

The Cathedral Church of All Saints



In the beginning was the Word

**The First Sunday after Christmas
Holy Eucharist**

December 28, 2025

Welcome!

I am delighted to have you with us today for this service of worship. Please, stay awhile. Get to know us better. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

We at All Saints Cathedral Church, are a diverse lot, from many Christian backgrounds, non-Christian backgrounds, and no faith backgrounds. We come for Christian community, to find God in relationships with neighbours and new friends. We come for lessons from the incredible life of Jesus Christ. We come for spiritual rest, time to think, pray, and center on God, for comfort in hard times, and gratitude in good times. We come to serve God, each other, and the world. We're not perfect. We trust in God's gentle grace and unconditional love. We seek meaning for the life God has gifted us.

You are invited to God's table to receive communion (gluten free wafers are available). We welcome you, no matter who you are, or what you look like, or what labels the world puts on you. We welcome you if, like us, you struggle with flaws and imperfection but have a loving spirit and strive to let the light of Jesus shine within you and then to share it with others. We dare to welcome all because God, and not any human authority, extends this gracious invitation. If you wish not to receive Holy Communion you may still come forward for a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. You are also welcomed to remain seated during this time.

In this leaflet, you will find most everything you need to follow along throughout the service. Whether you have been attending the Cathedral Church your whole life or this is your first time here, you are invited to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing and are able to.

Peace and Joy,

The Very Rev. Paul Smith, Rector,
and Dean of the Cathedral Church of All Saints

Prelude:

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki , the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Opening Hymn CP 123 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

The Gathering of the Community

The presiding celebrant greets the community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,
All to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
you have shed upon us the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah [61:10 -62:3]

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Reader **Psalm 148 (Read responsively)**

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

**2 Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

**4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.

**6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and wingèd birds;**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**12 Young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

**14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

The Second Reading

Reader A reading from the letter to the Galatians [3:23-25, 4:4-7]

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Gradual Hymn CP 140 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*
CAROL

All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
[1:1-18]

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after

me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Frances Drolet-Smith

A silence for reflection may follow.

The Apostles’ Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People (Crafted by the Reader)

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners
and invites us to this table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
All 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 neighbours 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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Hymn CP 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*
REGENT SQUARE



*Today the Bulletin is offered in loving memory of
Merlene Adderley, Nassau, Bahamas*

The Prayer over the Gifts

The celebrant and people may say the Prayer over the Gifts

God of light,
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.
May we who share in this mystery
grow daily in your love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of salvation
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Now with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,

Jesus your Son.
You sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
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, Father, according to his command,

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

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, 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, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.
People Amen.

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

All **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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life
is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

*The celebrant invites the people to share in communion
and may say,* The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

***A Prayer for Spiritual Communion (for those at home)**

*Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to
receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's
people, unseen and yet present with us now. May this prayer be of be of*

comfort to you: Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Source of truth and joy,
may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church
and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn CP 153 *Good Christians All, Rejoice*
IN DULCI JUBILO

Dismissal *by the Deacon*

Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* J. S. Bach (BWV 545)



Join us on New Years Day, here in the Cathedral, for a Service of Eucharist and a Reception with the Bishop of our Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, The Right Reverend Sandra Fyfe.

Service time: 12 noon

Reception from 1 – 2 pm