

The First Sunday After Christmas



Sunday, December 29, 2024
10:30 A.M. Eucharist, Rite Two

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

806 THOMPSON ROAD
RICHMOND, TX

WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG

THE REV. RALPH B. MORGAN, RECTOR
THE REV. NANCY WILKES, DEACON

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING HYMN 87 - Hark! the herald angels sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

REFRAIN:

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

PRAISE HYMN 96 - Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE COLLECT OF THE LORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

A READING FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 109 - The first Nowell

**1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

REFRAIN:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

**3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

**6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.**

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

SERMON RESPONSE

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.***

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your name may be glorified by all peoples.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; and Nancy, our Deacon.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially _____;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially _____;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(You may offer prayers either silently or aloud)

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [*Proper Preface is added*]

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:

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, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

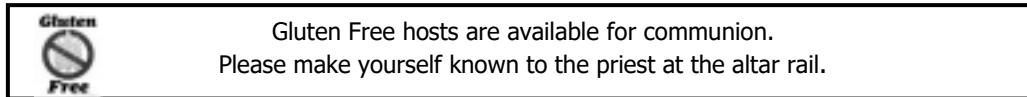
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

***Our Father in heaven Hallowed be Your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.

COMMUNION SONG 1 - Christmas Lullaby

**1. Cradle rocking cattle lowing
Bright star guiding men to see
Little Christ-child in the manger
Light of all the world to be**

REFRAIN:

**Hallelujah, holy child
Hosanna in the highest
Gloria, emmanuel
Hosanna in the highest**

**2. Mother Mary watching carefully
By the light of one bright star
Bread of Heaven, softly sleeping
Gentle gift of God to us**

**3. Who would guess, to see you lie there
That you came to bring a sword?
Prince of peace, upon the manger
With a price upon your soul**

**4. Do you know, so weak and helpless
Of the grace you bear to us?
Do you dream yet of the kingdom
You will someday bring to pass**

COMMUNION SONG 2 - I Lift My Eyes Up

**I lift my eyes up
To the mountains
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from You
Maker of heaven
Creator of the earth.**

**Oh, how I need you, Lord,
You are my only hope,
You're my only prayer.
So I will wait for you
To come and rescue me
Come and give me life**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

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.** *(these words may differ from time to time)*

CLOSING SONG - Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

1. Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shining afar thru shadows dim
Giving a light for those who long have gone
And guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
And guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

2. Oh beautiful Star the hope of light
Guiding the pilgrim thru the night
Over the mountain 'til the break of dawn
And into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
And into the light of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

3. Oh beautiful Star the hope of rest
For the redeemed the good and blest
Yonder in glory when the crown is won
For Jesus is now that Star divine
Brighter and brighter He will shine
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem
Shine upon us until the glory dawn
For Jesus is now that Star divine
Brighter and brighter He will shine
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem shine on

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *(these words may differ from time to time)*

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers in 2025

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One

Flower offerings for 2025 will be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under **giving/altar flowers**

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

Calvary Worship Service Times

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service

Calvary Staff

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

John Brun, Parish Administrator

Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator

William Soller, Communications/Children's Minister

Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator

Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director

Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator

Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader

Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan

713-818-6323

281-797-5246

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CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

2024 Pledged: \$555,925

2024 Given: \$523,273