

**Christmas Morning at St. Dunstan's
Celebration of Holy Eucharist
December 25, 2025**



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out

5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816

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StDunstansBethesda.org

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Lila and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate our Lord's birth with us this morning! Your presence is a blessing, and we hope to see you again.

If you are visiting for the first time, please help yourself to a **welcome bag** as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today. *If you would like to learn more about St. Dunstan's, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.*

Following the service, please stop by the **Parish Hall** (the large room to your left as you exit the church) for **coffee, goodies, and fellowship**.

Children are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. On Sunday mornings we offer a special **Children's Chapel** program while parents are in worship: Children are invited to join our Children's Minister after the Opening Prayer and return in time for Communion. 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.

Restrooms are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the wooden pews uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **red seat 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 and carols** may be found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* in your pew rack.

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Ulysses Squitieri, organ

J.S. Bach

The Liturgy of the Word

Please stand as the procession enters and join in singing.

Processional Hymn

“Hark! the herald angels sing”

Music: *Hymnal*, 87

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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

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

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 us to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Refrain

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!

Refrain

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Presider Almighty God,
and People **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.**

The Song of Praise

"Good Christian friends, rejoice"

Music: *Hymnal*, 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today;
 ox and ass before him bow,
 and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today!
 Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Lector A Reading from Hebrews:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to God,
who has done marvelous things.

With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm,
you have won for yourself the victory.

You have made known your victory;
your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.

You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to God, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to God with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
shout with joy before our God who reigns in majesty.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before God,
who will come to judge the earth;

God shall judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

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

Sequence Hymn

“Of the Father’s love begotten

Music: *Hymnal*, 82

Of the Father’s love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

The Gospel: John 1:1-14

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

People **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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Homily

The Rector

After a moment of silence, please stand, as you are able.

The Prayers of the People

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world: for *Sarah*, Archbishop of Canterbury-elect; *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop; *Mariann*, our Bishop; *Eugene*, our Assisting Bishop; *Hosam*, Archbishop in Jerusalem; and for all lay and ordained ministers. Let us pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We remember the President and Vice President, the Members of

Congress and the Justices of the Supreme Court, and all those in positions of public trust. Let us pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. We remember especially those on our parish Prayer List (*see p. 16*) and all in any need or trouble, including those whom we name now, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers of petition or intercession

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Let us pray that all of God's children may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially *The Right Reverend Clark Grew*, and those in whose memory the Christmas flowers and music have been given this year. Let us pray for all who have died, including those whom we now name, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers of petition or intercession

Let us praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, praying that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for the individuals in whose honor the Christmas flowers and music have been dedicated this year, and all those blessings we now name, silently and aloud.

Pause for prayers of thanksgiving

The Presider concludes

Holy God, all-glorious giver of grace, you are light, shining in darkness; you are life, the life of all people. Fill us with the light and life of Christ, through whom all things were made, so that we may be faithful disciples, bearing witness to your grace and truth; through Christ, your Word made flesh, **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider May the peace of the Incarnate Christ be always with you!
People **And also with you!**

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

Welcome and Announcements

Presider

Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

At the Offertory

Sweet was the sounge the veregin sange

Anon.

arr. for lute and voice by W. Foxe

Heather Fetrow, *soprano*

William Stevens, *lute*

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

Music: *Hymnal*, 380

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

Eucharistic Prayer D

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Presider and People

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a measure with a whole rest, indicating a pause in the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Please stand, kneel, or sit.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we

might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."**

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Presider continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Dunstan and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever, **AMEN.**

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

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

Please be seated.

The Communion

All are invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament in one or both kinds. Consecrated wine is available by sipping from the chalice or intincting (dipping) the bread into the wine.

Gluten-free Communion bread is available upon request.

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

Music during Communion

“A stable lamp is lighted”

Hymnal, 104

*The text of this hymn is still under copyright;
please use the blue Hymnal 1982, found in your pew rack.*

Please stand, as you are able.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray: God of abundance,
and People **you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior, Amen.**

Please stand, as you are able.

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you – and all those you love – for ever, **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Go tell it on the mountain”

Music: *Hymnal*, 99

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Dismissal

Presider

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Toccata on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

P. Fey

Based on Vierne’s *Symphony I Finale*

Ulysess Squitieri, *organ*

**The Clergy, Vestry, and Staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a most
blessed Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year!**

Please remember in prayer:

Jeff Boesch; Rebecca Bryant; Phil and Patti Carroll; Steve Cooper; Austin Cox;
Henry Cox; DJ Crane; Tanya Edwards; Donna Embry; Kenny Farnsworth;
Katie Beck Fey; Ben Hull; Debbie Kirk; Frank Libutti; Patricia Mackenzie;
Rick Nickles; Joyce Nugent; Daniel Phaneuf; Linda Rogers; Shannon Rose;
Curtis Shively; Jack Tovornik; Peggy Vaughn; Sandra Walters; Ben; Bill;
Christopher; David; Gerald; Henry; JW; Karen; Katherine; Marty; Melanie; Phyllis;
Sherry; *and* Shiloh

+++

Announcements

Parish Office Closed, December 25—January 1

In the event of a pastoral emergency,
please email the Rector or call/text her cell phone.

Sunday, December 28

10:30 a.m.

Service of Morning Prayer

American Red Cross Blood Drive

January 8, 2026

12 Noon – 5 p.m.

St. Dunstan's Parish Hall

All blood types are urgently needed in the winter.
To register to donate, scan the QR code to the right or email
Louise Smoak (louisehhs@gmail.com) or
David Hull (David.Hull@redcross.org).



Serving this Morning

Presider and Preacher:

The Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander

Musicians:

Diane Atherton, Heather Fetrow, William Stevens, and Ulysses Squitieri

Altar Guild:

Marsha Barnes, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen

Flower Guild:

Rosemarie Barrett and Trudy Surut

Lector:

Marsha Barnes

Intercessor:

Michelle Mesen

Ushers:

David and Janet Repka

Lay Eucharistic Minister:

Michelle Mesen

Barista:

Snack Angel:

Janet Repka

The Christmas flowers adorning the Altar have been given by:

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander

*In loving memory of Mildred and Joseph Alexander
and Dorothy and Edgar Phaneuf*

*In thanksgiving for Randy, William, Peter, and Andrew Alexander
and Bailey Jordan*

Danette Gentile Kauffman

In loving memory of Frances Wells Biddinger and Gretchen and Daniel Gentile

*In thanksgiving for Diane Adams,
and for all who participated in St Dunstan's 2025 Festive Christmas Auction*

Lisa and Norman Martin

*In loving memory of James Kelly, Norman D. Martin, Marion Brennan Meany,
Hamilton and Mary Moy, and Joyanna Moy*

David and Janet Repka

In thanksgiving for our family, near and far

Trudy Surut

In loving memory of Lee E. Surut and Alice and David Tulley

The Valone Family

Attributions

(Unless otherwise noted below, this morning's liturgy is taken from
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New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education
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The Psalm:

The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language,
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The Concluding Collect:

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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St. Dunstan's
Episcopal Church

Come share the journey with us