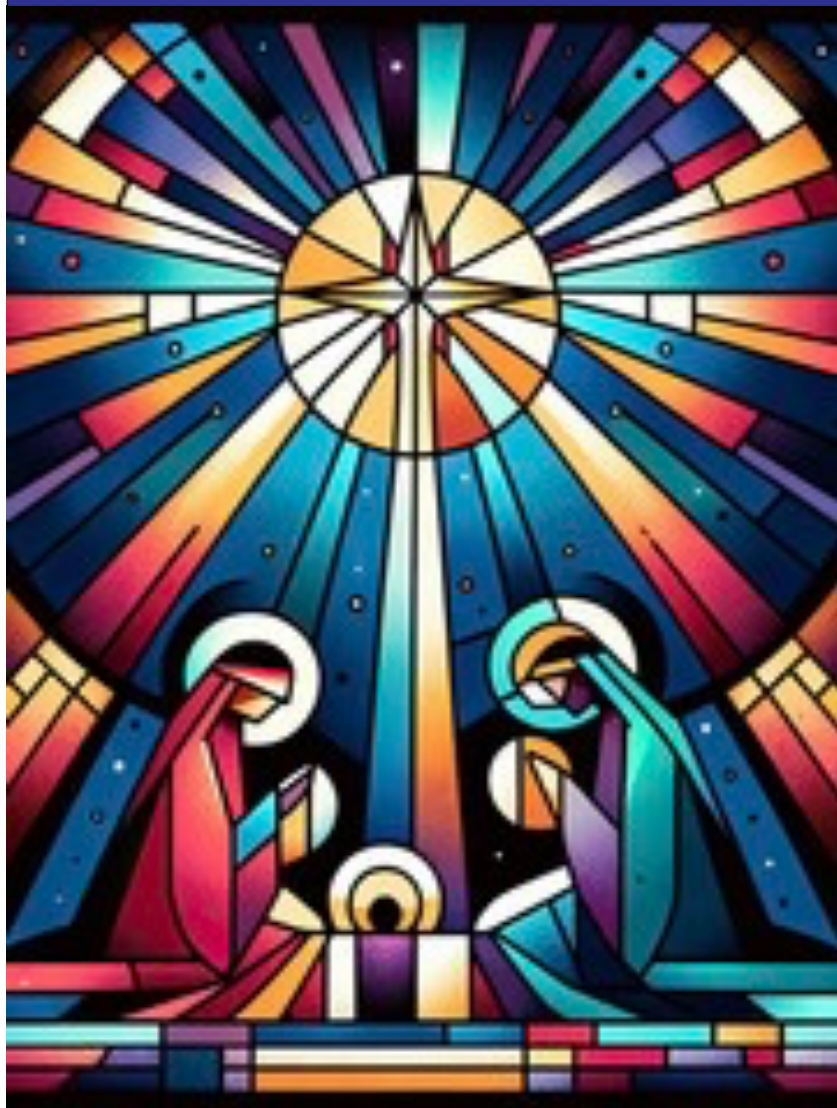


# Advent and Christmas 2025



Christ Church  
Cathedral  
Ottawa

# Welcome to this Holy Season



Every year, we long to celebrate Christmas with a fresh sense of wonder. Beautiful music and sacred rituals give us space and time to open our hearts to the season.

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time of anticipation. It is an opportunity for us to pause and let hope, peace, joy and love infuse and enrich our lives as we anticipate the birth of Jesus.

Every Sunday in Advent, there are two morning services at 8.30 and 10.30. The early service is quiet, said in lovely old English words, and intimate, as we gather right up at the front of the Cathedral in the choir stalls. The later service features one of our four choirs or a mixture of them. Each week another candle in the Advent wreath is lit, leading us closer to Christmas.

This year there are some very special musical offerings, as you will see on the next few pages. Consider coming to one, two or more! On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, each service is quite different, but all are equally beautiful and touch the child that lives in each one of us, no matter our age

Come and enjoy the full experience of Advent and Christmas at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa. You are welcome here!

The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff  
Dean



# The Music of Advent

Over more than a century, generations have contributed to the legacy of sacred music here at Christ Church Cathedral. This legacy enriches our present through services, concerts, and outreach that are truly evergreen.

Our full choral complement — nationally recognized and remarkable in their number and diversity, with over seventy boys, girls, women and men — is a cherished and unique voice in the life of this Cathedral and of the nation itself. Together, with our professional conductors and organists, we steward one of the largest sacred music foundations in the country and one of only a few worldwide. Both traditional and innovative, uplifting and inspiring, we explore timeless themes through music of introspection, tenderness and exultation.



This Advent and Christmas season we invite you to join with us, sing with us, and experience the magic and majesty of this season of light.

James Calkin  
Director of Music

## Advent Carol Service

Sunday | November 30<sup>th</sup> | 4 pm

The Advent Carol service is the most dramatic of our cycle. As the choirs and readers process through the darkened Cathedral, you will hear the sacred story of prophecy and expectation and listen as the choirs echo these themes through motets and anthems by Palestrina, Bairstow, Ives and Gardner. This year's service concludes with French organist Marcel Dupré's epic vision: "Le monde dans l'attente du Sauveur".



# A GERMAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



**SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 6,  
2025 – 2:30 PM**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL**

**STUDIO DE  
MUSIQUE ANCIENNE  
DE MONTRÉAL**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

**JAMES CALKIN, ORGAN**

**ANDREW MCANERNEY,  
CONDUCTOR**

**OTTAWACATHEDRAL.CA**

**AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR IN ADVANCE  
TICKETS: PREMIUM \$60, ADULTS \$40, SENIOR \$30  
STUDENT / YOUTH / CHILD \$10**



Come celebrate the magic of the season with choral masterpieces by J.S. Bach, Jacobus Handl and Michael Praetorius, and such holiday classics as "Silent Night" and "O Christmas Tree". Timeless melodies, shimmering polyphonies, and well-known carols are combined in a joyful experience for all. (Please note, this is a ticketed event.)



## The Great “O” Antiphons

Sunday | December 7<sup>th</sup> | 4 pm

The Great “O” Antiphons draw us further into the season of expectation. In the quiet and stillness of the late afternoon, the Men of the Cathedral Choir sing this noble body of medieval plainchant.



## The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday | December 21<sup>st</sup> | 4 pm

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is at the heart of our offerings and of the Christmas experience for countless families in the National Capital and beyond. Bathed in candlelight, we hear again the timeless story of the incarnation beginning with the first lonely phrases of “Once in Royal David’s City”. Spoken word mingles with choral motets and traditional congregational carols, all accompanied by the Cathedral’s thunderous organ.



## Christmas Eve

Wednesday | December 24<sup>th</sup> | 7 and 10 pm

A feast of colour and pageantry for the feast of the nativity! At 7 pm adults and children alike are entranced by story and music at this sweet service accompanied by our Boy and Girl choristers. At 10 pm a festal liturgy with procession and musical celebration is sung by the Girls Choir, Boys Choir, and Lay Clerks, with brass and organ fireworks!

## Christmas Day

Thursday | December 25<sup>th</sup> |  
8.30 and 10.30 am

This holy day begins at 8.30 am with a quiet, said service, and a short homily — a lovely, intimate celebration of Jesus' birth.

At 10.30 am, instead of a sermon, the children gather at the nativity scene to hear a Christmas story. It is a joyous, relaxed service for people of all ages.



# Find the Church Mice

When you are at Christ Church Cathedral, make sure to keep your eyes open for our four resident mice, who love to meet new people. Lecternmouse, Pulpitmouse, Deanmouse, and Bishopmouse are whimsical and each have very particular characters. Our clergy will be happy to help you find them. We only ask that once you know where the mice are, that you show others, so they can share in the fun. Happy searching!

# Consider Donating

All our ministry and music are funded by you — visitors, friends and members of our Cathedral. Please consider making a donation via the Tip Tap machine in the foyer, using the QR code in the pews, putting a cheque or cash in the collection plate, sending an e-transfer to [info@ottawacathedral.ca](mailto:info@ottawacathedral.ca) or visiting [www.ottawacathedral.ca](http://www.ottawacathedral.ca). Thank you for your generosity!



## Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

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[www.ottawacathedral.ca](http://www.ottawacathedral.ca) | 613.236.9149

# All Services and Events

## First Sunday of Advent | November 30<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

4 pm Advent Lessons and Carols

## Wednesday | Thursday | December 3<sup>rd</sup> | 4<sup>th</sup>

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

## Saturday | December 6<sup>th</sup>

2.30 pm A German Christmas Celebration (ticketed event)

## Second Sunday of Advent | December 7<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

4 pm O Antiphons

## Wednesday | Thursday | December 10<sup>th</sup> | 11<sup>th</sup>

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

## Saturday | December 13<sup>th</sup>

10 am to 2 pm | Advent Quiet Day

## Third Sunday of Advent | December 14<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

## Wednesday | Thursday | December 17<sup>th</sup> | 18<sup>th</sup>

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

## Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21<sup>st</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

4 pm | Nine Lessons and Carols

## Christmas Eve | Wednesday | December 24<sup>th</sup>

7 pm Story, Carols, and Choral Eucharist

10 pm Festal Eucharist with Brass

## Christmas Day | Thursday | December 25<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist with Children's Story

## First Sunday after Christmas | December 28<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

## The Naming of Jesus | Thursday | January 1<sup>st</sup>

Noon Choral Eucharist and Festive Reception with The Right Reverend Dr. Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

## The Epiphany of the Lord | Sunday | January 4<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

## Wednesday | Thursday | January 7<sup>th</sup> | 8<sup>th</sup>

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

## The Baptism of the Lord | Sunday | January 11<sup>th</sup>

8.30 am Eucharist | 10.30 am Holy Baptism and Choral Eucharist