



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, VICTORIA, BC

# Cathedral Eucharist

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, YEAR A

Sunday, December 28, 2025 10.30 a.m.



CHRIST CHURCH  
**CATHEDRAL**  
A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY



ANGLICAN DIOCESE  
OF ISLANDS AND INLETS  
RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED SPIRITS, RENEWED PEOPLE

**W**elcome to the Cathedral Church of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. Here we respectfully acknowledge that we gather to worship on the ancestral lands of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, with whom we are in relationship to seek reconciliation.

As an Anglican centre for spirituality, learning, culture, heritage and community, this cathedral upholds a daily rhythm of worship in the heart of Victoria. From daily spoken and sung services to the weekly celebration of the Eucharist and Choral Evensong, we mark the important events of the Christian calendar and in the life of our diocese and the wider community.

Christ Church Cathedral is a fully inclusive community where all are invited to hear God's Word and partake of God's bread, regardless of upbringing or creed. Please join as fully as you wish in every action of our worship, including communion. This is God's house and all are welcome.

If you would like to sign up for our E-news, or would like more information about the Cathedral, please visit  
[www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca](http://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca)

You can also use the QR code to make a donation, use our Welcome Card or to download the service leaflets and more.



Presider: The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas  
Musical Setting: Mass of St George Gordon Light (b.1944)

*This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.*

*The words to the hymns can be found in the blue hymnal "Common Praise". Copies of the hymnals can be found in the book racks in the pews. If you are unable to locate a copy, please ask the sidespeople for assistance.*

Prelude: The Holy Boy John Ireland (d.1962)

### **The Gathering of the Community**

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas

Entrance Hymn #138—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Tune: Mendelssohn

Dominical Greeting

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
People **And also with you.**

Collect for Purity *please remain standing*

Presider Almighty God,  
All 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 in excelsis

remain standing as able

David Thorne

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

Glo-ry to God in the High- est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,

Heav'n - ly King, Al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we\_

praise you for your glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the

high - est. Lord, Je - susChrist, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther. Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us; You are

sea-ted at the righthand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God,

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly one,

You a - lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the most high, Je-sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the Glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

## Collect of the Day

*Presider* Let us hold this moment open to God's grace.

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.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading

*Isaiah 63.7-9 / all seated*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Response to the Reading: Psalm 148

Tune: Richmond (Common Praise #306)  
*remain seated*

Alleluia! Give praise to God  
from heaven and in the heights;  
praise him, all angels sun and moon,  
praise him all shining lights.

Praise him, high heavens, and floods above,  
Let them all praise his Name;  
for he commanded by his word,  
He spoke and forth they came.

He gave them being, they stand fast  
in his eternal sway;  
the Lord has given them a law  
which shall not pass away.

Praise to the Lord from all the earth:  
sea-monsters, deep below,  
storm winds, all those who do his will,  
Fire, hail, and fog, and snow.

Trees bearing fruit and cedar trees,  
all hills and mountains steep;  
Beasts of the wild and winged birds,  
cattle and things that creep;

All kings and peoples of the earth,  
princes and rulers too;  
young men and maidens, old and young,  
to him all praise is due.

His splendour spans all earth and heaven;  
all those who come to dwell  
With him receive both strength and praise:  
his people Israel.

#### Second Reading

Hebrews 2.10-18

**Reader**      The Word of the Lord.  
**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

#### Gradual Hymn

*All stand and turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it is carried into the midst of the community.*

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

*Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed (1885-1933).*

*Music: Melody Polish trad.; harm. David Hugh Jones (1900-1983).*

*Harm. © 1955, 1983 John Ribble. Used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press.*

#### The Holy Gospel

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

**Deacon People** Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Matthew 2.13-23

Deacon      The Gospel of Christ.  
People      **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily The Reverend Canon Ian Powell

*all standing as able*

## The Nicene Creed

*Presider* Let us confess the faith as we say,  
*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.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped 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

*please stand, sit or kneel as preferred*

*Leader* Incarnate Word,  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

*The presider invites the community to make its confession.*

*Presider* When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*All* 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.**

*Presider* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

### The Exchange of the Peace

*all standing as able*

*Presider* Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

*Please exchange the peace with your neighbours using a suitable gesture.*

### The Celebration of the Eucharist

#### The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn #159—Brightest and Best

Tune: Stella Orientis

*A basket is passed to receive monetary gifts which will be offered along with bread and wine at the altar. Please use the QR code at the end of the leaflet if you would like to make an online donation. Alternatively, our easy to use Tap machines are available at the Qudra Street and Burdett Avenue doors.*

#### Prayer over the Gifts

*Presider* 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.

*All* **Amen.**

#### The Great Thanksgiving

*many prefer to stand*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of salvation  
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Now with angels and archangels  
and the whole company of heaven,  
we lift our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

Gordon Light

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Presider We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling 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 Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour 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 he was handed over  
to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
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 all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

*All* Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Presider* and we offer our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving  
to you, 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, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,

and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
now and for ever.

*People*      **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*Presider*      As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
*All*                **Our Father in heaven,**  
                      hallowed be your name,  
                      your kingdom come,  
                      your will be done,  
                      on earth as in heaven.  
                      Give us today our daily bread.  
                      Forgive us our sins  
                      as we forgive those who sin against us.  
                      Save us from the time of trial,  
                      and deliver us from evil.  
                      For the kingdom, the power,  
                      and the glory are yours,  
                      now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Presider*      We break the bread of life,  
                      and that life is the light of the world.  
*All*                **God here among us,**  
                      light in the midst of us,  
                      bring us to light and life.

### The Communion

*Presider*      The gifts of God for the People of God.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to receive communion, which will be distributed at the communion rail. A reminder that intinction (or dipping the bread into the cup) is considered unsafe, and is thus not permitted. If you have mobility issues, you may remain seated and communion will be brought to you.*

*Prayers for healing with the laying-on-of-hands and anointing may be sought in the Lady Chapel (to the left of the high altar) during today's Communion. You may ask for prayers for yourself, or for the needs of another. Information shared during these prayers is kept in the strictest confidence.*

### Prayers after Communion

*please stand*

Presider Let us pray.

*The community prays in silence*

Presider 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.

All Amen.

Presider Glory to God,  
All **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,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Blessing

Presider Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
And the blessing...**Amen.**

### Hymn #156—The People That in Darkness Sat

Tune: Dundee

## The Sending Forth of the Community

### The Dismissal

*Deacon*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary: Alla marcia

John Ireland (d. 1952)

*Thank you for being part of this morning's service.*



**The Flowers** in the cathedral are placed to the glory of God.

### Sources:

BAS

Common Worship

## Assisting with Today's Liturgy

<i>Sidespersons</i>	Elaine Ellison, Victor Aimey, Brenda Mowbray, Jen Purkis, Heather Murphy
<i>Servers</i>	Members of the Servers Guild
<i>Musicians</i>	The Christ Church Cathedral Guild of Bell Ringers Donald Hunt, <i>Director of Music</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Sue MacRae, Daniel Dempsey
<i>Prayers of the People</i>	Cyrus Chan
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Adela Torchia
<i>Assisting Clergy</i>	The Reverend Anna Rossi
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Daniel Dempsey, Brenda Mowbray, Susanna Longridge, Jesse Robertson
<i>Healing Ministry</i>	Sue MacRae, June Sharman
<i>Camera and Tech Team</i>	The Cathedral Tech Team
<i>Chancel Guild</i>	Maureen Lundquist, <i>president</i>

## THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

*The cathedral will be closed on Fri, Dec 26 to Thurs, Jan 1, apart from advertised services and concerts. There will be no Morning or Evening Prayer or midweek Eucharist during this period. The office will be closed Dec 24 to Jan 1.*

**Sunday, December 28**

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion

10.30 a.m.—Cathedral Eucharist\*

4.00 p.m.—Olivier Messiaen's 'La Nativité du Seigneur': An Organ Meditation played by Donald Hunt\*

**Thursday, January 1 / 2.30 p.m.**

**Old Music for the New Year\***

*Admission by donation*

**Tuesday, January 6 / 7.00 p.m.**

**Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Epiphany**

*Freewill offering*

(\*livestreamed)

**The Cathedral Office:** 930 Burdett Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8V 3G8

Phone: 250.383.2714

[admin@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca](mailto:admin@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca)

[www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca](http://www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca)