November 23, 2025 ~ The Feast of Christ the King 10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out 5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816 301.229.2994

StDunstansBethesda.org

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Lila and Sany Saidi, Sunday Morning Childcare Providers

Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything.

People kill one another over idols.

Wonder makes us fall to our knees.

~ Saint Gregory of Nyssa



Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Dunstan's this morning! We are a community of seekers doing our best to live authentically and faithfully in this challenging and complicated world, and we are delighted that you are sharing the journey with us today.

Children are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. There are coloring sheets on the round table between the glass doors, as well as books and soft toys at the back of the church. Rest assured: We are delighted by the "joyful noise" that children inevitably make, *and* don't worry if you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes.



Babysitting for children 4 and under is provided downstairs in the Nursery. For everyone's safety, registration is <u>required</u>: Please scan the QR code to the left to sign up.

To learn more about offerings for children and families, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.

Restrooms are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the wooden pews uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **cushion** from the rear of the Nave for use during worship.

Please wear a **name tag!** Permanent name tags are on the board in the entry hall. If you don't yet have a permanent tag, please use a stick-on badge until we can make you an official one.

Unless otherwise noted, music for this morning's **hymns** may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing* in your pew rack.



The flowers adorning the Altar this morning are given by **Vince Leonard**, to the Glory of God and in honor of **Lynne Adduci Leonard**'s birthday on November 19.

Please observe a period of meditative quiet before worship. This time is intended for contemplation, not conversation: it is an opportunity to open ourselves to God's presence and to offer to God the concerns we carry on our hearts.

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Ulysses Squitieri, organ

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Music: *Hymnal*, 433

Processional Hymn

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing"

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing: sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning: thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.

Let thy congregation escape tribulation: thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever, Amen.

The Collect for Purity

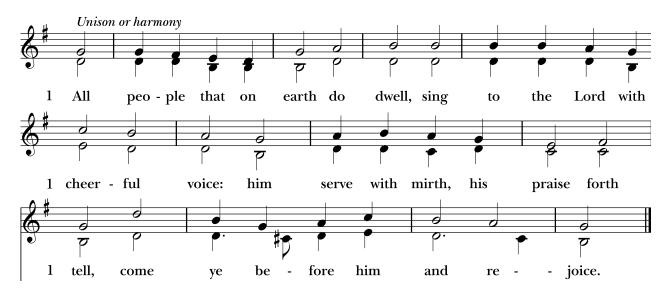
Presider and People

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Song of Praise

"All people that on earth do dwell," v. 1

Hymnal, 377



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all

things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever,

Amen.

Please be seated.

Children are invited to attend Children's Chapel in the Youth Room.

The Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He

is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, * a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, * and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam, * and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The God of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, * the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken; * God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The God of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the Most High, * who does awesome things on earth.

It is God who makes war to cease in all the world, * who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

The God of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Please stand and join in singing.

Music: Hymnal, 444

Sequence Hymn

"Blessed be the God of Israel"

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free; he visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

He from the house of David a child of grace has given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.

On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior,
with songs that never cease.

The Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God,

his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you Lord Christ.

Please be seated at the preacher's invitation.

The Sermon The Rector

After a moment of silence, please stand.

The Nicene Creed

Leader and People

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.

^{*}universal

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Almighty God, in confidence and trust we lift our prayers to you.

We pray for the world:

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace, that we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it; teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Move the President and the rulers of all the nations to set aside fear, greed, and vain ambition.

Inspire them to strive for peace and justice.

We pray for the Church:

O God, enliven the Church for its mission,

that we may be the salt of the earth and light to the world.

Bless and guide *Sarah*, Archbishop of Canterbury-designate; *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop; *Mariann*, our Bishop; *Eugene*, our Assisting Bishop; and *Hosam*, Archbishop in Jerusalem;

may all who minister in your Name speak truth, seek forgiveness, and be instruments of healing.

Break down the barriers that divide,

that the Church may serve you in one common ministry.

We pray for the community:

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours;

may we serve Christ in one another and love as He loves us.

Remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people,

so that your children may be reconciled and live together in peace.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:

God of hope, comfort and restore all in need of healing of any kind, especially those on our Parish Prayer List (see p. 15), and the individuals and situations we name now, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers of petition and intercession

Make us channels of compassion,

that we may share your restoring love.

Uphold those who wait this day for a word of hope: those who live in places torn apart by violence, war, or disaster; immigrants and refugees; and the unemployed, underemployed, and unhoused.

May they find shelter under the shadow of your wing.

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve their loss:

We remember with thanksgiving those who have joined our Lord in Paradise, especially *Torrence Thomas*, and those whom we now name, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers for the departed

Loving God, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn; fill them with your boundless peace.

The Presider concludes

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name, **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

A brief silence

Presider Most merciful God,

and People 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.

Presider 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

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you!

People And also with you!

Please greet one another in the Name of Christ and then be seated.

Welcome

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

At the Offertory

Sing My Soul His Wondrous Love

N. Rorem (1923-2022)

Music: Hymnal, 380

Dashiell Waterbury, soloist

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church! If you would like to make an offering this morning, you may place it in the Offertory bag. Please also feel free to donate online at https://stdunstansbethesda.org/support/donate.html or mail a check to the Parish Office.

The Holy Communion

Please stand as the Offering is brought forward and join in singing.

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

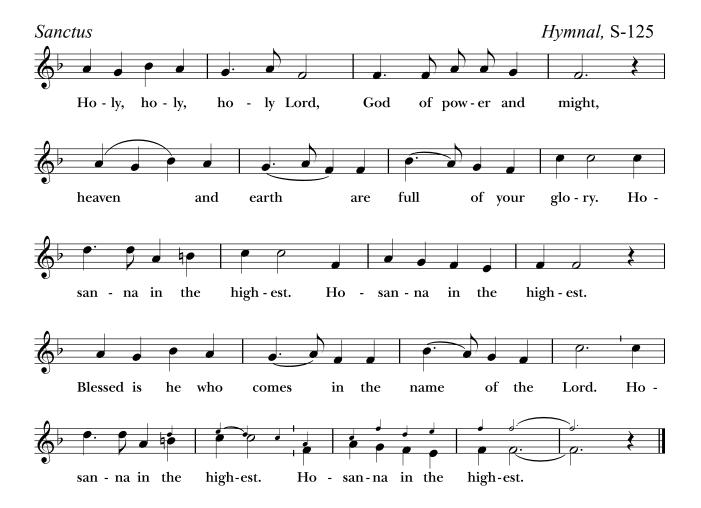
We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

Blessed are you, Lord God, for you have looked favorably on your people and redeemed them. You raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of your servant David, as you spoke through the mouth of your holy prophets from of old. You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant, the oath that you swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days, and finally coming to dwell with you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



Please stand, kneel, or sit.

God most high, you sent Jesus as a prophet and a promise; for he went before you to prepare your ways, to give knowledge of your salvation in the breaking and pouring and sharing of bread and wine.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that your people may be sanctified by your grace, and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

continued

Great is the mystery of faith.

Presider and People

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

By your tender mercy, Lord God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Inscribe us in that tender mercy, that we may be people of tenderness and mercy. Clothe us and all your Creation in the kingship of Christ, that we may know your power in weakness, your rule through grace, and your triumph through sacrifice, until all bow before your throne and worship in your glory, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **AMEN**.

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

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Presider We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Presider These are the Gifts of God for you, the People of God, Amen.

Please be seated.

The Communion

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament in one or both kinds. Consecrated wine is available from the chalice or in individual cups; gluten-free Communion bread is available upon request.

Please place used Communion cups in the bowl at the back for reverent disposal.

If you would prefer not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, the signal for which is to cross your arms over your chest when you reach the Altar.

Music during Communion

"My song is love unknown"

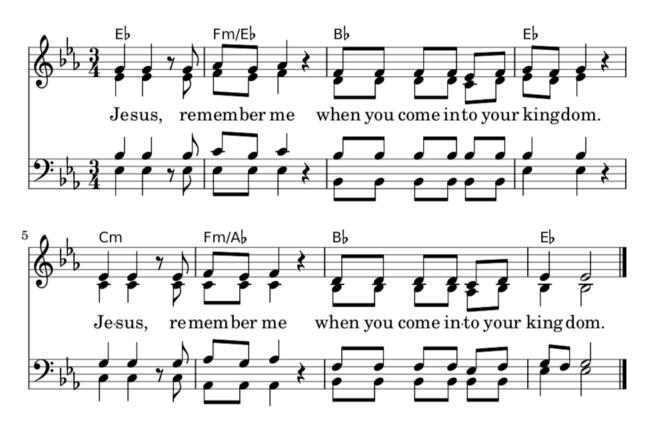
Hymnal, 458

The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir

Please join in singing.

"Jesus, remember me"

Taizé chant



Repeat, following the Choir

Please stand.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray:

and People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as

living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of

heart; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Blessing

May we remain open to wonder and mystery, to what is strange and new and precious in each child of God, that we might walk in the light of hope. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, and all those you love, always, **Amen.**

Please join in singing.

Music: Hymnal, 494

Closing Hymn

"Crown him with many crowns," vv. 1, 3, 5

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King, to whom is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall, crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.

Please be seated following the hymn.

Announcements

Please stand.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us bless the Lord!
People Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Ulysses Squitieri, organ



Please remember in prayer:

Julie Anderson; Jeff Boesch; Rebecca Bryant; Phil and Patti Carroll; Steve Cooper; Austin Cox; Henry Cox; Donna Embry; Kenny Farnsworth; Katie Beck Fey; John Hogg; Ben Hull; David Hull; Debbie Kirk; Frank Libutti; Patricia Mackenzie; Rick Nickles; Joyce Nugent; Daniel Phaneuf; Linda Rogers; Shannon Rose; Barbara Sander; Curtis Shively; Jalene Spain Thomas; Jack Tovornik; Ellie Tupper; Peggy Vaughn; Sandra Walters; Jim Ward; Ben; Bill; Christopher; Claire; David; Farid; Gerald; Henry; Karen; Katherine; Marty; Melanie; Phyllis; Sherry; and Shiloh

Celebrating More Contemporary Saints

Part of our rich Anglican tradition is the commemoration of significant figures in the history of The Episcopal Church who have set an example of "saintly living" for the rest of us. These noteworthy individuals are remembered on the liturgical calendar of the Church, and their biographies are anthologized in Lesser Feasts and Fasts. This week we feature James Huntington, whose feast day is this Tuesday, November 25, and King Kamehameha and Queen Emma, whose feast day is Friday, November 28.

James Otis Sargent Huntington, priest and monastic founder, is honored in the Episcopal Church for his deep spirituality joined with a lifelong concern for justice. As founder of the Order of the Holy Cross, the first Episcopal monastic community for men in America, he dedicated his life to prayer, service, and ministry among the poor.

Huntington believed holiness could not exist apart from action. His work among laborers and immigrants in New York's Lower East Side and his leadership in founding the Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor reflected his conviction that faith must heal the inequalities of society. He also supported reform movements such as the single tax to promote fair distribution of resources.

Through his preaching, teaching, and works of mercy, Huntington inspired a vision of Christian community grounded in compassion and justice. His life continues to remind the Church that prayer and social service are one vocation in the love of Christ.

King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma were devoted Christian monarchs who invited the Church of England to Hawaii, establishing the Anglican tradition and founding St. Andrew's Cathedral. Their reign prioritized Christian principles, blending faith with public service, and leading initiatives in education, healthcare, and social welfare that deeply benefited the Hawaiian people. Both the King and Queen were confirmed as Anglicans in 1862, and the feast of the Holy Sovereigns is celebrated on November 28 in their honor.

King Kamehameha IV was admired for his humility and compassionate leadership, seeing himself as a servant to his people. Queen Emma is celebrated for her empathy and charitable works, notably founding The Queen's Hospital to care for Hawaiians. Together, they modeled Christian reconciliation and inclusion, bridging cultural divides and setting a precedent of faith-based service and welcome in their kingdom.

~ Curated by Ray Donnelly

Announcements

Today at St. Dunstan's:

- + Welcome, Visitors! We are delighted that you are here, and we hope you can stay for a few minutes after worship so that we can greet you properly. To learn more about St. Dunstan's, please fill out a visitor form, found on the table in the entry hall, and help yourself to a welcome bag as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today.
- + **Fellowship Time:** Come share a cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and good conversation in the **Parish Hall** immediately following this service.
- + Our annual Stewardship Drive: "With Glad and Generous Hearts" (Acts 2:46) continues this week, through December 14. This drive will enable your Rector and Vestry to plan for (and fund) our staffing and ministries for the coming year. Together, let us thank God for all our abundant blessings by supporting God's mission in this place.



+ **Donations** for this year's **Festive Christmas Auction** are **due TODAY!**



This year's Festive Christmas
Auction will be live online from next
Sunday, November 30 through Sunday,
December 14. Mark your calendars now
for this fun, online auction event! We
would love everyone to be involved in
donating an auction experience and
bidding! Remember: All proceeds support
the important mission and ministry of St.
Dunstan's.

What can you donate? Be creative! Think Experiences! Something enjoyable, useful, and/or helpful to offer and that others will want to bid on and win! Please see the **online newsletter** to submit your online auction item and for suggestions of what you might donate. Donors from last year who want to donate again need to submit this form, too. *This auction is virtual and online only; no physical auction items can be delivered to the church but can be presented directly to the auction winner.*

Questions? Danette (Dani) Kauffman: <u>danettekauffman@rcn.com</u>; 202-258-9743 (m)

continued

This Week:

- + Tuesday, November 25:
 - 12 Noon: Prayers for Peace and Healing (Zoom)
 - 7 p.m.: Monthly Vestry Meeting (Parish Hall/ Zoom)
- + Wednesday, November 26:
 - 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study on The Gospel of Luke (Zoom)
- + Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28:
 - Parish Office CLOSED for the Thanksgiving holiday
- + Next Sunday, November 30: The First Sunday of Advent
 - 9 a.m.: Festive Christmas Auction Opens! (Online)*
 - 10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist and Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Each week during this beautiful season we invite households to sign up to light the Advent Wreath at the beginning of the service; please see the button in the online newsletter to volunteer.
 - 12 Noon: Welcome Reception for Deacon Jessica Ault (Parish Hall)
 - 12:15 p.m. Advent Wreath Making Workshop (Parish Hall) If you would like to adopt the tradition of lighting candles for each of the weeks of the season, come make an Advent wreath after worship next Sunday. All materials will be provided!

*There will be someone onsite with a laptop next Sunday to help you bid online, if you would like assistance!







Worship is a verb! Every week there are plentiful opportunities to take part in the liturgy, from carrying the cross, to reading a lesson, to serving Communion, to supporting Children's Chapel – and so much more. Please watch the newsletter every Tuesday to sign up for a role. *Parents:* Your children are *always* encouraged to participate; please don't hesitate to reach out to explore ways for them to be involved actively. Thank you! ~ Patty+

Serving this Morning

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander **Musicians:** Diane Atherton, Ulysses Squitieri, Dashiell Waterbury, and The St. Dunstan's Chancel Choir **Altar Guild:** Marsha Barnes, Augusta Cox, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen Flower Guild: Trudy Surut Susie Cooper **Greeter: Livestream Minister:** Karen Edwards Connelly Anderson Gomez **Acolyte:** Crucifer: Elin Botha Children's Chapel: Jenna Monroe and Jia Lynn Yang **Lector:** Cami Caudill **Emily Elder Psalm Leader: Intercessor:** Diane Adams **Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Cami Caudill and Emily Elder **Ushers:** Fred Smoak **Barista: Vestry Member** of the Day: **Snack Angel:** Elin Botha

Attributions

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On the Cover*:

This is the King of the Jews (Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

The Epistle and Gospel:

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Psalm:

The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language, © 2004, The Order of Saint Helena

The Prayers of the People:

Adapted from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018, Westminster John Knox Press

The Great Thanksgiving:

Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic Prayers*, © 2016, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; used by permission of The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde, Bishop of Washington

The Fraction:

Enriching Our Worship 1, © 1998, Church Publishing, Incorporated

The Blessing:

Adapted from Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* © 2009, Church Publishing, Incorporated

Artist's Reflection: "This is the King of the Jews." The place was called "The Skull," perhaps because the rocky hill was shaped like a skull, or perhaps because it was littered with skulls from previous executions. Either way, it was barren and ugly. They crucified him with two criminals, and mocked him by offering him sour wine and saying, "Let him save himself if he is the Messiah." And they hung a sign over him, "This is the King of the Jews." It was meant to be a bitter, sordid and ugly ending to the life of this rebel. Little did they know.

So, the "crown" depicted here is murky and unearthly and puzzling. I made it on a gel printing plate, which lets you make such ghostly images. The thorny spikes of the "crown" were printed with a porcupine quill. The piece poses the question: Do we know, yet, that Jesus was and is The Christ, our King?

~ Sue Carroll, *Liturgical Artist-in-Residence*