

# CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Third Sunday *of* Advent

*Gaudete*

December 14, 2025

7:30 & 11:15 am

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The 7:30 am service is spoken with no music.*

## Organ Voluntary

### Capriol Suite

Peter Warlock (1894–1930), arr. Edward J. Dean (b. 1991)

I. Basse Dance II. Pavane V. Pieds-en-l'air

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Introit: *Gaudete in Dómino*

**R**EJOICE ye in the LORD, and again I say, rejoice ye; let your moderation be known unto all men, the LORD is at hand: be careful for nothing, nor troubled; but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known unto God. *Ps.* LORD, thou art become gracious unto thy land : thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

### Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

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

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

*The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity and the Summary of the Law.*

### Kyrie

The Kyrie musical score is written for Women and Men. It consists of six staves of music. The first five staves are for Women and Men, and the sixth staff is for All. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

*Women* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. *Men* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Women* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. *Men* Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Women* Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. *Men* Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Women* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. *Men* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Women* have mer - cy up - on us. *Men* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*All* have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collects

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**S**TIR up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

**A**Lmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

### The Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

**T**HE 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.

### Psalms 146:4-10

*Tone IV*

**B**LESSED is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is in the LORD his God. Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth his promise for ever. Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who feedeth the hungry. The LORD looseth men out of prison : the LORD giveth sight to the blind. The LORD helpeth them that are fallen : the LORD careth for the righteous. The LORD careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow : as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down. The LORD thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore : and throughout all generations.

## The Epistle

James 5:7–10

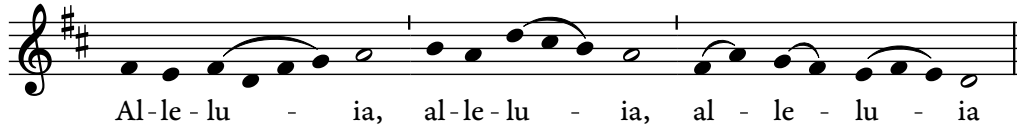
**B**E patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble 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.

*The Alleluia is intoned by the Choir, repeated by the People, then sung again after the verse.*



✠ Stir up thy strength, O LORD : and come and help us.

## The Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

*Deacon*

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

*People*

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**W**HEN 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 be to thee, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

The Rev'd Cn Oliver Lee



## THE NICENE CREED

**I** BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each petition concludes*

*Deacon* Lord, in thy mercy.

*People* Hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**A**Lmighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant stands and gives the Absolution.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*All greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Birthday Prayer

**W**ATCH over thy 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 thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY

*The Minister begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.*

#### Anthem

Healey Willan (1880–1968)

**L**O, in the time appointed the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom: and upon the throne of David shall he reign for ever. Alleluia.

*Sarum Antiphon*

#### Doxology

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

**P**RAISE God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

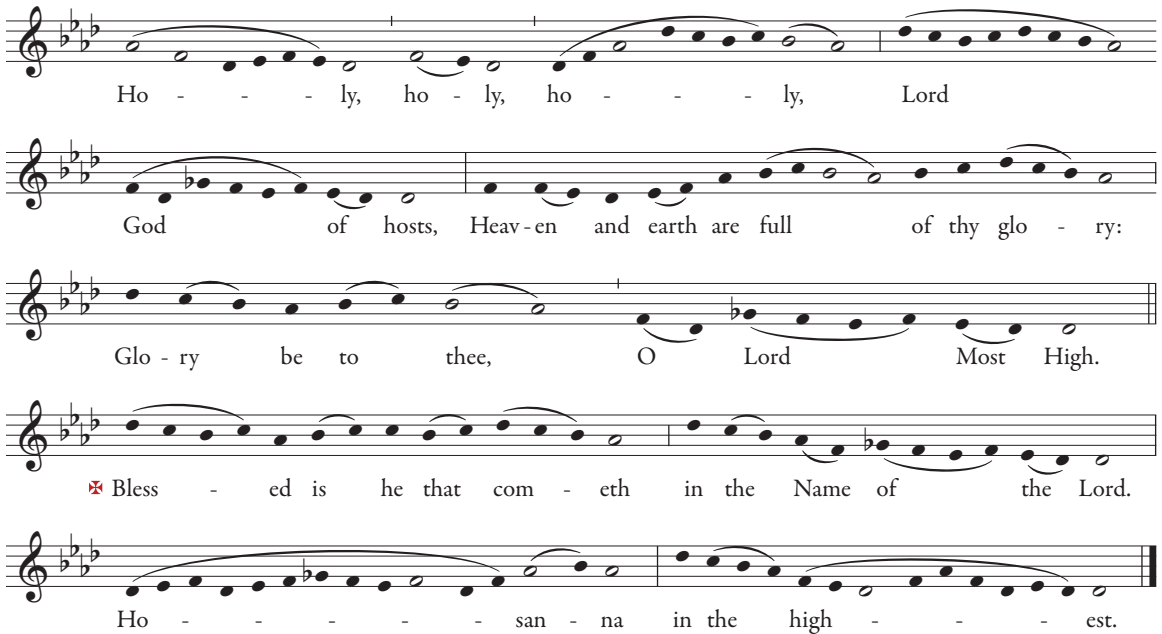
*People*

It is meet and right so to do.

*The Celebrant continues with the Preface, which concludes*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

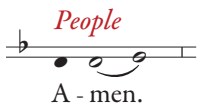
## Sanctus & Benedictus



Ho - - - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord  
 God of hosts, Heav - en and earth are full of thy glo - ry:  
 Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
 ✠ Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the Name of the Lord.  
 Ho - - - - - san - na in the high - - - - - est.

*The People kneel. The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer on pg. 334 of the Prayerbook, which concludes*  
**B**y whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*People*



A - men.

## Communion Devotions

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

**O**UR 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.

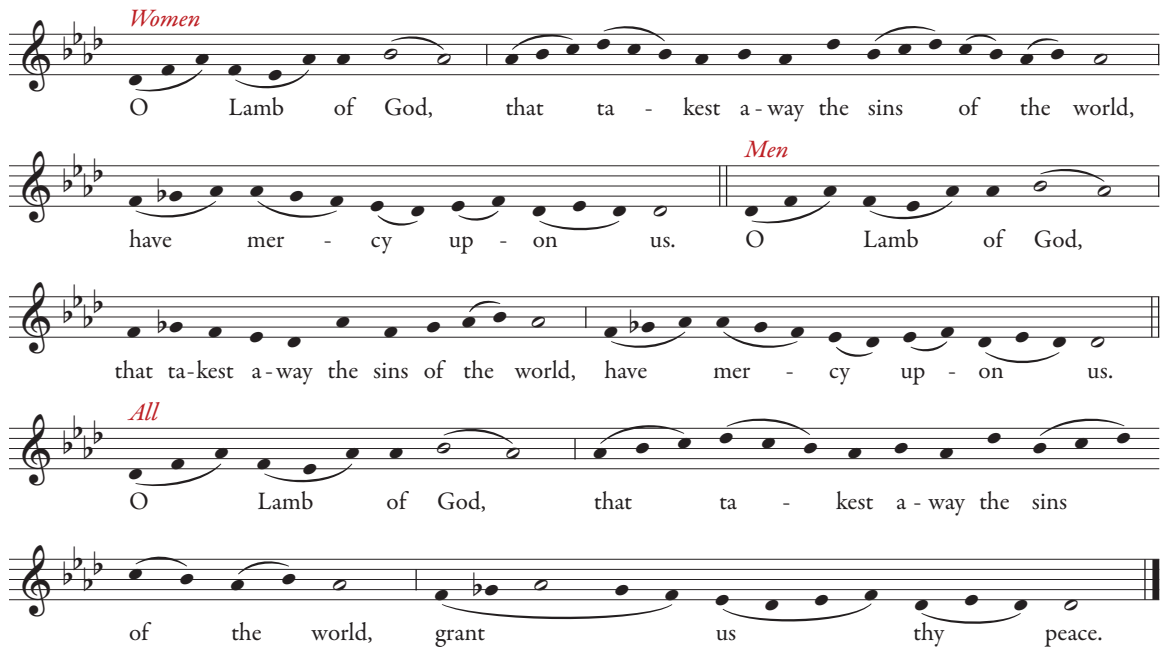
### *Celebrant and People*

**W**E do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy 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.

*and may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### Agnus Dei



*Women*  
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,

*Men*  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God,

that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

*All*  
O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins

of the world, grant us thy peace.



## Instructions for Holy Communion

All Christians who have been baptized with water in the Name of the Triune God, 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 and the priest will give you a blessing.

For those with a medical need, gluten-free Bread and Wine from a dedicated gluten-free chalice is available at the Low Altar. If one is not able 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.

*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 the Church after you receive Holy Communion, and a priest will be available at the Low Altar to administer Holy Unction to those seeking healing of any kind.*

### Motet

Anonymous (16<sup>th</sup> Century)

**R**EJOICE in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.  
Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.  
Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known unto God.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Philippians 4:4-7*

### Hymn 444

Blessed be the God of Israel

*Thornbury*



## CONCLUDING RITES

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*The Celebrant gives the blessing.*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Hymn 72

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

*Richmond*

### Organ Voluntary

Ricercar on Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland

George Baker (b. 1951)

## Altar Arrangements

*Are given to the glory of God...*

*in loving memory of*

Roger Rodriguez



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](https://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](mailto:bfemat@incarnation.org)

### YFM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, 6–7:15 p.m. *Offsite*

Donna Stack | [dstack@incarnation.org](mailto:dstack@incarnation.org)

### CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, 5 p.m. *Main Church*

[incarnation.org/carols](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://incarnation.org/advent2025)

## Clergy & Ministers

**THE RT. REV. GREG BREWER**  
[gbrewer@incarnation.org](mailto:gbrewer@incarnation.org)

*Interim Rector*

**THE REV. DOROTHY BUDD**  
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Mission & Outreach*

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Pastoral Care*

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*Deacon,  
Pastoral Care*

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*Lay Assistant,  
Adult Discipleship*

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

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