

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL

MONTHLY CONNECTOR

Advent Light: The Word Dwells Among Us

Rev. Timothy Kingsley, Cathedral Provost

John 1:1-14 — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Dear Cathedral Community,

Advent is a season that holds tension, stillness and movement, waiting and preparing, silence and song. It's the soft rhythm of candles being lit week by week, even as the world rushes ahead in noise and hurry. Yet beneath that quiet glow, the Holy Spirit stirs, the same Spirit that breathed creation into being, that ignited tongues of flame at Pentecost, and that continues to breathe life into weary hearts.

John's Gospel begins not with shepherds or angels, but with light, that mysterious and eternal light that has never been extinguished. *"In the beginning was the Word... and the Word became flesh and lived among us."* It's the story of God choosing to dwell within human life, not apart from it, but right in the midst of our ordinary days.

That is the heart of Advent: the Word becoming flesh again and again, in you, in me, in our community. Every act of compassion, every moment of mercy, every time we reach beyond fear or self-interest, Christ is born anew among us.

But Advent also asks something of us. It asks us to slow down, to notice where the light is shining, and to ask:

"What might I do differently in the newness of life that is to come?"

Perhaps it's a question about how we spend our time, whether we leave room for prayer and wonder in our days.

Perhaps it's about how we speak, choosing gentleness over judgment, listening before reacting.

Or perhaps it's about how we live in community seeking reconciliation, justice, and joy for those who feel forgotten.

The Pentecostal energy of the Spirit calls us not only to reflection, but to transformation. The same God who spoke light into the world still whispers light into our souls. The same Spirit who filled the disciples with courage and purpose is ready to fill us again — here, in this Cathedral, in this very season of waiting.

As we prepare for what is to come, let us not only remember the birth of Christ, but also anticipate our own rebirth, our own awakening to grace. Let us dream of a world made whole, a world healed by the love that took on flesh and dwelt among us.

And when Christmas dawns and we hear those words again, "*The light shines in the darkness*" may we know that the light is not only out there, but within us. The darkness does not overcome it, because the light of Christ cannot be extinguished.

So, in this season of reflection, waiting, and holy expectation, may we welcome both the quiet of Advent and the fire of the Spirit. May we dare to imagine what God can still do through us for our Cathedral, for our city, and for this weary world God so loves.

With faith, wonder, and trust in the One who makes all things new,

*The Word Made Flesh,
You who spoke light into being and breathed life into creation,
Come and dwell among us once more.
Enter our weariness with your peace,
our restlessness with your calm,
our doubt with your radiant love.*

*Teach us to see the world with Advent eyes,
eyes that look for promise where others see endings,
eyes that notice light in the smallest of places.
By your Spirit, renew our hearts and our hopes,
that in this holy season we may be made ready
to live differently, with joy, with courage, with wonder.*

*May your light shine through us,
healing what is broken and blessing what is new.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

In Peace,

✝ Tim+



More about Saint Mark's

Connect with Us

If you are new, please fill out our Connect cards that are in the pews. Or scan this QR Code to fill it out electronically. The email you provide will add you to the e-news list to help you connect in this community.



Every Sunday

Nursery. Available from 10 am – 12 pm, the nursery is located next to the library on the second floor of the building. This space is best suited for children between 6 months and 6 years.

Family Space. In the front of the Nave, near the Lectern which is on the left side as you face the altar, is a soft and accessible area for families with children. There are soft toys available, and it is a great place for children to be able to observe the actions of the service.

Docent Tours. Every Sunday, there is a docent-led tour of the Nave after the 10:30 service. To learn about the history and art of this cathedral, meet the leader under the Pulpit, which is where the Homily/sermon is offered.

Fellowship. Every Sunday, after both morning services, coffee and treats are offered in the Community Room, on the first floor. Lively conversation is always included with fellowship.

Adult Forum. Offered on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month, except in December. expect to hear updates from the Vestry, the elected leadership. Forum topics will include Finance, Stewardship, Dean Search, and Administration. This is from 9:30 – 10:15 in the Banquet Room on the first floor.

Restrooms. In the Art Gallery hallway is an accessible space available for everyone. Additional restrooms are in the library hallway, as well as down the stairs in the Parlor area.

Hearing Assist. Our sound system is compatible with T-coil hearing aids. Hearing assist devices are at each door; ask an usher for assistance. Users of hearing aids need only touch the “telephone” setting on their hearing aid to clearly hear the spoken word.

Ways to Give. As an expression of gratitude for God's generosity, please consider a financial gift today and place it in the offering plate. We are greatly appreciative of your generosity.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

These are in addition to our Sunday Worship services at 8:00am, 10:30am and 5:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Advent Evenings: For Such a Time as This

Sunday, Dec. 7, 8:00 pm, Service of Compline

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Advent Evenings: For Such a Time as This

Sunday, Dec. 14, 8:30 am – 10:30 am, Season of Hope Advent Brunch

Sunday, Dec. 14, Second Sunday Night Supper, Plymouth Congregational Church, 4:00 pm for volunteers, 5:00 pm for meal

Sunday, Dec. 14, 8:00 pm, Service of Compline

Monday, Dec. 15, 6:00 pm. Mixed Blood Equitable Dinners presents Mental Health resources, registration required. <https://mixedblood.com/equitable-dinners/>

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Advent Evenings: For Such a Time as This

Friday, Dec. 19, 2:00 pm, The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance

Saturday, Dec. 20, 7:30 pm, A Great British Christmas

Sunday Dec. 21, 6:30 pm, Blessing of Blankets, with lighted Advent Wreath on the front steps

Sunday Dec. 21, 8:00 pm, Service of Compline with Mirandola Ensemble

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:00 pm, A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 10:30 pm, Carols with Brass

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 11:00 pm, Choral Eucharist

Thursday, Dec. 25, 10:00 am, Christmas Day Eucharist

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 7:30 pm, Epiphany Feast Day Celebration

The Spirituality of Advent

After Annunciation by Madeleine L'Engle

This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.
from her book **A Cry Like a Bell:Poems**, 1987

According to the Gospel of Luke, the announcement (or annunciation) made by the archangel Gabriel to Mary that she would conceive and bear a son through a virgin birth and become the mother of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Son of God, marking the Incarnation...is a lot to put upon a young woman; heck it's a lot to put on anyone old or young!! It is completely irrational if you really think about it...but there was Mary, full of grace and hope for the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (Micah 5:2, Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Isaiah 11:1 to name a few).

The word, "advent," simply means "coming". In the context of our Christian faith, it represents our celebration of the first coming of Christ and our anticipation of his second coming. Lo and behold; it is an irrational season! We are asked to "wait for" and "hope for" Gods' promises of faith and joy, peace and a new order.

But we have to wait for a child to be born first, and then wait for them to grow up – hoping that the Old Testament prophets knew what they were talking about.

Christ is working through us this season. Christ is working through us each and every day. Let us take the time to breathe in the divine strength offered to us by the Holy Spirit. Let us share in Advent traditions – old and new. Let us "wait" together and learn how to support each other through Love. The love Mary taught us with her examples of patience and belief and strength of self.

Our Advent season in Minnesota is usually cold and really dark. As we await the coming light with the solstice, let us gather together as a community during our many times available for prayer and music and activities, sharing in grief, sharing in patience, sharing in learning, sharing in joy.

Pretty soon we get to sing that Hymn of waiting -
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
*and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
And we will Rejoice!*





COMMUNITY EVENT

Gathered in Love: An Interfaith Service of Trans Solidarity

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT

Creekside UCC, 106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Join us for the Trans Solidarity Service, a multifaith gathering affirming the sacredness of trans and nonbinary lives. On Tuesday, December 9, 2025, people of faith and allies from across Minnesota will come together at Creekside United Church of Christ (106 E Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis) to proclaim a message of love, courage, and belonging.

This service will include music, poetry, and reflections from trans and BIPOC faith leaders, clergy, and community members across traditions.

Together, we'll teach, organize, and be visible in our commitment to trans dignity and inclusion! The service will be free and open to all, with a livestream option for those joining from outside the Twin Cities.

Masks will be required (barring a medical need) for this event and will be available on site. The livestream can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CreeksideUCCWorship/streams>

Saturday

5:30 p.m. Santa Misa en Español (Worship Service in Spanish)

Sunday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (Traditional Language)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (Contemporary Language)

5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong (September through May)

Wednesday

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday

9 a.m. Contemplative Prayer

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Gathering Groups

As a way to connect and to grow as disciples of Jesus, Saint Mark's has a variety of groups based on interest, affinity, or time.

Women's group: Second Thursday of the month, 6:00 pm, in the Library.

Men's Ministry: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 am, in the Library. *Men's Ministry will not meet in December. the next gathering will be on Saturday, January 24.*

Knitting Ministry, First and third Tuesday of the month from 10:30am

Gospel-Based Discipleship, Fridays, 12:15pm, online via Zoom

Found in the Library

As the days grow shorter and we look to the new liturgical year, themes of light and darkness, waiting, and longing emerge. Our new Advent books highlight these themes. Here's a sample:

All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings, by Gayle Boss

Painted turtles, woodchucks, little brown bats—St. Francis meets Advent in this engaging book of daily meditations for all lovers of nature.

Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas, by Traci Smith

Telling the story of the Christmas tree, taking a nature walk, or having a homemade gift party are all simple ways for families to observe Advent together. The author offers 100 prayers, practices, and stories rooted in waiting and preparing for Jesus' birth. Her intent is not to overwhelm families, but to help them slow down and celebrate sacred moments together.

The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope, by Kelley Nikondeha

Written by a liberation theologian and community developer, this book invites us to reconsider the scriptural account of Advent in the context of the social and economic conditions of the day. The brutal empires and deep poverty of the Palestine Mary and Joseph and their forbearers lived in has parallels in today's Palestine. The book has a lot to say about following Jesus in hard places and troubled times.

Find these books and more in the library's Advent display.

As you prepare for the new year, please check your shelves and return library books you have had for longer than 4 weeks. Your library thanks you!

Sandy Longfellow

Fresh Start at Great River Landing

At Great River Landing in December, the Fresh Start volunteers are planning a Christmas focus for the children of the residents. We will be putting together a party on Sunday, Dec. 21 at noon. Cookies and a little gift in bags will be universal for all ages. We will decide what we are doing on December 3, at a 10:00 meeting. All are welcomed at GRL for that meeting. Like Thanksgiving, this will be these men's first Christmas after many years of incarceration. Any donations are appreciated.

Please call Linda at 612.741.4955 with questions.

Great River Landing
813 N. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN. 55401
Parking is available in the basement garage.
Enter from the back side of the building.



Season of Hope Brunch

Plan now to attend and prepare your hearts as we nourish each other with food and fellowship at the Season of Hope Brunch.

WHAT: All-church Advent brunch

WHO: Saint Mark's Community

WHERE: Community Room

WHEN: Sunday December 14th 8:30 am -10:30 am

HOW: It takes a village to feed a church family. As you are able, go to <https://bit.ly/47La4pL> to contribute food or volunteer to help with serving.



Sharing food and volunteering are welcomed but not required to attend this free event. The link will provide further information.

Further questions? Contact Inez Bergquist 651-260-6312 or Lois Satterberg 612-310-5825.



Groveland Emergency Food Shelf

In the past few weeks, we have heard a lot of numbers and statistics about those impacted by food insecurity. Groveland is seeing record numbers of users. They serve over 5,000 guests a month, and more than 200 a day when the doors are open for 2 ½ hours. Many who come in each day are first time users.

Keep in mind that behind every one of these numbers is a person who is in need and even desperate. Here are stories of just a few of these clients. The names cited are just to illustrate their stories.

Mary came in one day and asked for an apple. When she was told that she could have as many as she wanted, Mary replied that she only wanted one and turned down additional attempts to take more. Mary asked the volunteer to place an apple in her backpack. When the volunteer opened the backpack, they were shocked to see virtually all of Mary's possessions including a pillow and blanket.

Kayla entered the food shelf for the first time. The day before she had to put her long-term companion, her beloved cat, to sleep. The vet took all of Kayla's money for the month for their services, and left her in need of some food.

Caleb arrived one afternoon after having just been released from prison that morning. He had no food and was grateful for whatever Groveland could provide to help him.

Destiny lives in her car and has no way to heat or store anything. All she wanted one morning was something that could be used to make a sandwich.

Throughout the year, and especially during Advent, it is our role to help folks like these see the light in us. We don't judge or question their choices that led them to Groveland. We support them as best we can on their individual journeys.

Please consider donating to Groveland this season. Your donations will make a difference in someone's life. Contact Dale Longfellow with any questions, dalelongfellow@gmail.com

Christmas Caroling – Everyone Welcome!



When: Sunday December 14th at 4 PM

Where: Sunday Night Suppers, Plymouth Congregational Church

We will gather upstairs in the Guild Hall to sing Christmas Carols for the hungry and homeless gathering to eat supper. (Saint Mark's supplies volunteers to prepare and serve this supper every second Sunday.) What will we sing? Popular and well-known secular carols and a few religious ones over about 45 minutes. Bring a smile and your voice and spread a little joy in this holiday season. Song sheets will be supplied. RSVP: werdalc@gmail.com or catch me in the choir. And, if you are able to volunteer time in support of the meal, please contact Rob Claxton, claxton.rob@gmail.com

Our Annual Giving Campaign

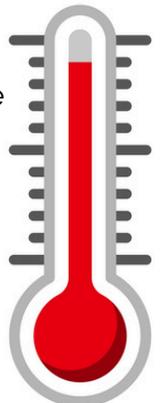
Thanks to everyone who has made a pledge commitment to Saint Mark's during our annual giving campaign for 2026. We set a very ambitious goal, and thanks to the generosity of 179 Saint Markans, our expected pledge donations for 2026 are \$842,944.

We're still a bit short of our goal, though we expect more donations to flow in during December and we will provide a final total for the campaign later this month. Member pledges are the most important part of Saint Mark's budget. That budget funds salaries and benefits for our hardworking staff, helps us maintain the operation of the Cathedral itself, and funds ministry and outreach work that we're called to do.

If you haven't pledged yet for 2026, it's not too late! You will find blank pledge cards at the Cathedral on Sundays, or you can print one from the Annual Giving page of our church website at ourcathedral.org. Every pledge makes a real difference!

Before the beginning of the year, we will provide instructions for making online pledge payments using our new Keela system. It's quick and easy, so stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, if you have questions about how to make a pledge, email us at mypledge@ourcathedral.org.





VISIT THE BOOK SHOP

The Cathedral Book Shop at Saint Mark's carries: Bibles, BCPs, daily meditations, spirituality, children's books, fiction, calendars, cards, gifts and jewelry.

Hours;

Sundays: 9:30am - 1:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday by Appointment

Wednesdays 10:00am - 2:00pm

or online at: <https://bookshop.org/shop/SaintMarksCathedralMpls>



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
-Dean Search Committee-

The Search Committee provided an update on the progress of the search for the Cathedral's next Dean during the November 2nd Formation. The slides from that update are available on the Dean Search update page (<https://ourcathedral.org/dean-search/>). Using the results from the congregational survey, prior search information, and additional information from groups underrepresented in the survey, the Search Committee has prepared a portfolio document required by The Episcopal Church and is finalizing a public-facing webpage that will have a link to the application instructions and process. Both the Episcopal Church Portfolio document and the webpage were discussed with the Vestry at their November regular meeting. The materials must be presented to the Bishop for his approval before Saint Mark's can post the role, which we expect to do December 8th. When the documents are approved, the Search Committee will provide the link to the webpage on the Dean Search Update page on ourcathedral.org, and send out a notice in the Weekly Connector. Thank you for your continued support for this important work.

Sunday: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Monday: By appointment

Tuesday: By appointment

Wednesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday: By appointment

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**BUILDING
SCHEDULE**

Service of Compline in Advent

Sunday November 30, Dec 7, 14 and 21; 8:00 pm

A sung service of **Compline** is the final prayer office of the Christian day—quiet, simple, contemplative, and meant to prepare the soul for rest. Our service will be a traditional Anglican Sung Compline – hushed, chant-based, intentionally unadorned, with candlelight.

Two of the four Advent Sundays will be sung by Cathedral Choir members, the other two Sundays will be sung by the Mirandola Ensemble.

We will begin the service with the words
The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.

Psalms, scripture and prayers will be sung, long stretches of peaceful silence will be offered
and we will conclude with

May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

~

We invite you to enter into the warmth of the cathedral through the Welcome Center, up the stairs (or elevator) through the Gallery and into the peaceful Nave of the cathedral. Settle yourself, settle your mind and allow the hushed spirit of Advent center you through music and spoken word.

*We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.*

Compline for Advent

This contemplative service offers a gentle close to the rhythm of the day.

Sundays November 30-Dec 21

8-8:30pm

November 30 and December 21 will be led by the Mirandola Ensemble
December 7 and 14 by the Cathedral Singers



A FOLK SCHOOL IN MINNEAPOLIS!

CENTER FOR PEOPLE AND CRAFT

**SKILL SHARE
AND POTLUCK**

NOVEMBER 15TH
5-8PM

**LIGHT IN THE
DARKNESS**

DECEMBER 14
4:30-7PM

Sharing traditions across cultures and
generations through handcraft, music,
movement, and more



519 OAK GROVE STREET

PEOPLEANDCRAFT.ORG

@CENTERFORPEOPLEANDCRAFT

THIS ARTS & CULTURE VIBRANT STOREFRONTS IS FUNDED, IN PART, BY
THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Sunday, December 14, 2025
4-7pm

Come to the Center for People and Craft for a free, drop-in lantern-making workshop from 4-5:45pm.

At 5:45, we'll light our lanterns and walk together outdoors through the darkness and into Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, where renowned song leader Sarina Patridge will lead us in an hour of all-abilities community singing.

In the darkest time of the year, this gathering emphasizes community belonging, handcraft and song as avenues for creating light and joy.

MIXED BLOOD THEATRE EQUITABLE DINNERS

We are continuing the popular Equitable Dinners that bring together strangers and friends from diverse backgrounds to experience theatre, share a meal, and talk about complex issues.

Each quarter, we will unveil a new play addressing a new topic: affordable housing, mental health, racial equity, and climate resilience.



Mental Health - Monday, December 15 @6pm at Saint Mark's

<https://mixedblood.com/equitable-dinners/>

*Please note that reservations are required at the above link. Seating is limited. This is not a Saint Mark's event and must be reserved through Mixed Blood.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Advent Journey 2025

Join us for intergenerational gatherings on Wednesday evenings during Advent in the Community Room at Saint Mark's. We will work with our hands to serve our neighbors, reflect on themes from *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional* by Hanna Reichel, and eat together.

**WED
DEC 3**

6-8 pm
Potluck Dinner
Craft and write cards to ministry partners

**WED
DEC 10**

6-8 pm
Soup Dinner
Make fleece blankets for street outreach teams

**WED
DEC 17**

6-8 pm
Sandwich Dinner
Make sandwich lunches for Agate women's shelter, hear from special guest

**SUN
DEC 21**

6:30-7:30 pm
Blessing of Blankets and Prayer Cards
Cider, Cocoa, and Caroling Around the Fire
Saint Mark's Front Steps

Questions? Contact Mary Lusk or Rev. Clara.

Want to volunteer to help with meals? Please contact Joyce at [jrhh5comm@proton.me](mailto:jrh5comm@proton.me).



Even if you can't make a Wednesday evening, please contribute an Advent prayer card to our outdoor Advent wreath on the front steps.

AT THIS MOMENT

Rev. Clara Sanders - Seminarian

Dear Saint Mark's Community,

This Advent marks our return to Year A in the three-year cycle of Sunday scripture readings, and our Gospel readings will be from Matthew throughout 2026.

I can't think of the book of Matthew without thinking about Jesus' words from the Matthew 25:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

As we enter a new church year, there are a plethora of opportunities for Saint Markans to live into Jesus' call in Matthew 25.

As newly-appointed volunteer Curate of Community Engagement, I also want to share some of what my focus will be for the next 6-9 months:

- Strengthening and sustaining our existing lay-led partnership ministries with Sunday Night Suppers, Groveland Emergency Food Shelf, First Nations' Kitchen, Great River Landing, and Agate.
- Listening, learning about, and synthesizing the needs and strengths of our congregation, our community, and our partners, deepening relationships and collaboratively discerning where and what we are called to be.
- Equipping Saint Markans to respond to our current community in this current time, in ways that might look like
 - Solidarity and support for our immigrant siblings,
 - Growing practices of mutual aid and basic needs support within the congregation and with our neighbors,
 - And fostering a discipleship practice of public witness, walking alongside other people of faith to advocate for justice, mercy, and care.

We can't do everything. But we can – we *must* – do something. I'll be starting a regular communication around concrete ways we can put our faith in action together, grounded in prayer and sparked by the Spirit, who is kindling Advent hope, even as we live through the longest nights.

In hope, perseverance, and joy,

Rev. Clara

The Longest Night Service

Friday, December 19th | 2pm



What is the Longest Night? The winter solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in our Northern Hemisphere, this year it occurs on December 21st. The solstice symbolizes the beginning of winter and a turning point, after which days begin to get longer.

It is also in the middle of our Liturgical New Year – Advent – the time of Hope and anticipation.

Every Advent is different. Some are memorable – some are painful.

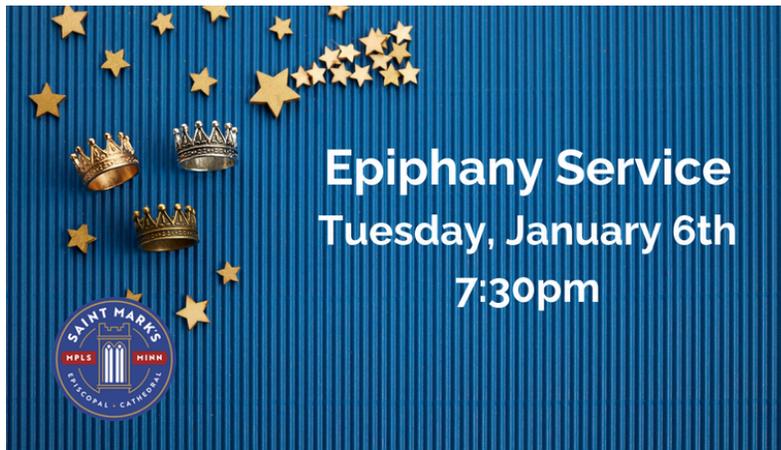
There are Advents where something or someone is missing. There are Advents marred by family, societal or personal trauma - losses of livelihoods, family, security, trust, and maybe even faith.

The Longest Night service is an offering for all of us. This will be a service of scripture, prayers, sharing of the Eucharist, and music. During this service, we invite you to bring your losses and grief to a place where they may be held gently and sacredly. During this service, we honor our sufferings and enfold them in the promise of the Incarnation.

This Year we will gather on Friday afternoon the 19th instead of the day of the Solstice – Sunday the 21st. Liturgically, Sundays are already full! We schedule the service during daylight hours at 2pm so all can participate; not everyone drives at night in the deep darkness.

Based on your requests, we will have a candle-lighting ritual in confidential recognition of the losses and griefs on our hearts. These may include names of people lost, griefs, or other kinds of losses.

Email Reverend Siri at sirih@ourcathedral.org or leave a message on our Pastoral Care voicemail at 612-400-1217 with your requests.



Following the 12 days of Christmas (Don't throw your Christmas tree out on December 26th! There are 11 more days to celebrate.) We celebrate on January 6th at 7:30pm the **Feast of the Epiphany** with a Choral Mass. We remember the many "epiphanies" or revelations of Jesus Christ as God's Son to the World. Christ's divinity!

Our Episcopal Liturgy again is plentiful with beautiful scripture and music and a sharing of a meal with the Eucharist. We remember the visit of the Magi or Wise Men to the infant Jesus, symbolizing Christ being revealed to the Gentiles.

The gifts of the Magi—**gold, frankincense, and myrrh**—are deeply symbolic in Christian tradition:

Gold

- Represents **kingship and royalty**. It acknowledges Jesus as the King of Kings, a ruler worthy of this most precious metal.

Frankincense

- A fragrant resin used in **worship and prayer**. It symbolizes **divinity**, pointing to Jesus as God incarnate. It was commonly burned in temples as an offering to God.

Myrrh

- A resin used for **anointing and embalming**. Myrrh foreshadows Jesus' **suffering and death**, as myrrh was used in burial preparation at this time. It reminds us that His mission includes sacrifice and redemption.

Together, these gifts express the fullness of Christ's identity: **King, God, and Savior who will die for humanity.**

Epiphany is the service where we "Bless the chalk" - While the main service is liturgical, it is fun to add customs that we can do at home - so we Bless the chalk for **Chalking the Door**: A piece of blessed chalk is used to write a formula like 20 + C + M + B + 25 above the home's door lintel (above the door frame) The letters stand for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this house."

Maybe you have 12th Night traditions you do at home or you make a King's Cake. Celebrate with your community and share your traditions with others!

A Great British Christmas

Saturday December 20, 7:30pm

This concert made its debut last year, and its popularity ensures that it has become an annual event!

But what is it, and why the strange name?

Well, each year in Britain (England, really) there are countless Christmas concerts, but one concert in particular stands out: the annual event in the Royal Albert Hall.

John Rutter has often played a prominent role in this, both as a conductor and composer, and the concert usually contains part of Handel's Messiah, along with some other festive music, and carols for the audience to join in singing.

Our concert this year features Rutter's Brother Heinrich's Christmas, narrated by MPR's Michael Barone, which tells the story of the eponymous monk and his donkey Sigismund, who not only assists in helping make the wine but also plays a pivotal role in helping him compose a new carol.

Also included is Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, a short selection from Handel's Messiah, some carols for the choirs, and of course some carols for the audience to sing along with.

Tickets are \$25 for those aged 13 and above, and there is also a reception featuring some traditional Christmas goodies.

Tickets are available online through Eventbrite, in the Cathedral Bookshop or at the door.

Saint Mark's Music Series Presents

A Great British Christmas

December 20 at 7:30pm

Brother Heinrich's Christmas - Rutter
Nutcracker Suite - Tchaikovsky
Selections from Messiah - Handel
Carols with audience participation

Cathedral Choir, Choral Society, and Orchestra
directed by Raymond Johnston

Tickets available online or at the door
\$25 13 and older





Beloved in Christ, be it at this Season of the year, our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

Thus begins the beautiful service of **9 Lessons and 9 Carols**. A spoken and sung "traditional" Christmas Eve service that retells the story of the fall of humanity and the birth of Jesus through nine biblical readings, or "lessons," interspersed with carols and hymns. The service begins with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City" and includes readings from Genesis, Isaiah, and the Gospels.

Born from the profound grief and turmoil of the First World War, mere weeks after its conclusion, the author of the service was The Rev. Eric Milner-White, chaplain at King's College, Cambridge, England. The service embodies a powerful narrative of resilience and hope - as important today as it was at its first offering Christmas Eve 1918.

We invite you to be still and listen. We invite you to sing with joy. We invite you to welcome the Christ Child and the loving purpose of God in the warmth of community and sacredness.

Christmas Eve Service, 11 pm

Christmas Eve, December 24, 11pm we begin the celebration festivities of the birth of Christ which is on Christmas Day December 25th. Our Incarnation story begins on Advent I with Isaiah proclaiming - O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! and culminating on Christmas Day with the celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem.

Our **Christmas Eve Service** begins at 11pm with candles, community and families gathering together for the scripturally and musically rich liturgy rooted in the Incarnation story. Eucharist will be celebrated as the first "meal" honoring the birth of Christ. Hymn singing begins at 10:30pm for those wanting to find a seat early.

Christmas Day Service

Choral Eucharist
December 25th | 10am



Christmas Day Service 10 am

Because of Minnesota's Germanic and Scandinavian influences – Christmas Eve is often considered the BIG celebration, but do not ignore the Christmas Day Service on December 25 at 10am. Full Cathedral Choir, scripture and Eucharist to begin your day of festivities honoring the new life! The New Life of Christ.

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.

Cathedral Holiday Schedule

Please note that the Cathedral will close following Christmas Day services and remain closed December 29–January 2. During this time, there will be no building hours, allowing our staff to celebrate with their families, rest, and prepare for the year ahead.

We will gather for regular services on Sunday, December 28, and resume our usual schedule on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Wishing you a safe and joyful New Year—we look forward to sharing 2026 with you!

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