

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Daria Kulp*

Intercessor: *Matt Mahler*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Fred Astmann*

Ministry Assistants January 11

Lector: *Gabrielle Barbour*

Intercessor: *Nick Bernitt*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to (more) Christmas at Gloria Dei Episcopal Church!

The song about partridges, turtle doves, and the like reminds us that Christmas is not just a single day. Rather, we celebrate the birth of Jesus for a full twelve days! This year, we get two Sundays to continue celebrating. Perhaps these days can serve as an invitation for us to slow down, to resist the myriad of demands on our time and attention, and to look for Christ's presence among us. The good news of Christmas is that God is with us – and not just in our joys and triumphs, but also in our sorrows and our weakness. May this be a community where people are welcome in all their complexity, and where we help each other to experience the wonder of God's redeeming love.

Prelude

Opening Hymn # 102 verses 1,2,5,6

Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Hymn S280

Gloria

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
All **O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Daria Kulp

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

(continued...)

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.
 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.
 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
 and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
 he will give grace and glory;
 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
 from those who walk with integrity.
 O LORD of hosts, *
 happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All	Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 93	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	Hymnal 1982
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Gospel Reading

Celebrant	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (2:1-12)
All	Glorify to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant	The Gospel of the Lord.
All	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

After the sermon, we will stand together to recite the Nicene Creed, a historic summary of the Christian faith. In reciting it together, we align ourselves with the generations of believers who have gone before us, while also recognizing that there may be parts of the creed that are strange or uncomfortable for some among us. Ultimately, the creed is a tool that invites us into deeper study, conversation, and reflection on the journey of faith.

The Nicene Creed

**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 *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Matt Mahler

Celebrant	Beginning with a few moments of silence, let us lift up our prayers, using the words of Mary's song <i>(the Magnificat, found in the Gospel of Luke, 1:46-55)</i> . <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
People	My spirit rejoices in God our Savior. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Trusting that God looks with favor on humble servants, we pray for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel; our priest, Chris; our postulant, Rachel; for our congregation, and for the church universal.
People	May we be a blessing to all generations, this day and every day. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Remembering that the Almighty has done great things for us, we declare God's name to be holy and good.
People	May God show mercy to all who are afraid today, especially immigrants and refugees. <i>(Silence)</i>
Intercessor	Relying on the strength of God, we pray that our leaders may truly work for unity and justice and peace.
People	May God scatter the proud in their conceit, and cast down the mighty from their thrones. <i>(Silence)</i>

Intercessor Longing to see God lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things, we pray for all in need in our community, and in the world around us.

People Today, we pray especially for: Alan, William, Betty, Gia, Dana, Angel, Christine, Dakota, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack. *(Long pause for people add their own petitions.)*

Intercessor Hoping in God's promise of mercy to our ancestors, we pray for all who have died, especially **Eleanor Maiellano**. *(Long pause for other names...)*

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(Please kneel as you are able; a brief silence may be kept.)*

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you. *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 115

What Child is This?

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity. O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you! *-Psalm 84:11-12*

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.

Flowingly, in 1 Unknown

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion – Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

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.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Flowingly Paul Fejko



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Po - wer and might, Heav'n and Earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes,
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est, ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

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Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah and Hagar you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through 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.

People *(In a loud voice!)* **AMEN!**

Celebrant 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.
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Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

*All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation. Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. **Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Instrumental Hymn # 113

O Sleep Now, Holy Baby

Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.
All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Announcements *Please pick up a sheet of announcements and upcoming events from the table in the back of the church. Some of the upcoming events will be highlighted here.*

Closing Hymn # 124	<i>What Star is This</i>	Hymnal 1982
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Dismissal
 Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.*

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
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Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Gloria Dei Vestry

Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website, www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

