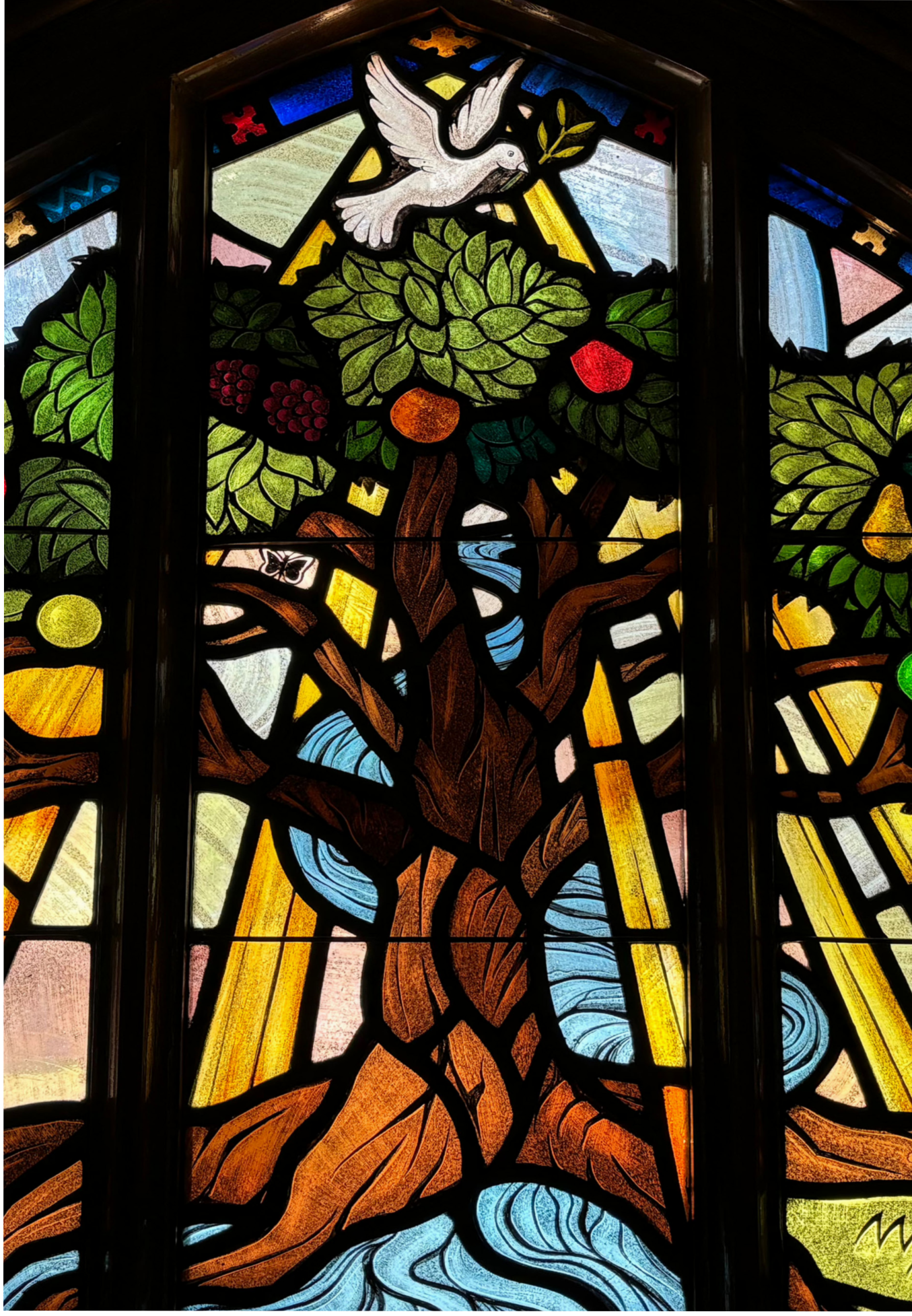


4 PM HOLY EUCHARIST: THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the
HEAVENLY REST

God's Love. For All.

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Wednesday, December 24th, 2025
4:00 in the afternoon

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Pastorale from The Christmas Concerto

Archangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Noel, Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

CAROL IN PROCESSION *O come, all ye faithful*

Hymn 83, verses 1-3, 6
Tune: *Adeste fideles*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

THE GLORIA *Angels we have heard on high*

Hymn 96, verses 1, 3
Tune: *Gloria*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that
we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven;
where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

CAROL *Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

Hymn 100
Tune: *Antioch*

All sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand and sing

SEQUENCE CAROL *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*

Hymn 94
Tune: Winchester Old

Turn and face the Gospeller.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend David Romanik, *Rector*

Following the sermon, all stand for

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father,
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Beloved in Christ, as we hear again the message of the Angels, let us rejoice God's heart by praying for the needs of the whole world.

All kneel or stand.

Intercessor

I ask your prayers for peace and goodwill over all the earth, especially in this country and this community.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the mission and unity of the Church for which Christ died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor and the helpless; and for the hungry and the oppressed.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the sick and those who mourn; for the lonely and the unloved; and for the aged and the little children.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Silence

The Celebrant adds this or another concluding Collect.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All stand for

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

At Heavenly Rest, we believe that we are called to respond to God's grace and generosity by giving of our time, talent, and treasure. The work of this church community is made possible by the financial contributions of those who worship here and participate in the life of this place. There are several ways to make a financial gift to Heavenly Rest: you may place cash or a check in the alms basin as it goes by; use the "Give" tab in the ChurchCenter App; or visit our website by using the QR code.

Merry Christmas!

Scan for online giving.
Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Cantique de Noël: O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

The People stand.

PRESENTATION CAROL *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

Hymn 107

Tune: *In dulci jubilo*

All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

S 125



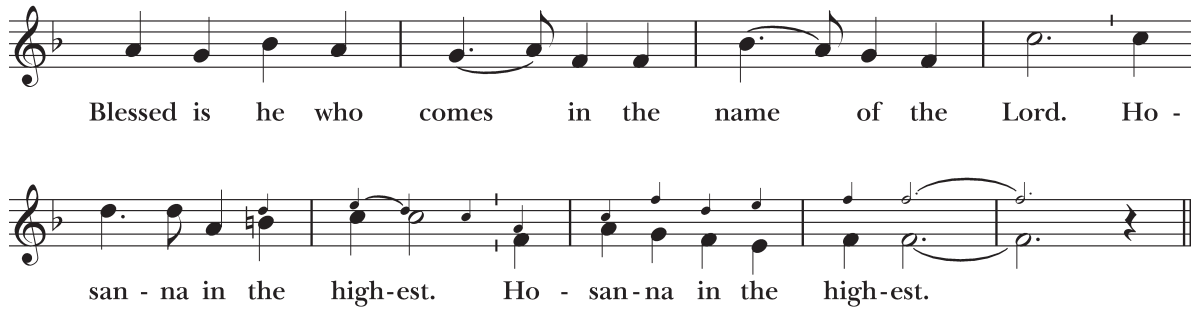
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



The People stand or kneel as they are able

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

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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

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

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

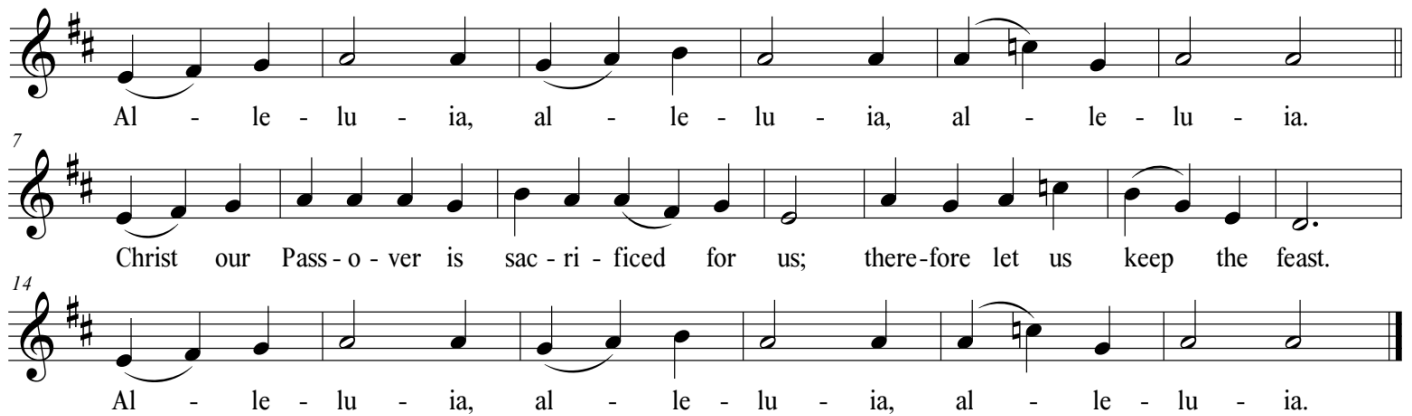
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

S 155



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

7 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.

14 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Celebrant proceeds

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not baptized, you may come forward to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. If you are interested in being baptized, please speak to one of the clergy after the service.

Communion will be distributed at two stations: at the altar rail and in front of the pulpit. If you do not wish to receive wine, please cross your arms over your chest when the chalice comes by. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you wait to receive Communion.

COMMUNION CAROLS

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Hymn 81, stanzas 1 - 2
Tune: *Es ist ein Ros*

O little town of Bethlehem

Hymn 79, stanzas 1-3, 5
Tune: *St. Louis*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed

Hymn 101
Tune: *Cradle Song*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The People kneel and sing

CAROL AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING *Silent night, holy night*

Hymn III
Tune: *Stille Nacht*

*During the carol, acolytes will begin lighting vigil candles.
Please hold your candle upright as you pass the flame to the person next to you*

The Bishop blesses the people with the following words

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please extinguish your vigil candle at the beginning of the Hymn.

CAROL IN PROCESSION *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Hymn 87
Tune: *Mendelssohn*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE *Postlude on MENDELSSOHN*

David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

The Tree of Life is one of the most resonant images in Scripture. Interestingly, it appears at both the very beginning and very end of the Bible. The Book of Genesis indicates that the Tree of Life was planted in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24), while the Book of Revelation describes the tree of life planted in the New Jerusalem: “On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). The image of the Tree of Life points to God as the source of healing and wholeness, the one who sustains our life and the life of the world.

One of the more interesting Christmas carols in the literature is a text called “Jesus Christ the Apple Tree” written by the Calvinist minister Richard Hutchins in the 18th century. The text describes the poet’s longing for the Tree of Life and all its benefits, ultimately concluding that it is Jesus who is the source of that healing and wholeness. It might seem to be an unusual text for a Christmas carol, until one considers the ways the story of the Nativity and the story of the Fall are intertwined. Medieval theology posited that sin entered into the world when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; it stands to reason that sin will be redeemed through another tree, the Tree of Life. One of the most beautiful settings of this text is by the 20th century English composer Elizabeth Poston. Our choir will sing Poston’s setting of this text at the IOPM service on Christmas Eve.

In the narthex (6th Street entrance) of Heavenly Rest, there is a window above the red doors depicting the Tree of Life. Situated as it is alongside a river, the image seems to refer primarily to the Tree of Life in Revelation. If you look closely at the image, you will see a variety of fruits, the most obvious of which are a pear and a bunch of bananas. The window was given in memory of Austin Denny, beloved son, brother and uncle who died in 2011, as well as Gerri and Bruce Denny, who were longtime members and leaders in this parish.

In a world that can often feel chaotic and uncertain, the image of the Tree of Life reminds us that we are rooted in a faith that sustains us through all the challenges of life. May this reminder comfort us this Christmas, and throughout the coming year.

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

The Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, *Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas*

Celebrant - The Rev. Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

Preacher - The Rev. David Romanik, *Rector*

Deacon - The Rev. Joe Biles, *Deacon and Pastoral Assistant*

Assisting - The Rev. Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

Choirmaster & Organist - Thomas Pavlechko

Verger - Luke Teten

Lay Ministers - James Wagstaff, Dan Harbaugh, Debbie Sherman

Acolytes - Max Stearns, Jimmy Stearns, Emily Brumley

Sound - Robert Peterson



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CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend David F. Romanik, *Rector*

The Reverend Ashley Powers, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

The Reverend Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

The Reverend Dr. Doug Thomas, *Priest in Residence*

The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, *Deacon*

The Reverend Joe Biles, *Deacon and Pastoral Assistant*

Bikole Mulanda, *Swahili Minister*

Luke Teten, *Verger*

Carol Ann Weston, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Thomas Pavlechko, *Organist and Director of Music*

Elizabeth Knauer, *Music Assistant, Choristers*

Laura Dickson, *Music Assistant, Children's Choir*

Jen Rogers, *Director of Communications and Stewardship*

Lydia Hurt, *Parish Manager*

Brenda Fisher, *Parish Accountant*

Robert Becerra, *Sexton*

Dorothy Guerra, *Housekeeper*

Anne Jones, *Nursery Manager*

VESTRY AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Kate Haney, *Senior Warden*; Harry Hurt, *Junior Warden*; Sharon Lawler, *Secretary*; David Christianson, Michael Christie, Dru Hall, Diane Stearns, Kimberly Brumley, Jay Hardaway, Norene Mansell, John Nichols, Mary Reyes, Elizabeth Niblo Wallace, *Chancellor*; and Sam Cutbirth, *Treasurer*