

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

Detroit, Michigan

The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan

November 23, 2025
A Harvest Carol Service for Thanksgiving
4:00 p.m.



WELCOME! Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship and serve; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

A Harvest Carol Service for Thanksgiving

*Please silence all electronic devices.
This service is also livestreamed on our YouTube channel.*

Organ

Prelude on *Kremser*

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

Please stand as the procession enters the Cathedral.

The Officiant the addresses the congregation.

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

We come to celebrate the harvest of our community. We all long to be fruitful and productive, and we thank God for the harvest of our lives. We thank God for the harvest of our common life together, the harvest of our deeper selves, our growing in wisdom. We gather together to raise the song of harvest home.

All sing

Hymn 290 – *Come, ye thankful people, come*

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Faith

Officiant

It is our faith in Jesus that defines us as Christians. We can think of faith as belief that Jesus is God's son and that Jesus is our Redeemer. If we have that faith, then we will act in ways that show our faith. We will love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. We will feed those who are hungry, provide shelter for those without a home, defend the defenseless. We will act to protect children from gun violence. We will show our faith by what we do.

Lesson James 2:14-18 – *Faith without works is dead*

Please stand as you are able

Litany

For the faith passed on to us by our ancestors, the saints, and the Holy Spirit,
People we give you thanks, O God.

For the faith of others who have cared for us when we were in need,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the gifts of your word, worship, and music, that strengthen our faith,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the many signs, symbols, and mysteries of faith by which you reveal yourself to us,
we give you thanks, O God.

Loving and faithful God, you are our God and we are your people. Make us faithful witnesses of your love for us, that we may see your face in everyone we meet and love them as you have loved us. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn – Great is thy faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow of turn-ing with thee;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their cours-es a - bove,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide;

thou chang-est not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
join with all na-ture in man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see.

All I have need-ed thy hand hath pro - vid-ed. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Words Thomas O. Chrisholm (1866-1960)

Music Faithfulness, William Runyan (1870-1957)

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Hospitality

Officiant

Two disciples walking home heads hung low with loss and grief, meet a stranger on the road who seems to know all about them, but it is only when they invite him to stay for a meal that they recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. The gift of hospitality is central to our Christian faith; it is how we meet Jesus today. We are quite good at sharing food with friends and family, but can we extend our circle?

Lesson Luke 24:28-32 – *The road to Emmaus*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For all places of hospitality and welcome in our community,
we give you thanks, O God.

For opportunities to include strangers and to break bread with them,
we give you thanks, O God.

For entertaining angels unawares,
we give you thanks, O God.

God of unexpected encounters, we thank you for times we have found refreshment and welcome. Meet us in our sharing of hospitality, surprise us with your blessing. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn 583 – *O holy city, seen of John*

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Health

Officiant

We are whole people, body, mind and spirit! Sometimes modern medical practice can forget and treat only the bodily symptoms. Scripture reminds us we need a more holistic approach. We honor physicians and recognize the gift of medicine, but we also need to be heard in all our emotional and spiritual complexity, to allow God to be part of our healing.

Lesson Ecclesiasticus 38:1-8 – *The gift of healing comes from the Most High*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For all doctors and nurses
we give you thanks, O God.

For nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and pharmacies
we give you thanks, O God.

For the healing ministry of the church,
we give you thanks, O God.

Compassionate God, your choice, your longing, is always for our deepest well-being. Meet us in our deepest need, bring your healing grace to our hurting. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn – 397, vss. 1 and 2 *Now thank we all our God*

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Play

Officiant

When did you last play a game? When did you last play with children, entering their amazing world of imagination? Each of us was once a child, and that inner child is still part of us. Of course we need to grow into mature faith, yet Jesus said we need to “change and become like children” if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven! Part of the balance of life for us will be between the serious grown-up world of work and responsibility, and the gift of space and time to rest, play, and renew our deepest selves.

Lesson Matthew 18:1-15 – *Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For space and time to rest and play,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the gift of children in our lives and communities, reminding us of heaven,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the freedom and imagination to be our true selves,
we give you thanks, O God.

God of rest and recreation, God of play and possibility, help us to make time in our lives to rediscover the child still within us. Where we have become overburdened with responsibility, show us how to change and become like children again, trusting and free in the safety of your love. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn – 397, vs. 3

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Education

Officiant

What is education for? How do we measure the performance of our schools and colleges? Is it all about examination results? It is easy for some subjects to get left behind when the pressure is on. Is there room for music, art, drama, for faith to be explored? What does it mean to “dig deeply” and “lay the foundation on the rock?” What is it that builds real resilience, to help us to withstand the storms and floods of life?

Lesson Luke 6:40, 46-49 – *The wise man builds his house upon a rock.*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For teachers who help us to dig deep and lay solid foundations,
we give you thanks, O God.

For pre-schools, grade schools, colleges, and vocational education,
we give you thanks, O God.

For opportunities to continue our education throughout life,
we give you thanks, O God.

God of all learning and wisdom, deepen our understanding, widen our knowledge, broaden our experience. Help us to grow and learn, throughout our lives, to find your deep wisdom, as the foundation for our living. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn 488 – *Be thou my vision*

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Our Gardens and Farms

Officiant

The Bible tells of God in creation giving us a fruitful garden world and calling us to till and farm it. The earth is amazingly fertile and we are learning how to grow food even in the hearts of our cities. We are learning to eat seasonally and reduce our food waste. We are called to use our knowledge for good, to be good stewards of creation and to sustain the fragile balance of nature by planting trees and allowing wildlife to flourish.

Lesson Genesis 2:8-9 – *The garden of Eden.*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For the fertility of the land and the work of our farmers,
we give you thanks, O God.

For the subtle balance of nature and the diversity of all life ,
we give you thanks, O God.

For our gardens and farms, rural and urban, that produce food, the harvest of our land,
we give you thanks, O God.

God of all creation, give us wisdom to use your gifts well, to understand the impact of living on our planet. Give us courage to act in the face of climate change, give us generous hearts to share with those who go hungry. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All sing

Hymn 291 – *We plow the fields*

Please be seated.

A Harvest of Community

Officiant

God cares about the whole of our community, and we are called to care, too. God holds a vision for our community, of welfare, to give us a future with hope. As we celebrate the harvest of our lives, we pledge that we will continue to pray for community.

Lesson Jeremiah 29:11-14 – *A future with hope.*

Please stand as you are able.

Litany

For all that is good in our communities, signs of God's kingdom among us,
we give you thanks, O God.

For all that is challenging in our communities, signs of God's longing for change,
we give you thanks, O God.

For all who live work, or travel through this place, each one a child of God,
we give you thanks, O God.

God who makes us fruitful, bless the harvest of our whole community, help us to be good neighbors and to welcome newcomers. Give us grace to meet people on the level, to walk beside them, to look them in the eye, to see them in your image and likeness. Jesus, Lord of the harvest,
hear our prayer.

All say together

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.

All sing

Hymn 433 – We gather together

Officiant

God of the harvest, bless the labors of our hearts and hands, bless the fruits of our cooperation and community, bless the gathering of neighbors and strangers. Awaken us to your longing for a different world, where all are welcomed, valued, and appreciated. Give us grace to discern your presence in one another and in the invitation of your Son, Jesus Christ, that, together, we may come to the eternal harvest of your grace. **Amen.**

Please remain standing as the procession leaves the Cathedral.

Organ

Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 657
Now thank we all our God

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

In this evening's liturgy

Officiant

Emery Dumas

Acolyte

Matt O'Brien

Lectors

Elaine Belz

Cantors

Chad Johnson

Meriem Lanseur

John O'Brien

Organist

Canon Jeremy David Tarrant

Technology

Edward Poston

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Advent

November 30

An Advent Procession

with the Cathedral Choir

a sequence of words and music for this season of preparation and expectation

December 7, 14, and 21

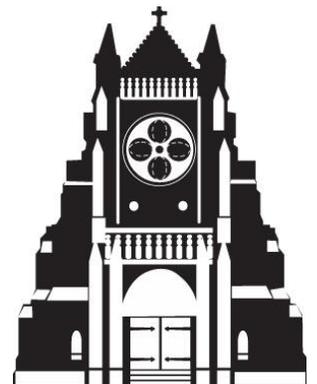
Cathedral Evensong with Advent Wreath Prayers

Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 20, 5:00 p.m.

with the Cathedral Choir

the traditional carol service in the style of Kings College



Diverse people Daily relevance Inspiring space

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