## Christmas Day



Wednesday 25 December 2024 10:00AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II (in the nave)

## Welcome & Merry Christmas!

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke
in the
City of Portland
and the
Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Whoever you are, and wherever you may be on the journey of the Spirit, the Episcopal Church welcomes you.



#### Merry Christmas & Welcome to St. Luke's Cathedral!

We are a faith community with ancient worship and modern thought, catholic traditions and progressive theology. We proclaim a Biblical perspective for thinking people, a respect for reason, science, and a diversity of perspective. This empowers compassion and care for both the wider community and one another. Our commitment to welcome and inclusion is central to our mission modeled on the Kingdom of God and proclaimed by Jesus Christ. We are part of the 1.7 million-member **Episcopal Church** in the United States, and the 85 million-member worldwide **Anglican Communion**.

#### St. Luke's Territorial Acknowledgement

St Luke's acknowledges that we are worshiping on "unceded territory taken by force and previously occupied by the **Wabanaki people**." (Amended City Charter, Portland, Maine). Some of the resources that built this cathedral came from industry related to the slave trade in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. We join our fellow residents in honoring the Wabanaki knowledge and culture that continues to thrive in the Tribal Nations. We ask for Blessing and Peace upon all indigenous peoples that have called, and always will call, this place—"The Dawnland"—HOME.

**Today, St. Luke's welcomes every person** to share in the Episcopal Church's mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ." As a cathedral, St. Luke's is the seat of the bishop and the chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. St. Luke's first service was held on Christmas Day in 1868, and continues over 150 years of reaching out to the city and people of Portland.

#### Service Participants

Preacher & Celebrant The Right Reverend Thomas J. Brown, Tenth Bishop of Maine

Assisting The Reverend Rebecca A. Grant, Deacon

The Reverend Christopher Worthley, Assisting Clergy

Music Leader & Organist Christian M. Clough, Canon for Liturgy & Music

Lector & Prayers Leader Cynthia Morris

Ushers Stan Kuziel

Live Streaming Jack Swanton, Sam Allen

Contributing Ministries Acolytes, Vergers, The Flower Guild, The Altar Guild, The Kneeler Guild

Please stand as you are able.



The Hymnal 1982 – #83 "O come, all ye faithful" Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, Irr., present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

#### **Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant Alleluia! To us a child is born!

People Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

#### **Collect for Purity**

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 Savior. Amen.



Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, 77. 77 with Refrain, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

Celebrant May God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

#### Collect of the Day

Celebrant Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by

adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to

whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

People Amen.

Please sit.

#### First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader A rea

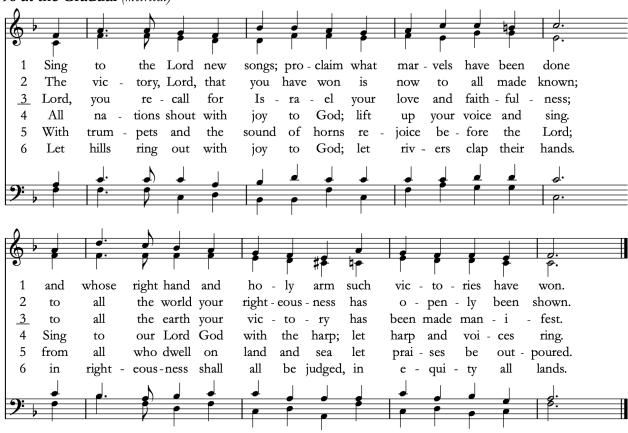
A reading from the fifty-second chapter of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People** Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated for the psalm.

#### Psalm 98 at the Gradual (metrical)



Psalm tr. A New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber, Copyright © Christopher L. Webber. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: Winchester Old, CM, melody from The Whole Book of Psalmes, 1592; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1922

#### Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader A reading from the first chapter of 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord. **People** Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



The Hymnal 1982 – #91 "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light"; Words: Johann Rist (1607-1667); ver. Hymnal 1982 Music: Ermuntre dich, 87. 87. 88.77, melody Johann Schop (d. 1665?), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

The Gospel John 1:1-14

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.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

#### The Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

from Enriching our Worship

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who 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.

#### Christmas Prayers of the People

from Daily Prayers for All Seasons

Leader Wonderful Counselor, whose glory is beyond our understanding and whose love is beyond measure:

People Let us know your presence now.

Leader Mighty God, whose power girds creation, whose hands cradle the hills, yet whose mercy is

boundless:

People Let us know your presence now.

Leader Prince of Peace, whose righteousness is like the strong mountains and whose justice is as the great

deep:

People Let us know your presence now.

Leader Emmanuel, whose property it is always to have mercy, and whose arm is long to save, we lift before

you now those on our prayer list, those in whose names the flowers are given, and those we now

name.

The people may add their own intercessions.

Hold all those we love in your unbounded love.

*People* Make us your healing presence in the world.

Leader

Loving Word of God, you have shown us the fullness of your glory in taking human flesh: Fill us, in our bodily life, with your grace and truth, that our pleasure may be boundless and our integrity complete.

The Word made flesh:

People

Makes God known to us. Amen.

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant

May the Peace of the Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Please sit.

Announcements

#### Offering

Celebrant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as an offering and sacrifice to God.

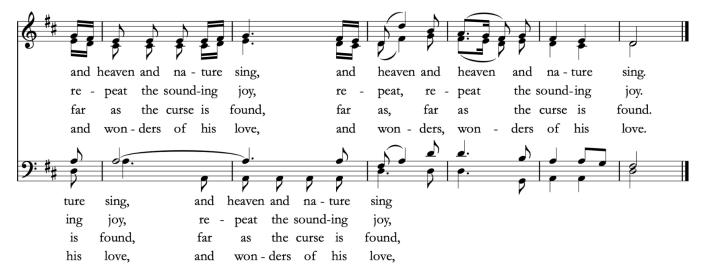


A free will offering in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral is taken at this time. All quarters in the offering plate go to support lunches for the school children in Duny, Häiti.

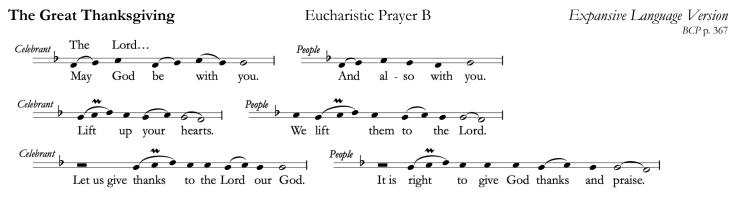
Online giving is available at <stlukesportland.org/give/>.

Please stand as you are able.

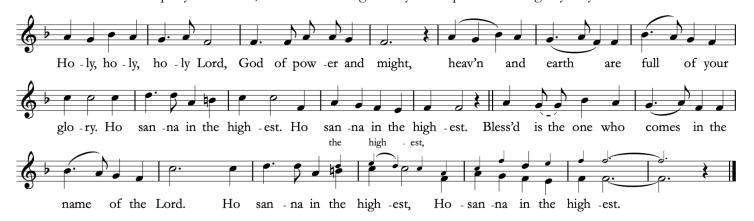




The Hymnal 1982 – #100 "Joy to the world"; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, CM with repeat, Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)



Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfectly human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Music: from A Community Mass, Richard Prouls (1937-2010), Copyright © 1971, 1977 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted & streamed under OneLicense.net #A-713087

The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command,

All We remember Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await Christ's coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Luke and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: St. Louis, CMD, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

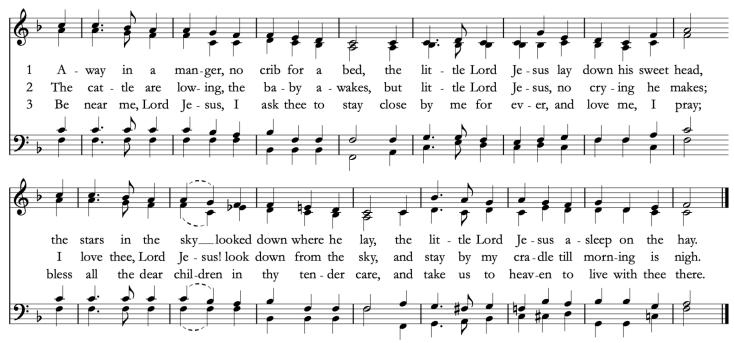
Celebrant

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.

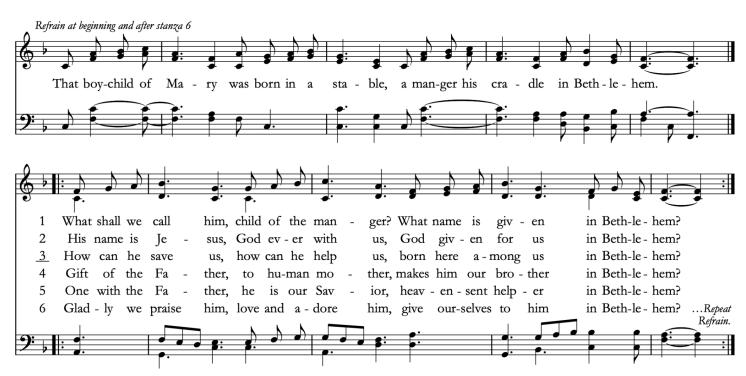
#### Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. As the Iona Community says, "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 here in 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."

Ushers will assist you to approach by the center and return by the side aisles. You are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine when presented; we believe that the divine presence is fully present in both the bread and the wine, and you may refuse either. For example, you may choose to receive only the bread, and then walk away; or, if you would like, you may touch the chalice with your hand, and not actually consume any wine. If you would like to receive the blessing of the Church, but not communion, indicate to the clergy by crossing your arms when approached. If you are not able to come forward, please motion to an usher, and communion will be brought to you.



Words: sts. 1-2 anonymous, st. 3 John T. McFarland (1851-1913). Music: Mueller, 11 11 11 11; James R. Murray (1841-1905)



Lift Every Voice and Sing II – #25 "That boy-child of Mary"; Words: Luke 2:7; Tom Colvin (1925-2000) Music: Traditional Malawi Melody; adapt. Tom Colvin (1925-2000), Copyright © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Please stand as you are able.

#### Postcommunion Prayer

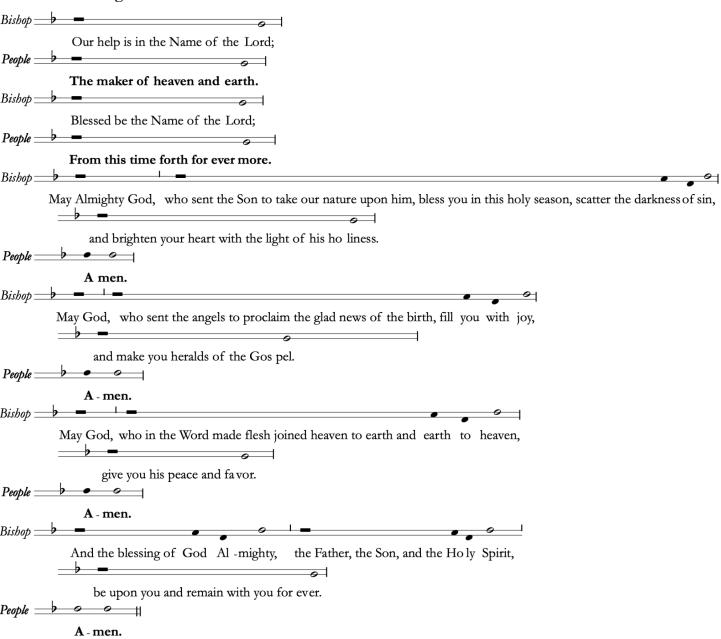
Celebrant Let us pra

People

God of abundance, 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 forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### Pontifical Blessing for Christmas





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, 77. 77. D with Refrain, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Toccata on Antioch Music: Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

### A Christmas Welcome from the Cathedral Church of St. Luke!

Dear Friends,

The first service held at the Cathedral of St. Luke was on Christmas in 1868. In the 156 years since, this community has sought to share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, service to our community and fellowship. We are glad that you have chosen to join us on this joyful occasion.

The Christmas story told in the Gospel of Luke includes an angel appearing to shepherds watching their flocks proclaiming 'the good news that will bring great joy for all the people'. The angel was, of course, announcing our Savior's unlikely arrival in a manger in Bethlehem. The arrival of God, in the person of Jesus, is called incarnation. The Doctrine of the Incarnation says that God became human so that we might become one with him through his body. Jesus is 100% human while maintaining full 100% divinity. If the math sounds wrong it's because this is a mystery, something we will never be able to fully grasp. The Apostle Paul calls it "the mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16).

In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes of how the Incarnation of Jesus transforms our relationship with one another. He says, "The Incarnation is the ultimate reason why the service of God cannot be divorced from the service of others."

As a cathedral, St. Luke's is the seat of the bishop and chief mission church of the Diocese and people of Maine. We gratefully serve the people of Portland and beyond by hosting the St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, the St. Luke's Food Pantry and many other outreach ministries. Information about our many outreach ministries, educational opportunities and history can be found on our website at <stlukesportland.org>

If you are visiting with us, I hope that you will find the Cathedral a place of welcome. Thank you for sharing in the good news and joy of this blessed season.

Merry Christmas!

The Rev. George R. Stevens, Interim Dean

We welcome you to return for any of our upcoming Christmas liturgies:

#### The First Sunday after Christmas: 29 December

7:30AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
10:00AM Holy Eucharist (with organ music and Christmas carols)
5:15PM Contemplative Eucharist with music

#### Epiphany Sunday: 5 January

7:30AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:00AM Holy Eucharist (with choir, followed by Christmas caroling and refreshments to mark the Twelfth Day of Christmas) 5:15PM Contemplative Eucharist with music

#### The Christmas Greens and Flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for...

Kristen Buteau, Craig Masse, Melissa Coy, Michael Coy, & Liam Coy by Susan McCuller Family & friends by Robyn & Alice Goshorn by Mary C. Doughty Family Family & friends by Byrd Wood The cathedral community by Avery Levesque-Schott Nancy Brain & John Watson by Peter & Connie Bingham Family & Friends by Debra Marcoux Family & Friends by Paula Gillies Our Wonderful Years at the Cathedral by David & Muffie Fernald

#### The Christmas Greens and Music are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of...

Edward & Ellen Lynsky by Richard & Ellen Farnsworth Richard & Bessie Farnsworth by Richard & Ellen Farnsworth Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Casper by John Wright & Michael Casper Mr. & Mrs. George C. Wright by John Wright & Michael Casper Oliver Pride, Mike Pride, & Arthur Roberts by Jessica, Misha, Charlotte, & Lucy Pride Michael "Mac" McCuller by Susan McCuller Arthur & Faith Jones by Susan McCuller Ryleigh & Finnegan by Peter Callnan & John Hennessy by Sallie Smith (Kise) Jim Kise Odile Veltz by Carol Weston by Toby & Stacie Webb Jack Wood by Rachel Northrop & family Mary Jane "MJ" Northrop Mary Rorke, Faye Rorke, & Thomas Rorke by Avery Levesque-Schott Our mothers: Lydia Kesich & Constance Donovan by the Kesich Family The Cauleys, Gaudions, & Palmers by the Palmer Family Roland Buteau by Carolyn Buteau G.A. & Doris Mackay by Carolyn Buteau Art Marcoux by Debra Marcoux by Philip Hamilton Earl & Mary Jane McArthur Frederick Hamilton Sr. & Jr. by Philip Hamilton Richard & Sandra MacPherson by Philip Hamilton

#### The Cathedral Church of St. Luke

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P.O. Box 4141, Portland, ME 04101-0341 (mailing address)

Website: stlukesportland.org E-mail: office@cathedralofstluke.org Phone: (207) 772-5434

#### Leadership

#### Staff

Bishop of Maine
The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown

Interim Dean
The Rev. George Stevens
<GStevens@cathedralofstluke.org>

Parish Administrator & Communications Specialist Avery Levesque-Schott <office@cathedralofstluke.org>

Canon for Liturgy & Music
Christian M. Clough < CClough@cathedralofstluke.org>

Deacon

The Rev. Rebecca Grant < RGrant@cathedralofstluke.org>

Bookkeeping
Wendy Kopera
<bookkeeper@cathedralofstluke.org>

St. Luke's Food Pantry Executive Director

Mary Brighthaupt <mbr/>brighthaupt@cathedralofstluke.org>

Sexton
Curtis Maurand

Housekeeping Donna Cirriello

#### **Volunteer Clergy**

The Rev. Christopher Worthley <a href="mailto:christopher.worthley@aya.yale.edu">christopher.worthley@aya.yale.edu</a>

#### Lesser Chapter

Wardens

Senior Warden Sam Allen (2025) Junior Warden Jamie Cough

Treasurer
Randi Hogan
<treasurer@cathedralofstluke.org>

Clerk
John Bancroft

Vestry Members
Class of 2025
Dan McDonald, Catherine Hyde

Class of 2026 Nancy Brain, Jamie Moore, Randi Hogan

Class of 2027 Stanley Kuziel, Eleanor Roberts, Mary Linneman



#### Thank you for your offering today!

You can donate to St. Luke's through our new and secure "Give and Text" feature. Please text "TEXTCSL" to 73256. You may give via our website by scanning the QR Code.





# WE WISH YOU A HEALTHY, JOYOUS, AND BLESSED NEW YEAR



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