



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025 4:30 AND 10:30 P.M.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774  
865.986.2390

[www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com)



GLORIFYING GOD BY  
REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982*. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com), email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to subscribe to our weekly church email, the *Parish Tidings*, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook: [facebook.com/episcopalloudon](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon).

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Word of God

### Entrance Hymn

*O little town of Bethlehem*

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymnal 79**

### Opening Acclamation

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

### Hymn of Praise

*Angels we have heard on high*

**Hymnal 96**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7

*Lector* A reading from the Book of 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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 96*        *Cantate Domino*

**BCP 725**

*Lector*        We will read the Psalm responsively. (*Congregation reads the bold lines.*)

Sing to the LORD a new song; \*

**sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*

**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations \*

**and his wonders among all peoples.**

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*

**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*

**but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*

**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*

**ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*

**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*

**let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is King! \*

**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;**

**he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \*

**when he comes to judge the earth.**



He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

*Lector and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Second Lesson: Titus 2: 11-14**

*Lector* A reading from the Letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sequence Hymn**

*Please stand as able.*

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night (verses 1 & 2)*

**Hymnal 94**

## **The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20**

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

### Sequence Hymn

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night (verses 3 & 4)*

**Hymnal 260**

### Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

### The Nicene Creed

**BCP 358**

**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**

*Common Worship, Prayers for Christmas*

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.*

*Intercessor* In peace let us pray to the Lord. Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,

*All* **hear our prayer.,**

*Intercessor* In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand the Scott family, the McAfee family, Ruth & Frank, Ginny, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Kathleen, Brenda B., Jackie C., and David H., and all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer the effects of war, gun violence, oppression, and natural disasters, and all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,

*All* **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our country and throughout the world. Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand Jane Scott all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,  
**All hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* Holy God, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**All Amen.**

*Celebrant* Merciful God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Christmas Kyrie Confession**

*Common Worship*

*Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.*

*Celebrant* Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

*Celebrant* God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
*People* **forgive our failure to receive him.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**



*Celebrant* Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
*People* **forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.**

*Celebrant* Christ, have mercy.  
*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
*People* **forgive the hardness of our hearts.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy.  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution of Sin**

*Celebrant* May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Please stand as able.*

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

## **The Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

**Offertory music** *In the bleak midwinter*

**Hymnal 112**

**Doxology** *(sung together)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Celebrant* For all things come from you, O Lord;  
*People* **and of your own have we given you.**

# The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

**Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)** *(chanted responsively)*

*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.**

*Celebrant* It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

**Sanctus** *(sung together)*

**Hymnal S-124**

**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 stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

*Celebrant* Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

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

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord, our God.**

*Celebrant* Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may 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.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

*Celebrant* And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

**AMEN.** (*sung together*)

**Hymnal S-146**

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

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

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Fraction Hymn** (*sung together*)

**Hymnal S-161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Hymn** *What child is this*

**Hymnal 115**

*We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable.*

*Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way. If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing*

## **Post-Communion Hymn**

*The congregation will light candles as we begin to sing.*

*Silent night*

**Hymnal 111**

## **Christmas Post-Communion Prayer**

*Common Worship*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All*        **God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*Celebrant*    May God the Father keep you in all your days.  
                 May God the Son shield you in all your ways.  
                 May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace.  
                 May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you  
                 and pour upon you blessing and light.

And may the blessing of God be with you now and for evermore. Amen.

## **Post-Communion Hymn**

*Go tell it on the mountain*

**Hymnal 99**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant*    God sent his angels from glory to bring to shepherds the good news  
                 of Jesus' birth. May God fill you with joy to bring this good news to  
                 others today. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*        **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Postlude**

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

**Hymnal 100**



# Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

## Christmas Flower Dedications

*James Follansbee  
Vilah Follansbee  
Dorothy Parker  
Consuelo Heath  
(by Carolyn & Chip Parker)*

*Robert & Anne  
(by Anne Wegener)*

*Our family  
(by Andy & Judy Hadjian)*

*All service members  
at home or abroad  
(by Tony and Oralee Adams)*

## Our Guest Organist

Jedediah Dahl is an organist rooted in the classical and liturgical traditions, with strong emphasis on hymnody, chorale-based repertoire, and supporting congregational song.

He has served and substituted in a variety of church settings, including Catholic, Protestant, and ecumenical congregations in East Tennessee. Jedediah enjoys shaping music that supports the flow and theology of the liturgy, while remaining accessible, expressive, and inviting for congregational participation.

### *Our parish prayer list*

The Scott family, The McAfee family,  
Ruth & Frank, Ginny, Diane & Cal,  
Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Kathleen,,  
Brenda B., Jackie C., David H.

### *Continuing prayers for*

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family;  
Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;  
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack;  
Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe;  
Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey;  
Johnny; and Karen H.

### *Pray for our vestry leaders*

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K.  
Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.  
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.  
Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Sally L.

## *Save the Date: Upcoming Parish Events*

**Tuesday, January 6**

4-6 p.m. Three Kings Epiphany Party

**Sunday, January 11**

Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday, January 12**

10 a.m., Jane Scott visitation, Parish Hall

11 a.m., Jane Scott funeral service, Nave

## *Holiday Office Schedule*

**Please note that the church office  
will be closed from  
Wednesday, December 24  
through Monday, January 5**

# For Your Calendars

## THIS WEEK

<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>10:30 p.m.</b>		
Acolyte	Mark Smith	TBD	Organist	Jedediah Dahl
			Celebrant & Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Euch. Minister	Bonnie Smith	Jane Mocilac		
Lector	Diane Van Koughnett	TBD		
Ushers	Monty Ross & Art Stewart	TBD		
Video	Mark Blakley	n/a		
Chancellor	Diane Van Koughnett	TBD		

## NEXT WEEK

<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>		
Acolyte	Holly Pate	Mark Smith	Altar Guild	Judy Egan
Euch. Minister	Mark Hennes	Bonnie Smith		
Lector	Andrew Wilkinson	Monty Ross	Flower Guild	Bev Baumgardner
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart & Drew Hawley	Accompanist	Tammy Keever
Coffee Hour	Rosemary Kitts	Ginny Tolbert	Celebrant & Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Video	n/a	Bill Schwindt	Offering Counters	Ginny Tolbert
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	David Baumgardner		& Jean Cardwell

## This week at Resurrection

### Wednesday, December 24

*No Noonday Eucharist or Psalms Study*  
 4 p.m. Carols Prelude  
 4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist (with music)  
 10 p.m. Instrumental Prelude  
 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist (with music)

### Thursday, December 25

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)

### Sunday, December 28

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken  
 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral

## Office hours

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Wednesdays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Fridays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To contact our Parish Administrator Amy Lee,  
 email her at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com).

## Announcements deadline

To submit an item to be considered  
 for inclusion in The Tidings weekly email  
 and/or the printed bulletin announcements,  
 please be sure to submit your information  
 to Rev. Becky ([rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com))  
 by Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges,  
 email [rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com)  
 or call the church at (865) 986-2390.  
**Urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240.**

# TODAY'S ART

**Ki-Chang Kim, *The Birth of Christ*, 1952–53, Watercolour on silk, 760 x 630 mm, Seoul Museum;  
© Seoul Museum**

Throughout Christian history, artists have situated the stories of the Bible in their own cultural contexts: landscapes, buildings, clothing, bodies, gestures, and faces were drawn from the world around them. In this way, they brought the sacred story close to home.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise to Europeans when artists from other cultures do the same. But it may unsettle them.

This work was created by Kim Ki-chang, a leading Korean artist of the twentieth century who grew up in a Protestant family. At the age of eight, he contracted typhoid fever and lost his hearing. Thereafter, faith became an indispensable support for him.

When civil war broke out between North and South Korea in 1950, after the Japanese occupation, Kim Ki-chang and his wife had to flee to the South. In 1952, amidst extreme hardship and religious tension (he had visions and converted to the Catholic Church), he created a 30-part cycle of drawings on silk depicting the life of Jesus.

Kim Ki-chang did not set the story of Jesus in his immediate present, but in the Chosŏn period (1392–1910), when Korea was an independent kingdom. In doing so, he recalled a time without foreign rule and with a rich cultural tradition.

The Christmas scene is set in a large stable. There is no landscape to be seen. Instead, viewers have the impression of standing in the stable themselves. At the centre lies the newborn child. But, surprisingly, his face is turned away to regard his mother and the star that hangs above her, under the roof.

Luke's Gospel indicates that Mary is only betrothed (*mnēsteuō*) to be married. The artist, however, has chosen to depart from that account here, and to encourage us to imagine Mary differently, for she is wearing a mantle-veil—the traditional outfit of married women. To her right, leaning against a post, stands Joseph with folded hands. He is wearing the clothes of a scholar: light blue robe, hat, white socks, and leather shoes.

Seven women (not shepherds or kings) enter from the left, bringing food for the mother—a widespread custom in Korea. In the foreground, a rooster pecks for grain—not a reference to Peter's later betrayal, for in Korea this bird symbolizes hope and a good beginning. There is, here, no trace of suffering. Rather, this work expresses the longing for a home in a time of terrible homelessness.

## References

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## Commentary Source

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