



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*December 21, 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?*

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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](mailto:bhodes@incarnation.org)

#### **BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION**

For adult baptism, email [baptism@incarnation.org](mailto:baptism@incarnation.org). To be confirmed in the church, email [jgriesbeck@incarnation.org](mailto:jgriesbeck@incarnation.org)

#### **CONFESSION & RECONCILIATION**

Schedule with any of the priests by emailing our pastoral care team at [nparkhurst@incarnation.org](mailto:nparkhurst@incarnation.org)



#### **YOUNG ADULTS**

Join the GroupMe conversation to stay connected with the latest.

#### **WEEKLY EMAIL**

Sign up at [incarnation.org/enews](http://incarnation.org/enews)

### *Connecting Families*

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#### **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, 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

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

*On break until 1/11/26*

#### **SIXTH GRADE CONFIRMATION**

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

*On break until 1/11/26*

#### **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 Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## 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

*All Who Are Thirsty*

## THE COLLECTS

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with your spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 7:10-16*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose



the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18*

*Chorus*

*Restore us, O God of hosts!*

*Let your face shine upon us,*

*Restore us, O God of hosts!*

*Let your face shine upon us,*

*That we may be saved! That we may be saved!*

*That we may be saved! That we may be saved!*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*Chorus*

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angered

despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,

the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*Chorus*

## THE EPISTLE

*Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## THE SEQUENCE

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

## THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 1:18-25*

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SEQUENCE

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

## THE SERMON

Bishop Greg Brewer

## 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

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

### 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

*O Day Of Peace That Dimly Shines*

SONG

*Prepare Him Room*



## 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

*Prepare Him Room*

## 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

## Coming Up This Week

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### COWBOY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, 12:30 – 3 p.m. *Great Hall*

Nanci Parkhurst | [nparkhurst@incarnation.org](mailto:nparkhurst@incarnation.org)

### CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, 5 p.m. *Main Church*

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

### BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY GROUPS

Monday, 8:15 a.m. or 12 p.m. *Ed. Bldg., Room 119*

Tuesday, 6 p.m., *Ed. Bldg., Room 119*

Betsey Fredericks | [befred82@gmail.com](mailto:befred82@gmail.com)

### TUESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, 12–1:15 p.m. *Ed. Bldg., Room. 119*

Dr. Krause | [david@visionaryphilanthropy.com](mailto:david@visionaryphilanthropy.com)

### CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

*Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*

## Weekday Services

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### MORNING PRAYER & HOLY COMMUNION

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

### HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING

*Cancelled this week*

### *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 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/advent2025](http://incarnation.org/advent2025)

## 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)

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

*Thursday, December 25, 10 a.m., Main Church*

You are invited to join us for a time to worship the newborn King. This year, our choir will lead us, and Fr. Cody Turner will share a Christmas homily. [incarnation.org/advent2025](http://incarnation.org/advent2025)

## HOLY NAME WORSHIP SERVICE

*Thursday, January 1, 10 a.m., Main Church*

Worship with us as we commemorate the day the Christ child was presented at the Temple and named Jesus. We will have a spoken Eucharist led by Fr. David Petrash. All are welcome.

## Clergy & Ministers

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

*Interim Rector*

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

**THE REV. CN. OLIVER LEE**  
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*Priest,  
Pastoral Care*

**THE REV. JUDY FRIZZELL**  
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*Deacon,  
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**THE REV. CODY TURNER**  
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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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