



Church of the Cross
9:30 AM; December 15, 2024
Advent III
18101 W. Highway 71
Ecclaketravis.org
512-695-2803

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Cross is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We are the ECC: Loving God and our neighbors.

Welcome to Church of the Cross!

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!



Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Candle Lighters: John the Evangelist begins his Gospel this way: The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

Candle Lighters: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Candle Lighters: Let us pray. Loving Lord, at all times, and in all places, we rejoice at your arrival. We light these candles to remind us that you are the Light of the World, come to bring life and love to all. Fill us with your joy, that we may know the depth of your Good News in our lives this day, and always. Amen.

Candle Lighters: Blessed be God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Christmas Story

*Presented by the People of the Episcopal Church of the Cross
Throughout the story we'll be singing the following songs:*

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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.

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

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

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O...star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Heaven sings alleluia; alleluia
The earth replies

O...star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart
Prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
While field and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And make the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love
And wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love.

The pageant concludes with...

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace...

Song of Offering:

I Come with Joy

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known: We see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is truly right, Loving God, to give you thanks and praise, especially around this table. You are God, living and true; always revealing yourself; the fountain of life and source of all goodness. You made all things and filled them with your blessing.

The angels, and saints, and prophets, and martyrs in heaven stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. And at this table, we join their chorus:

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

Presider: Your magnificent works reveal your wisdom, mercy, and love. You formed us in your own image. You reveal yourself in creation, in the law and through the Prophets, in your people gathered and sent, and fully and completely in Jesus, your Son.

You love the world so much that you sent Jesus to be our Savior. He was born of Mary and lived a fully human life. To the poor he proclaimed the Good News of Salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. For the sake of the world you love, he went to the cross and gave himself up to death; and on the third day was raised, turning darkness into light, and death into life.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, 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."

Loving Lord, we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory; and offering to you this bread and cup from the gifts you have given us, we praise you and bless you.

Through your goodness and mercy may your Holy Spirit 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.

We pray for your Church, near and far. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

We pray for the world you love, for our neighborhoods, and for our own households. We pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and all the world.

We place before you all in any need or trouble. We pray for the poor; for those seeking healing; for the grieving; for all prisoners, captives, and refugees; and for all without enough to eat, or a safe place to rest their head.

And we remember before you all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. Bring them, we pray, to the place of eternal joy and light.

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.

All: AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

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

Presider: 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.

Songs during Communion: In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he come to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, one of these days

I'm gonna feast on milk and honey
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey one of these days
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey
I'm gonna feast on milk and honey one of these days, one of these days

All God's children gonna sit together

All God's children gonna sit together one of these days
All God's children gonna sit together
All God's children gonna sit together, one of these days, one of these days

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, one of these days

Prayer of Sending:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Song:

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Dismissal

The Episcopal Church of the Cross

www.ecclaketravis.org; www.facebook.com/ecclaketravis; 512-695-2803

The People of Church of the Cross, Ministers of the Gospel

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Bishop; Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher and the Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan, Bishops Suffragan; The Rt.

Rev. Hector Monterroso, Bishop Assistant

Jesse Johnson, Office Administrator; office@ecclt.org

Dave Madden, Director of Music; dmadden82@gmail.com

Mary Allen Smith, Minister of Children's and Youth Formation; maryallensmith4@gmail.com

Troy Mechura, Senior Warden: tmechura33@gmail.com

Nathan Speck-Ewer, Supply Clergy: nathanse@gmail.com

Welcome to Church of the Cross!

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!

