



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

We're glad you're worshipping with us. ☩

Before we begin our services, we observe a time of prayerful reflection and preparation for worship. If you're new or looking to connect, we would love to meet you outside in the foyer before or after the service—simply find a member of the clergy or Connection Minister (look for the yellow lanyards).

New to Incarnation?

We'd love to get you connected. Find out more about our church and explore membership at Incarnation 101. Our next event is 2/15/26.
Email Ben: bhodes@incarnation.org

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION

For adult baptism, email baptism@incarnation.org. To be confirmed in the church, email jgriesbeck@incarnation.org

CONFESSION & RECONCILIATION

Schedule with any of the priests by emailing our pastoral care team at nparkhurst@incarnation.org



YOUNG ADULTS

Join the GroupMe conversation to stay connected with the latest.

WEEKLY EMAIL

Sign up at incarnation.org/enews

Connecting Families

NURSERY

8:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Infants to Age 3

CHILDREN'S

CHAPEL

8:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Pre-K–2nd grade

SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-K–GRADE 5

Sundays, 10:20 a.m., *Ed. Bldg., Second Floor*

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 7th–12th GRADE

Sundays, 10:20 a.m., *Ed. Bldg., Youth Area*

Currently on break.

SIXTH GRADE CONFIRMATION

Sundays, 10:20 a.m., *Ed. Bldg., Theater*

Currently on break.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6–12)

Sundays, 6–7:15 p.m.

On break until 1/11/26

In need of prayer this morning?

- You can write your prayer request on the gold-topped card in the pew rack in front of you, and our clergy team will pray over your request this week.
- Trained Prayer Ministers will be at the back of the Church during Communion ready to pray with you.
- For all seeking healing of mind, body, or spirit, a member of the clergy will be available to anoint you with oil and lay hands upon you. *Trad:* Low Altar after Communion; *Uptown:* Altar Rail after the service.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

SONG

Come Light Our Hearts

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant & People

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.

SONG

Dawning Light Of Our Salvation

THE COLLECTS

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE LESSONS

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams

in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 146: 4-9

Chorus

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
Through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, thy God, O Zion,
Joyful hallelujahs sing.*

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!

whose hope is in the LORD their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

Chorus

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The LORD shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Chorus

THE EPISTLE

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

THE SEQUENCE

O Come O Come Emmanuel

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SEQUENCE

O Come O Come Emmanuel

THE SERMON

Dn Dori Budd

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

An appointed Leader begins the prayers, saying

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Each petition concludes

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The Deacon bids the Confession, after which all kneel.

Deacon & People

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 neighbors 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.

The Celebrant stands and gives the Absolution, after which all stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with your spirit.

All greet one another in the peace of Christ.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Children's Blessing 9 a.m. only

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Birthday Blessing

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

The Minister begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

SONG

The Day Of The Lord (Psalm 37)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues with the Preface, saying

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Celebrant & People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

✠ Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The People kneel. The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, saying

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin

and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant & People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, saying

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

Celebrant & People

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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant & People

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Persons who wish to have the Holy Eucharist brought to them in their pew should notify an usher.
Intercessory Prayer Ministers are available in the back of Ascension Chapel after you receive Holy Communion.*

Instructions for Holy Communion

All Christians who have been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who come forward in faith and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church, are warmly invited to do so on this occasion.

Communion is received in the following way: a priest places the Bread in the palm of your hand, which you then consume. To receive the Wine, hold the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips. The practice of dipping the Bread into the Wine is not permitted. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, simply cross your arms over your chest.

Gluten-free Bread and Wine from a dedicated gluten-free chalice are available for those with a medical need; just notify a priest when you kneel at the altar rail. If one is not able (e.g. because of a medical condition), or prefers not to receive either the Bread or the Wine, the Church has always taught that a person still receives all the benefits of Holy Communion when receiving in one kind. Please feel free to consult with a member of the clergy if you have more questions.

SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

SONG

The Lord Is My Light



THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant & People

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.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the People, saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the ☩ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SONG

Dawning Light Of Our Salvation

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A priest is available to anoint you with oil and pray for you at the Altar Rail today. If you would like to receive this ministry of Holy Unction, please come forward and kneel at the conclusion of today's service.



Bulletin Cover:
"Annunciation"
Ivanka Demchuk



Be a part of what God is doing at Church of the Incarnation—your generosity makes a difference!

You may make your 2026 pledge online at incarnation.org/giving, by mail, or by placing your completed card in the offering plate.



Coming Up This Week

CFM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. *Great Hall*

Brandy Femat | bfemat@incarnation.org

YFM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, 6–7:15 p.m. *Offsite*

Donna Stack | dstack@incarnation.org

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, 5 p.m. *Main Church*

incarnation.org/carols

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

Wednesday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. *Welcome Center*

Sabrina Steward | [ssteward@incarnation.org](mailto:sssteward@incarnation.org)

Weekday Services

MORNING PRAYER & HOLY COMMUNION

Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m., *Memorial Chapel*

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING

Wednesdays, 12 p.m., *Memorial Chapel*

Help us end 2025 strong!

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to fulfill your 2025 pledge or make your annual gift by December 31.

Important year-end giving information:

In order to be tax deductible in 2025, cash, check, or credit card contributions to Church of the Incarnation must be received by the church* or postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Dec. 31, 2025. This includes any payments to your current year pledge or prepayment of next year's pledge.

Gifts of stock or other securities must be posted to our brokerage account by the close of business on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 to be tax deductible in 2025. We strongly suggest stock transfers be initiated as early as possible and that you advise the Finance Office of any pending transaction.

**If you plan to drop off a donation on December 31, it is essential you do so by noon to be deposited that day.*

Featured Opportunities



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

TONIGHT, Sunday, December 14 & Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m., Main Church

A traditional service of Scripture and song celebrating Christ's birth, featuring beautiful choral music and beloved carols. incarnation.org/carols



BACH'S LUNCH

Tuesday, December 16, 12:15–1 p.m., Main Church

Enjoy a midday musical offering featuring J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio 2, *Und es waren Hirten*, BWV 248. This brief concert invites you to pause during Advent and savor the beauty of Bach's sacred music. This week is our last performance of 2025. incarnation.org/concerts



COWBOY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 21, 12:30–3 p.m., Great Hall

Join us for a festive church-family meal right after the 11:15 a.m. service, with a country-western theme, BBQ, live music, and Red Dog's eggnog. R.S.V.P. at incarnation.org/cowboy



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES

Traditional: 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 10:30 p.m. | **Contemporary:** 2 p.m., 5 p.m.

Celebrate the birth of Christ with beautiful worship services offered throughout the day, in both traditional and contemporary styles. More at incarnation.org/advent2025

Clergy & Ministers

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A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and a member of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

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