



The First Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 2025 at Eleven O'clock A.M.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** We are thankful for your presence with us today and we invite you to join us as we worship God. The liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the music from the blue Hymnal 1982 and the beige African American Heritage Hymnal (AAHH). The “S” music is found in the service section in the front of the Blue Hymnal. All books are found in the pew racks. Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.

If you are a visitor, please fill out a visitor card and give to an usher.  
Please come by the Welcome Table in the Undercroft after the service.

*The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Where the rubrics invite the people to stand or kneel, an individual may remain seated.*

VOLUNTARY Improvisation T. Andrew

*Please stand.*  
HYMN 109 (Blue Hymnal) The First Nowell *The First Nowell*  
*Sung by all.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION  
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY  
Celebrant 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.*

HYMN 96 (Blue Hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High Gloria  
*Sung by all.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY  
Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
People *And with thy spirit.*  
Celebrant Let us pray,

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU HAVE POURED upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may 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 people sit.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

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.*

## PSALM 147

*Spoken by all antiphonally.*

- 1 HALLELUJAH! HOW GOOD IT IS TO SING PRAISES TO OUR GOD! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 *The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \**  
*he gathers the exiles of Israel.*
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 *He counts the number of the stars \* '*  
*and calls them all by their names.*
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 *The Lord lifts up the lowly, \**  
*but casts the wicked to the ground.*
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*

make music to our God upon the harp.  
**8 He covers the heavens with clouds \***  
*and prepares rain for the earth;*  
 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
 and green plants to serve mankind.  
**10 He provides food for flocks and herds \***  
*and for the young ravens when they cry.*  
 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
 he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;  
**12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, \***  
*in those who await his gracious favor.*  
 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
 praise your God, O Zion;  
**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \***  
*he has blessed your children within you.*  
 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
**16 He sends out his command to the earth, \***  
*and his word runs very swiftly.*  
 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \***  
*who can stand against his cold?*  
 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
**20 He declares his word to Jacob, \***  
*his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*  
 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
 to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## THE EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

**N**OW 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.

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

*The people stand.*

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,  
*People*          *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

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.

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          *Praise be to you, Lord Christ.*  
*The people sit.*

SERMON

THE REV. MARTIN SMITH

*A brief time of silent reflection is kept after the sermon.*

*The people stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

*All*              **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, FORM VI

*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. Silence For all people in their daily life and work

*People* ***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

*Leader* For this community, the nation, and the world;

*People* ***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

*Leader* For the just and proper use of your creation;

*People* ***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

*Leader* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*People* ***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

*Leader* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*People* ***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

*Leader* For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann our Bishop; and all bishops and other ministers;

*People* ***For all who serve God in his Church.***

*Leader* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, particularly for \_\_\_\_\_

*Silence* Hear us, Lord;

*People* ***For your mercy is great.***

*Leader* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence* We will exalt you, O God our King.

*People* ***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

*Leader* We pray for all who have died ☉, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*People* ***Who put their trust in you.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Celebrant*

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel*

*All*

*MOST MERCIFUL GOD,  
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 thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors 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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*The people stand.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

*And also with you.*

*The people sit.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have a birthday or anniversary this week, please come forward for a prayer.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY

*The Celebrant gives an Offertory sentence.*

*The offering plate will be passed by the ushers. You may also donate by texting ALLSOULS to 73256, or by scanning the QR code.*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Sung by the Cantor*

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
When all the birds had fled,  
That God the Lord of all the earth  
Sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:

### Refrain

*Jesus your king is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Enwrapped His beauty round;  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:

### Refrain

The earliest moon of wintertime  
Is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on  
The helpless Infant there.  
The chiefs from far before Him knelt  
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

### Refrain

O children of the forest free,  
the angel song is true;;  
The holy Child of earth and Heav'n  
Is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy,  
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

### Refrain

*The people stand*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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 him thanks and praise.***

*Celebrant*

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father 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 perfect Man 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S 130

Schubert

*Sung by 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.

*The people 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 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,

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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*

Alleluia. Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All*

*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*



*Sung by all*

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*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.

*The people may sit or remain kneeling.*

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the chalice, gently guide the base of the chalice with your hand to allow the rim to reach your lips. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the bread) into the common chalice. Receiving in one kind is full communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your arms across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.*

## HYMN 98 (Blue Hymnal)

*Sung by all.*

Unto Us Is Born A Son

*Puer Nobis Nascitur**The people kneel.*

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* ***Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

## BLESSING

*Celebrant* Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel this way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

*The people stand.*

## HYMN 105 (Blue Hymnal)

*Sung by all.*

God Rest You Merry, Gentleman

*God Rest You Merry*

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## VOLUNTARY

Divinum Mysterium

John Blackburn (1913-1992)

## WELCOME FATHER MARTIN SMITH TODAY

**F**r. Martin Smith is a retired priest in the diocese of Washington, a friend of All Souls for twenty years who has served the parish for extended periods during interims, sabbaticals and the long Covid season. He is well known in the Episcopal Church and beyond for his roving ministry of spiritual formation as a retreat leader, conference key-noter, preacher and spiritual director. He is the author of a series of books on contemporary spirituality including *A Season for the Spirit*, *Reconciliation*, *The Word is Very Near You*, *Love Set Free*, and *Compass and Stars*. He was formerly the Senior Associate Rector at St Columba's, Washington.



## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY AT ALL SOULS.

**Please join us in the undercroft after the service for Coffee Hour.**

We are privileged to have you with us and invite you to return and worship with us again.

## PARISH OFFICES CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 2

For Pastoral Emergencies, contact Mother Sara at [rector@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:rector@allsoulsdc.org) or by her cell phone 703-963-8116

## SUNDAY, JAN. 4, CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (transferred)

11 am - Holy Eucharist *with* organ and choir

## FAITH FORUM SERIES

The next Faith Forum is on Sunday, January 11 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room.

The topic will be "Understanding the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew" with Joe Howell, presenter.

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

### **The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:**

Christ Church King & Queen Parish, Chaptico, Christ Church, Clinton, Christ Church Durham Parish, Nanjemoy, Christ Church, Georgetown, Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish, La Plata, Christ Church, Rockville, Christ Church, Kensington, Christ Church, Washington Parish, Christ Church Wayside, Newport

### **In the Wider Anglican Communion, we pray for:**

The Anglican Church of Canada;

### **For those who are sick or in need, we pray especially for:**

Robert, Christopher, Laura, Warren, Shinn, Charles, Eric, Joann, Ron, Kenny, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan;

### **We Give Thanks for:**

All of the newcomers who attended All Souls for Christmas services.

*Submit prayer requests to Andrea in the church office ([andrea@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:andrea@allsoulsdc.org)) to stay on for a month at a time.*

*We are prepared to pray indefinitely for your requests.*

## MOTHER SARA'S MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR 2026



Dear friends at All Souls' Church,

I am thankful and delighted to be entering my third year as your Rector. Thank you for your support, warmth and faithful commitment. I want to share with you my favorite New Year's poem, which is very pertinent to the uncertain times we live in, both in our country and in our world:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied:*

*'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

These words, spoken by King George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast to the British Empire struck a chord with the United Kingdom facing the uncertainty of war as Hitler invaded Europe. The poem was written in 1908 by Minnie Louise Haskins, a retired London School of Economics academic.

By God's grace, we at All Souls Episcopal Church can also go out into the darkness and put our hands into the Hand of God. Knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus will give us courage, hope and strength each day to face our country's challenges in 2026.

Warmly,  
Mother Sara



### **Staff**

The Rev. Sara Palmer, *Rector*  
[rector@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:rector@allsoulsdc.org)  
Andrea Meier, *Parish Administrator*  
[office@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:office@allsoulsdc.org)  
Tom Andrew, *Director of Music*  
[tom@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:tom@allsoulsdc.org)

### **Acolytes**

Heidi Rasciner

### **Lectors**

Peter Laugesen  
Calvin Zon  
Judy Andrew

### **Ushers**

Sebastian Wellford  
Tara Mancini

### **Soloist**

Brianna Galligan

### **All Souls Vestry, [vestry@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:vestry@allsoulsdc.org)**

vEnessa Acham (2026)  
Kurt Jacobs (2026)  
James Lewis (2026)  
John Longstreth (2027)  
Tara Mancini (2028)  
Nancy Morgan (2027)  
Joe Neal (2028)  
Will Stewart (2028)  
Arthur Warren (2027)

Lisa Watson

[senior.warden@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:senior.warden@allsoulsdc.org)

Jeff Wells

[junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org)

Will Stewart

[treasurer@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:treasurer@allsoulsdc.org)

### **For Vestry Minutes and Parish Documents**

[www.allsoulsdc.org/governance](http://www.allsoulsdc.org/governance)



*Find AllSoulsDC on Facebook & Instagram*

### **All Souls Episcopal Church**

2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008-1505  
[www.allsoulsdc.org](http://www.allsoulsdc.org) | 202-232-4244 | [office@allsoulsdc.org](mailto:office@allsoulsdc.org)