



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday | December 28th | 2025

10.30 am | Sung Eucharist | BAS

St. Anne's Mass | James MacMillan

The flowers are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the lives of the Salmon family

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.
Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude | *Le Roi des cieux vient de naître* | Jean-François Dandrieu

Announcements

Hymn 143 | *Angels, from the realms of glory*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his 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

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, 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 Proclamation of the Word

First Reading | *Isaiah 63:7-9*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm | *148:1-4, 13-14*

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights. Praise the Lord all you angels; sing praises, all you heavenly host. Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praises, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, sing praises, you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is over earth and heaven. The Lord has raised up strength for this people and praise for all loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord. Hallelujah!

Second Reading | *Hebrews 2:10-18*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants

of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | *When Christ was born of Mary free | arr. John Stainer*

When Christ was born of Mary free, In Bethlehem that fair city, Angels sang there with mirth and glee: "In excelsis Gloria." The King is come to save humankind, As in the scripture truths we find, Therefore this song we have in mind, "In excelsis Gloria." Then, dearest Lord, for Thy great grace, Grant us in bliss to see Thy face, That we may sing to Thy solace, "In excelsis Gloria."

Holy Gospel | *Matthew 2:13-23*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 131 | *Love came down at Christmas*

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray.

God of light and life, hear our prayers as they rise before you, offered in hope and faith.

Flame of abundant love, be our joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for your church, for Shane our Primate and Anne our Metropolitan. Bless all discerning a call to let their name stand for election in our diocese, nominees, members of Synod, and our Diocesan Administrator, Bishop Michael Bird.

God of light and life,

hear our prayer.

Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your people. We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

God of light and life,

hear our prayer.

Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service. We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those who are on our hearts this day.

Silence.

God of light and life,

hear our prayer.

Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence, and to pursue peace and reconciliation. We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, those places where war is a way of life, and for your people in the Land of the Holy One.

God of light and life,

hear our prayer.

Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation. We pray for the land on which we stand, the creatures, plant life, and waters around us.

God of light and life,

hear our prayer.

God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service we may know your transforming presence at work all around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 137 | *What child is this*



Thank you for donating to the ministry of our Cathedral! You may also make an offering via the collection plate or tip-tap machine in the foyer, by going to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/5519> or by e-transfer to info@ottawacathedral.ca.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed and created us in your own image. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices 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.*

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Communion

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.

Motet | *From earthly tasks lift up thine eyes* | Heinrich Schütz

From earthly tasks lift up thine eyes Within a crib in slumber lies A little Child so young and fair: 'Tis Christ, the Lord, Who resteth there! "Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Thru Whom the world is ever blest!" Himself will our salvation be, Himself will all from sin set free. O dearest Lord, Thou holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, Within my heart, that it may be A resting place kept quiet for Thee. For very joy my heart doth leap, My lips no more can silence keep: "Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son hath giv'n!"

The Sending of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God,

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Christ child be in your hearts and in your home this Christmas; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 150 | *On this day earth shall ring*

Postlude | *Noël Suisse* | *Louis-Claude d'Aquin*

Celebrant | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff

Preacher | The Venerable Michelle Staples

Readers | Madeleine Gomery | Mahira Remplet

Intercessor | Chuck Staples

Duty Warden | Jane Morris

Organist | James Calkin

Cantor | Gary Dahl

Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985, *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

New Year's Day | Epiphany

The Naming of Jesus | Thursday | January 1st

Noon Choral Eucharist and Festive Reception

with The Most Reverend Dr. Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Epiphany of the Lord | Sunday | January 4th

8.30 am Holy Eucharist

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday | January 7th

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist

Thursday | January 8th

12.05 pm Iona Contemplative Prayer

The Baptism of the Lord | Sunday | January 11th

8.30 am Eucharist

10.30 am Holy Baptism and Choral Eucharist

Readings Next Sunday | January 4th

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory

The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital

Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

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Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Honorary Assistants | LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker

Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalemiec | Ted Livingstone

Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)

Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)

Music Associate | Nick Veltmeyer

Algonquin Teacher in Residence | Albert Dumont (Oshki Nodin)

Church Wardens | Jane Morris | Katherine Spencer-Ross

Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos (ext. 171)
