

# CHURCH *of the* INCARNATION

The Fourth Sunday *of* Advent

December 21, 2025

7:30 & 11:15 am

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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

## Organ Voluntary

Rorate cœli desuper, Op. 8, N° 1

Jeanne Demessieux (1921–1968)

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Introit: *Rorate, celi*

**D**ROP down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Savior. *Ps.* The heavens declare the glory of God : and the firmament showeth his handiwork.

### Hymn 54

Savior of the nations, come!

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

*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

*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,

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

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

## The Collects

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**W**E beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *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 7:10–16

**A**GAIN 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.”

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

### Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

*Tone VIII*

**H**EAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep :  
show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the Cherubims.  
Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come and help us.  
Turn us again, O God : show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.  
O LORD God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?  
Thou feedest them with the bread of tears : and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.  
Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbors : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Turn us again, thou God of hosts : show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.  
Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand :  
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.  
And so will not we go back from thee : O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.  
Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts : show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

## The Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

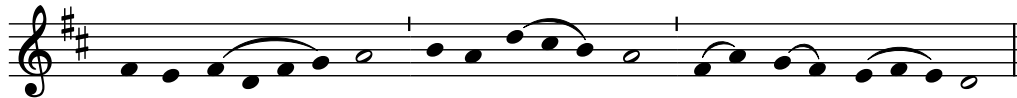
**P**AUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according 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.

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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia

✠ Come, O LORD, and tarry not : forgive the misdeeds of thy people.

## The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

*Deacon*

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

*People*

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**N**OW 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 be to thee, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

The Rev'd Jordan Griesbeck

## 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

**A**NGELUS ad Virginem Subintrans in conclave,  
Virginis formidinem Demulcens, inquit, 'Ave!  
Ave, Regina Virginum; Coeli Terraeque Dominum  
Concipies Et paries Intacta Salutem hominum;  
Tu Porta Coeli facta, Medela Criminum.'

'Quomodo conciperem Quae virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringerem Quod firma mente vovi?  
Spiritus Sancti gratia Perficiet haec omnia;  
Ne timeas, Sed gaudeas, Secura Quod castimonia  
Manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'

Ad haec Virgo nobilis Respondens inquit ei:  
'Ancilla sum humilis Omipotentis Dei.  
Tibi coelestinuntio, Tanti secreti conscio,  
Consentiens, Et crupiens Videre Factum quod audio;  
Parata sum parere, Dei consilio.'

Eia Mater Domini, Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini, Cum Christum genuisti;  
Tuum exora Filium Ut se nobis propitium  
Exhibeat, Et deleat Peccata: Praestans auxilium  
Vita frui beata Post hoc exilium.  
Deo Gracias, Deo Gracias!

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

*The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin, calming the Virgin's fear, said: "Hail, Mary, Queen of Virgins! You shall conceive the Lord of Heaven and Earth and give birth, remaining a virgin, to the Salvation of mankind; you, made the Gateway of Heaven, the cure for sin."*

*"How shall I conceive, since I know not a man?  
How shall I break what I have resolutely vowed?:  
The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this.  
Fear not, but rejoice, confident that chastity will remain pure in you by the power of God."*

*At this, the noble Virgin, replying, said to him:  
"I am the humble servant of almighty God.  
To you, heavenly messenger, who know so great a secret, I give my assent and desire to see done what I hear, and am ready to obey God's will."*

*O Mother of the Lord, who restored peace  
to angels and men when you gave birth to Christ,  
beg of your Son that he may show himself favourable  
to us and wipe away our sins,  
offering help to enjoy the blessed life after this exile.  
Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God!*

*Late 13<sup>th</sup> century English*

#### Doxology

**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.

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

## 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.



## 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.

## Altar Arrangements

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

*in loving memory of*

Susan and Waldo Powell & Nancy Wright Small

*& in honor of*

Susan James on her birthday



## 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

LET all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
in the Body and the Blood  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

Stephen Cleobury (1948–2019)

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*Liturgy of St. James*  
*Tr. Gerard Moultrie*

### Hymn 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

*Gabriel's Message*

## CONCLUDING RITES

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY 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 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

*Stuttgart*

### Organ Voluntary

Tocatta on ‘Veni Emmanuel’

Andrew Carter

## 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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Pastoral Care*

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