Christmas Eve
Family Service

December 24, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
St Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, CA

As a courtesy to others, please silence electronic devices.

For the link to the webpage with the announcements and bulletins, use this QR code:

Services are regularly streamed and recorded and you can find them:
http://www.stpaulcathedral.org/watch

If you're interested in more information about the cathedral's ministries, we would like to hear from you: https://stpaulcathedral.org/im-new/

St. Paul's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on unceded Kumeyaay land. We value the knowledge, culture, and worldview of Indigenous people. We commit to the vital work of educating ourselves, increasing community awareness, and promoting reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbors. As we examine actions and practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous communities, we pledge to work toward a meaningful and respectful relationship as we follow their example in honoring this sacred land.

Approved by the Cathedral Chapter, May 2023

A Children's Liturgy of the Word

Organ Voluntaries

§ *Please stand as you are able at the tolling of the bell and as the procession enters. Then please be seated for the Welcome.*

Welcome The Very Rev. Penny Bridges

§ *Remain seated. When you hear the introduction to each carol, please join in singing the verse, as this night's holy story unfolds.*

The Dean says
This night is like no other night. It is now time for us to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem together.

Reader
The little town we seek sits in the hill country five miles south of Jerusalem. The slopes of Bethlehem's surrounding hills and adjacent fields provided fertile agricultural lands for harvesting wheat and barley, which is likely how "Bethlehem" *which means* "House of Bread" in Hebrew, got it's name. Terraced orchards of olive trees and large stretches of natural brush made the countryside around Bethlehem ideal for grazing sheep and goats.

Homes at this time looked very different from the modern houses we know. They were made with fieldstone walls and had packed dirt floors. Most only had one or two rooms and animals, like cows, were housed in a room at the back of the house. On the night Jesus was born, many of the homes in Bethlehem were overflowing with visiting relatives who came to be counted and taxed.

All is still and quiet in the little town.

O Little Town of Bethlehem Hymn 79
All
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Reader
As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. It is Joseph and Mary from Nazareth and Mary is expecting a baby. They walked for six days because the Roman emperor wants to count each person, so he can take their money as a tax.

It is late, and Mary is very tired. They arrive at the home of their relatives, but where will they sleep? There is no more room. There is only the room where the animals are kept. They are so tired from their journey, they sleep there with the animals.

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. From the stillness comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the animal's feedbox that Joseph has filled with straw.

Away in a Manger Hymn 101

All

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. *Words: Traditional carol*

Reader

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their flocks of sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter. The faces of angels.

The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in Bethlehem a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord."

Then more angels appear, a heavenly host of them, praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere."

The shepherds joyfully run across the fields to Bethlehem to the home where the baby was born. In the back room, amongst the animals, they find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, Yeshua, Jesus. They are in awe of the light and love that surrounds them!

While Shepherds Watched Hymn 94

All

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around. *Words: Nahum Tate (1625-1715)*

Reader

Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three Magi, wise ones. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

We Three Kings Hymn 128

All

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

Reader

The wise ones' journey ends in a new kind of King. They fall to their knees and give him gifts of bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

Presider

So now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come through all the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.
Let us make ready now, to bring our light and the gift of our love and kindness. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy and filled with over-flowing silence.

Silent Night Hymn 111

All

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

§ *Please stand as you are able.*

The Christmas Collect

Presider

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

§ *The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

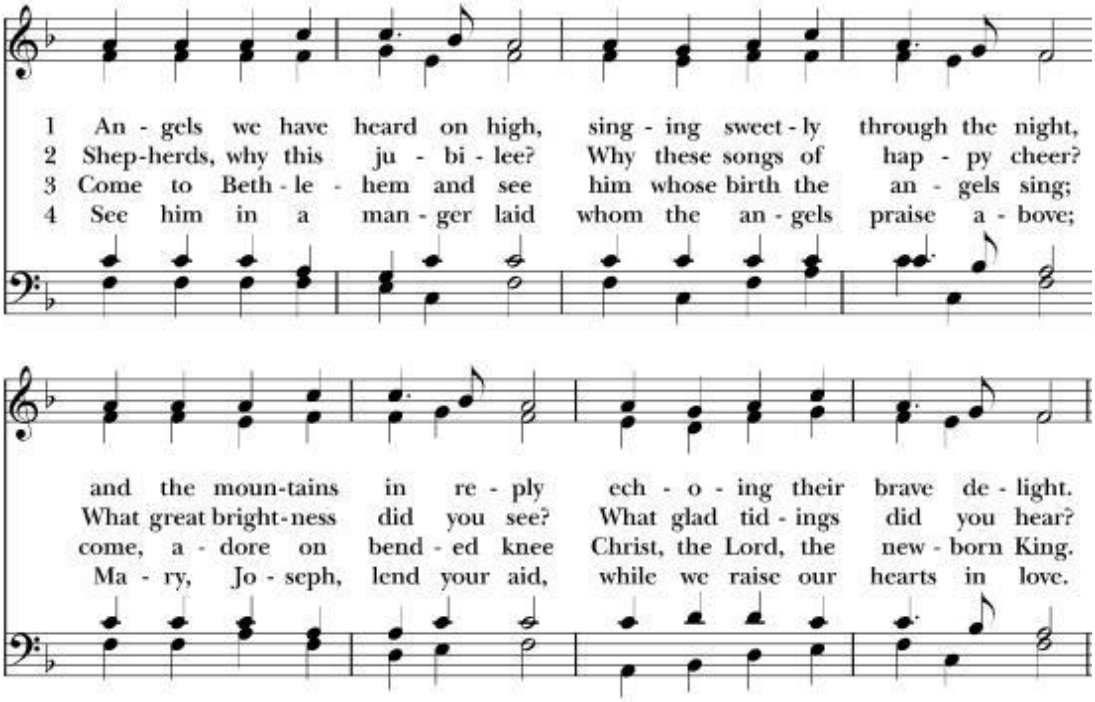
The Offertory

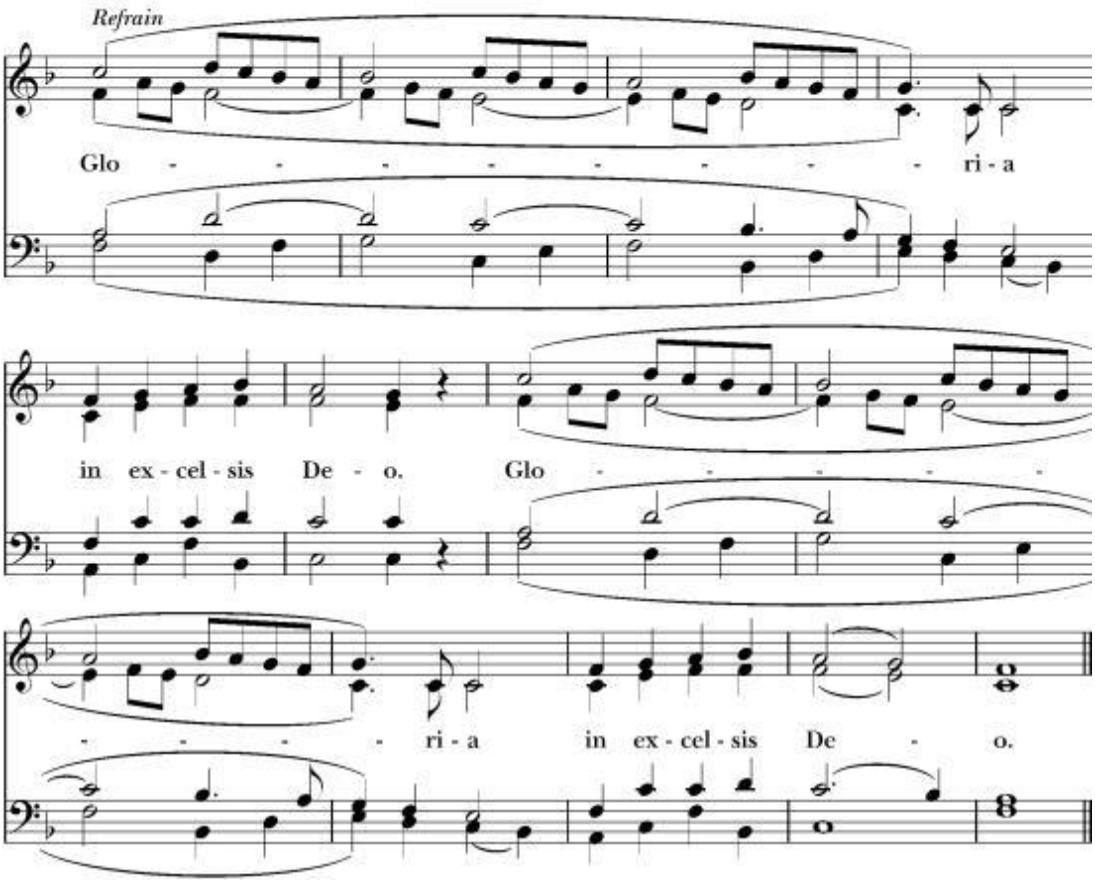
You may give online now by using your phone's camera to scan the quick response code:

or text stpaulcathedral *to* 73256 *using your cell phone.* *Thank you!*

§ *During the Offertory Hymn the children are invited to come forward to place their gold coins at the nativity scene and remain around the Altar for the Eucharistic prayer. Parents are welcome to accompany the smallest children as they gather around the altar.*

Offertory Hymn





Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

The Holy Communion

The Church of England, Additional Eucharistic Prayer One

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider
It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life. You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Savior, Mary's child. He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead. You sent your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

Presider and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

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

The Presider continues

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood. Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider and 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 Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

§ *Silence is kept*

The Invitation

Presider
This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and 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 for a long time or ever before; You who have tried to follow and you who have failed; Come, not because the Church invites you; It is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

- *The Iona Community Worship Book*

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

The children return to their seats, and receive Communion with their families.
After the Invitation has been given, please be seated until you are ushered to the communion stations at the Crossing. Please take your purse or valuables with you.

At Communion time we will offer the Host with the option to have it partially intincted (dipped) by the Eucharistic Minister into the wine and placed in the communicant's hand. For the time being we will not offer the option of drinking from the Common Cup. You may choose to receive only the dry Host or to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament.

As you come forward, please use one of these three gestures to indicate your preference:
- *To receive the host with wine, extend both your hands, palm up.*
- *To receive only the host, extend one hand, palm up.*
- *To receive a blessing, cross your hands at your shoulders*

If you need to receive a gluten-free wafer, please go to the station at the extreme left.

At the Communion, Voluntary

§ *After a moment of silence following the distribution of communion, please stand as you are able for the following prayer*

Postcommunion Prayer

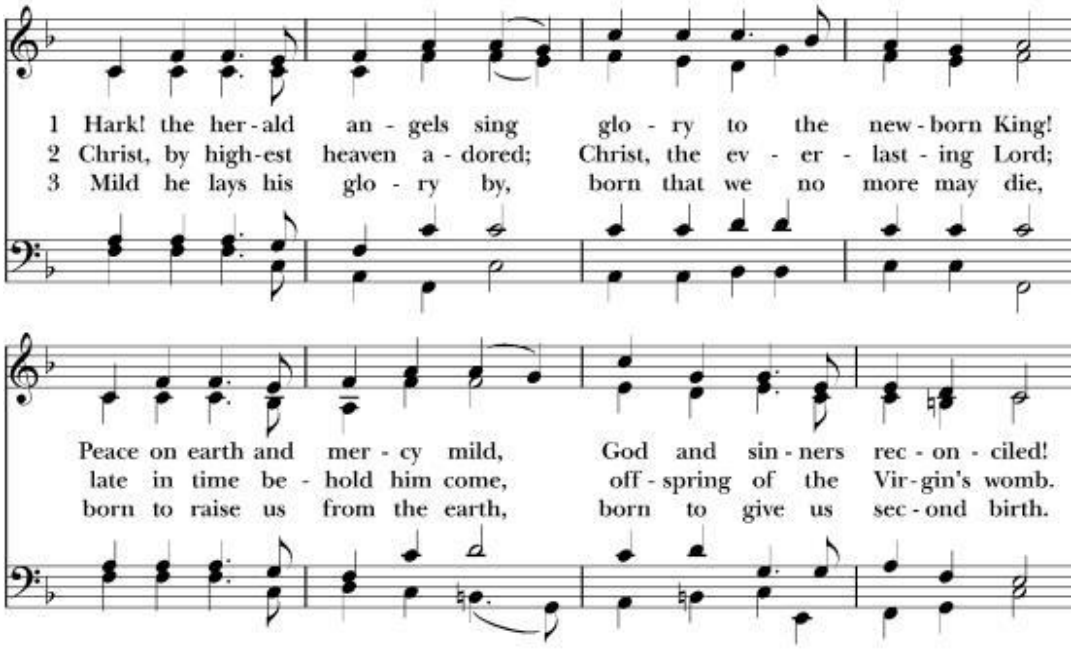
Presider Let us pray.
All

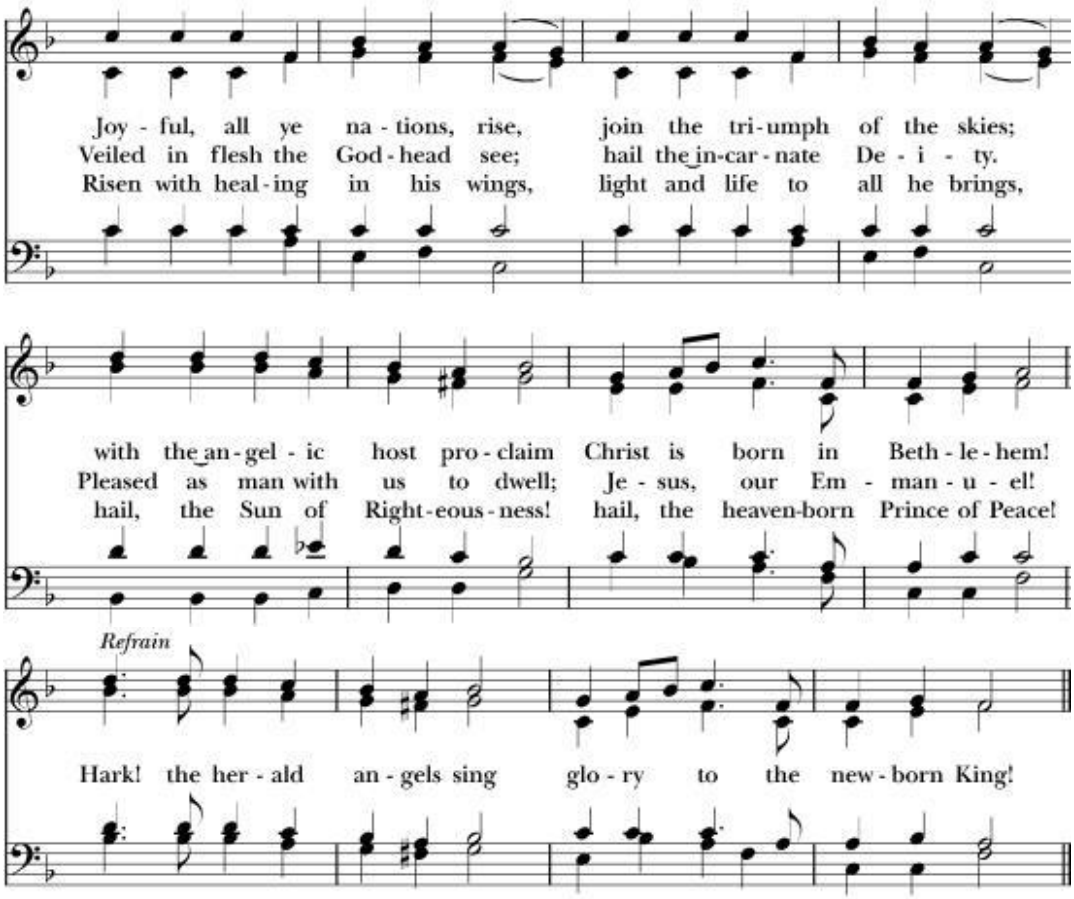
Eternal God,
thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Send us now into the world filled with your peace and joy;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing

Presider
May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
People **Amen.**

Hymn 87





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary *In dulci jubilo, BWV 729*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ministers of the Liturgy

Presider: The Rev. Cn. Richard Hogue, Jr.
Dean: The Very Rev. Penny Bridges
Deacons: The Rev. Cn. Brooks Mason, The Rev. Michael Kilpatrick
Assisting: The Rev. Cn. Allisyn Thomas
Head Verger: Cn. Lisa Churchill
Reader: Hadrian Davis
Verger: Stephanie Pierce
Altar Server: Jeff Erwin
Altar Guild: Tom Barb, Steve Mater
Head Usher: Cn. Lucinda Parsons
Ushers: Pat Crary, Janet Hagen, Paul Hagen, Susan Jester, Micah Lomax,
Roxanne Perfect-Knight, Kevin Van Wanseele
Director of Music: Cn. Martin Green
Organ Scholar: Seonjeong Park
Cathedral Audio: Mark Sanzi
Youth and Family Minister: Taylor Milam-Samuel

Christmas Decorations & Flowers 2025

St. Paul's Cathedral gratefully acknowledges these generous Christmas decorations and flower gifts in support of the Cathedral's ministry and in honor of loved ones.

The Very Rev. Penny Bridges
In thanksgiving for our wonderful choirs

Carl Mattina
In memory of Josephine Owen

Cherie Dean & Jodie Hulden
In memory of Judith Dean; in gratitude for my Cathedral's prayers

Canon Konnie Dadmun
In loving memory of Dr. Stew Dadmun

The Rev. Canon Dorothy Curry
In memory of the wonderful life of the Rev. Canon Joan Ford

Roxanne Perfect-Knight & Bob Knight
In memory of our mothers, Virginia Casna Cone & Elizabeth Perlt Knight; in thanksgiving for our St. Paul's Cathedral Community

Vanessa Evans
In memory of Michael Evans

Wayne & Kris Hatch
In honor of our grandchildren!

Jen Jow
In honor of the Jow family

Donna Perdue & Calvin Johnson
In memory of our friends and families

Rew Carne

John Will & the Rev. Tom Wilson
In thanksgiving for the volunteers, staff, clergy and community of St. Paul's Cathedral

Bob Holt
In memory of my husband Don, our parents Merle & Hugh Howard, and Betty & Glenn Holt

Barbara Parry
In honor of my family

Susan & Doug Hulbert
In memory of our parents and grandparents

Don Pellioni
In gratitude for our Cathedral Community

Nancy Leon
In memory of Eilene, Homer, Iru, and Rita

Elaine Wolfe

Gary Owen
In thanksgiving for Canon Konnie Dadmun for her decades of leadership

Stacey Klaman
In memory of the Gold/Ashcroft family

Rob & Rockette Ewell
In memory of our brother Kevin Walker

John & Paula Peeling
In thanksgiving for Martin Green, and for Becky & Mel Yokoyama

Lisa Churchill
In honor of the dedicated SPC altar-serving corps

Susan Forsburg
In loving memory of Janet Forsburg

Christmas Decorations & Flowers 2025

St. Paul's Cathedral gratefully acknowledges these generous Christmas decorations and flower gifts in support of the Cathedral's ministry and in honor of loved ones.

John Clemens & Jack Hayman
In deepest gratitude for the ministry of Martin Green

Sandy Lawrensen
In memory of Jill L. Sanford; in honor of Anna & Elvin Lawrensen

Kathleen Sheehan Burgess,
In memory of my brother Tom Sheehan, godfather/uncle Frank Federico, and father Jerry Sheehan; in thanksgiving for my SPC teammates and community

Russ Okihara
In memory of Ruth and Satoru Okihara

Tonya Stevens
In memory of Landis & Grace Brown, and Maxwell

Darien DeLorenzo & Beverly Edge
In memory of Catherine & Albert DeLorenzo; in thanksgiving for Dorcas Edge

Mark & Stacey Nagy
In loving memory of Thomas & Anthony Nagy, and Bill Amos

Mary Rathbun
In thanksgiving for Anne Walter

Blair & Cindy Shamel
In thanksgiving for our sons Louis & Andy, and their families

Susan Jester
In memory of Kathleen Bremner

Christie Batten
In memory of Joe Wood, Sr.; in honor of Joe Wood, Jr.; in thanksgiving for Bennett Wood

Ron Fichter & Lee Oum
In memory of Tom & Rose Fichter

Robert Heylmun
In memory of Ruth Heylmun

Andrew & Susan Williams

Lucinda Parsons
In loving memory of my soulmate Bert Zwiers

Stephanie Pierce
In celebration of my family

Ken & Mary Tranbarger

John & Brittany Powell
In memory of Henry Wesley Powell

Virginia Howlett
In loving memory of Astrid & Bruce Howlett

Larry Kohmescher & Margaret Southwick
In memory of our parents

Diane Lopez Hughes

Adele R. Moore
In thanksgiving for my recovery from a fall

Anne Cooper
In thanksgiving for William L. Cooper

Mary & Tim Conroy
In memory of our daughter Mary A. Conroy

Christmas Decorations & Flowers 2025

St. Paul's Cathedral gratefully acknowledges these generous Christmas decorations and flower gifts in support of the Cathedral's ministry and in honor of loved ones.

Erwan Allanic
In memory of Jean-Flanc Allanic

Michael Pape & Bo Anacta
In thanksgiving for God's mercy and grace

Tiffany Farnsworth

Neil Manfredi

Lynnea Griep
In memory of John Griep

Pat Tedford
In memory of Paul Tedford

Justin Lewis & Roland Tactay

The Rev. Richard Hogue & Maura Schmitz
In loving memory of Richard R. Hogue

Charles Clark
In memory of Louis Morton

Craig & Betsey Monsell
In memory of our parents

Howard Kelting

The Rev. Susan Astarita
In memory of Bruce Thomas Astarita

The Vergers of St. Paul's Cathedral
Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Eadie

Patricia Devereaux
In memory of Paul & Lois Devereaux

Susanna Han
In memory of Sara Jo Han, from her loving family

Hunter Kauffman
In thanksgiving for Eric Piper's 80th Birthday

Bob Oslie
In memory of Melinda Joy. Wheresoever she was, there was Eden

Jeff Pack
In memory of Mary Eileen Pack

Jonathan Widener
In loving memory of Nowell R. Walker

Wanda Porrata
In memory of John Smith and in love for Joyce Smith

Martha L. Duque

Paul & Janet Hagen
In thanksgiving for our family

CHRISTMASTIDE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, *in the Cathedral*

We celebrate Christmas morning with a service of Eucharist featuring organ and carols. The Rev. Cn. Richard Hogue will preach and Dean Penny will preside at this service.

DECEMBER 28 First Sunday after Christmas
8 am – Holy Eucharist, *in the Cathedral*
10:30 am – Choral Eucharist, *in the Cathedral and live-streamed*
5 pm – Evensong, *in the Cathedral and live-streamed*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
7 pm, New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk and Evening Prayer Service

In the Great Hall. Join the Cathedral community in a tranquil and meditative service with music by Granada Consort recorder group.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026
10:30 am, Holy Name Eucharist, *in the Chapel of the Holy Family (located within the Cathedral)*

Welcome the New Year with a Eucharist service observing *"The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus."*

In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the cathedral please follow the directions of the ushers and vergers, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.
Please locate an exit nearest you.
The exit doors are:

- ❖*South porch doors at Nutmeg Street and Fifth Avenue*
- ❖*North porch doors to Fifth Avenue Courtyard*
- ❖*South transept east and west doors to Nutmeg Street*
- ❖*Northeast hallway door to Fifth Avenue breezeway*
- ❖*West chapel (to the left of chapel altar) stairs leading down to landing.*

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL