Lillian & William Armsby	Andy Lavender
Sophia & Jim Bolling	Edward & Dorothy Lee
David Burrell	John Leonard
Tom Burrell	Jan Lott
Dick Bush	Nancy C. Mason
Isabella Carrington	Harry T. Mason
Jean Carrington Cook	Stephen C. Mason
Olive Smith Cook	Clarence & Edith Osborn
Thomas Corey, Jr.	Oliver & Evelyn Oswalt
Melvin & Fay Doiron	Ron Pinkerton
George Dorion	Robby Pinkerton
Todd Fischer	Artis & Bertha Pinkerton
Cecil B. Fisher	Eugene & Joyce Schrader
Diane Friedman	Cynthia Searcy
The people we have lost	Marie Sefton
Betty & Curly Gordon	Wilmer Sefton
Tayloe & Ed Graves	Edith Hulsey Shurley
Larry & Mabrine Griswold	Fletcher R. Shurley
Bruce Hardman	Douglas Tandy
James & Marzelle Harmon	Hannella Tandy
Dorothy Haussman	Terrence Tandy
Ted Haussman, Sr.	Janice Beckwith-Tandy
Col. Jim & Adele Higgins	Rolf Towe
Curtis Hill	Terri Bachara Tucker
Terry Hunt	Patty Waidner
Enrique Iguina	Calvin T. Watts
Sandy Jackson	Mary Laverne Watts
Bobby Jackson	Alfred "Sis" Williams
Carol Jennings	George "Sue" Williams
Douglas Jennings	Kate Willis
John Jordan	Jack Willis
Jimmy Judge	Wanda Willis
Jean F. Kasten	Fred & Jean Wilson
Sue & Keith Kirwan	James Horner Winston
Diana Kovarik	

Christmas, 2023

Dear Cathedral,

St Paul wrote these words to the church in Galatia so many years ago:

My dear children, I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.
Galatians 4:19

It is hard to make sense of what is going on in our world. As much as technology has advanced, the violence of war and its consequences have not abated. We see pictures of children suffering unimaginable horrors in the Middle East and Ukraine, and we cannot but ask ourselves if the human race is capable of peace. Are we able to rise to a state of enlightenment, or is that simply unattainable?

Will we ever find ways to live in harmony with other races and cultures, or are some of us just too violent? We need to find safety and security. Will that ever be possible? Where is our hope?

The birth of Jesus changed our world. It was the most potent message from God ever made. God was born as a human being in order to suffer with us and to show us that even out of the worst kind of violence and darkness, Christ can be born again.

It is up to us to decide how our own story ends. Do we learn from pain and suffering? Do we take the pain and let something new be born among us? The choice is ours.

Paul saw his sufferings as birth pains, as a way of loving the churches that he served. He held onto the hope that God could use everything he went through to carry the story of the love of Jesus to the broken world. He never stopped hoping, listening, loving. No matter how many times they threw him in prison, he would not stop singing God's praises.

The end of the Christian story is clear. God will return in Christ, and all will be well. In the meantime, we have a choice to make. How do we carry light into the darkness in the face of such suffering? How can we be a small part of bringing Christ into the world? What is our song, our voice, that joins the heavenly chorus? What will we sing?

As you join me in worship this season, remember that Jesus was born at a time when children were being hunted and killed. And together, let us sing for the light that is to come.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate" with a small cross at the end.

∞ LOVE AT THE CORE ∞

Love at the Core is our motto; it refers to the heart of who we are. For nearly 200 years, St John's Cathedral has sought to lead people in worship and community service here in the urban core of Jacksonville. We believe that through beauty, art, and worship we can draw people into community to experience God's love and serve those in need. We are a diverse congregation that welcomes all people. You are welcome to learn about the love of Jesus with us.

Our Clergy



**The Very Rev.
Kate Moorehead Carroll**
Dean



**The Rev.
Mark S. Anderson**
Subdean



**The Rev.
Eric Kahl**
Director of the Center for
Prayer and Spirituality



The Rev. Gee Alexander
Associate Priest for
Pastoral Care



**The Rev. Dr.
Linda Privitera**
Associate Priest



The Rev. Saundra Kidd
Deacon for Pastoral Care
and Outreach

Our Vestry

Steve Busey, Chancellor
Charles Winney, Treasurer

Martha Cox, Senior Warden
Patrick Kimball, Junior Warden

Donna Walker Bell, Chris Collinsworth, Barbara Fiser, Glenn Guiler, Paige Hakimian,
Scott V. Hill, Lewis Hunt, Will Ketchum, Lloyd Lewis, Lisa McKenna, Meg Sacks

∞ INFORMATION ∞

FOR VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

Welcome! We're glad you've joined us today. To learn more about membership, baptism, confirmation or to receive emails about upcoming events, fill out a connection card found in the pew and hand it to an usher or clergy. Or, visit jaxcathedral.org/welcome and fill out a card online.

HAKIMIAN NURSERY

Our nursery is staffed with trained caregivers for infants and toddlers up to 3 years old every Sunday from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Christian formation for ages 4 through 12th grade is offered at 10 a.m. All are invited to meet in the back of the church to process behind the choir down the aisle and out to their various classrooms. We join the 10 a.m. service at the time of The Peace.

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER

The prayer line is always open. Please let us know what you need and how we can pray for you. Many parishioners appreciate our clergy being with them prior to surgery. If you are having a medical procedure and would like pre-op prayers, please call the church office (904) 356-5507.

If you are calling after hours, press 4, and your call will be routed to a member of the clergy. You may also choose the prayer request option under "Contact" on our website for a quick and confidential response.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE & GIFT SHOP

Hours: Sunday - 9 a.m. to Noon
Monday - Thursday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CONTACT US

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For the latest news and events at the Cathedral, visit our website (jaxcathedral.org) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@jaxcathedral). On the website, you may subscribe to our newsletter.

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