A Word of Welcome

Welcome to the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through prayer, music, the reading of Scripture, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are visiting this evening, please know that there is always a place for you when you enter through these doors.

If you are seeking a church home or would like more information about Bethesda, we would enjoy hearing from you. Please feel free to fill out a pew card and either hand it to an usher or place it in the collection plate. You may also want to log onto our web page at BBTS.org. Again, welcome to Bethesda-by-the-Sea. We’re glad you are here with us this evening and we wish you a joyous and Christ-filled Christmas season.

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II AT 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Noël: Grand jeu et Duo Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

The congregation stands as the hymn is introduced.

Hymn 83
O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only-begotten Son of the Father; Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; Refrain

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain
Christmas Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Unto us a child is born.
People O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Gloria Sang by the choir. (from Communion Service in A minor) Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Lesson Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.
Psalm 98  Sung by the chior.

1  Sing to the LORD a new song, *  
    for he has done marvelous things.

2  With his right hand and his holy arm *  
    has he won for himself the victory.

3  The LORD has made known his victory; *  
    his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4  He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *  
    and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5  Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *  
    lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6  Sing to the LORD with the harp, *  
    with the harp and the voice of song.

7  With trumpets and the sound of the horn *  
    shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8  Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *  
    the lands and those who dwell therein.

9  Let the rivers clap their hands, *  
    and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
    when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *  
    and the peoples with equity.

Lesson  Hebrews 1:1—4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but  
in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things,  
through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the  
exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.  
When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on  
high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more  
excellent than theirs.

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

The congregation stands as the hymn is introduced.

Hymn 87  Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain  Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace. Refrain

Gospel  John 1:1—14

Deacon  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to John.

People  Glory to you, Lord 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.

Deacon  The Gospel of the Lord.

People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon  The Rev. Tim Schenck

A brief period of silence follows the Sermon. Please stand when the Celebrant stands for the Creed.
Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People: A Christmas Litany

Standing. The Leader and People pray responsively

On this holy occasion when we celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, let us pray for the peace, joy, hope, and strength offered by God’s Word made flesh:

For the Church, that it may faithfully and boldly proclaim to every human heart the Good News made known this Christmas that salvation has come to God’s holy people. Lord, empower your Church.

For peace in our troubled world, that every darkness of war, injustice, persecution, and oppression may be cast out by light shed into the world by the Prince of Peace. Lord, grant peace to all.

For our families and all those, far and near, to whom we are blessed by the love of Christ, that the bonds which unite us may be strengthened. Lord, build our love.

For all those in need, those whom we might otherwise forget at this joyous time; the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, the sick, the grieving, those in prison, those caught by addiction, and all who know any great trial or sadness this Christmas. Lord, comfort them.
For all who labor during this season on behalf of others: physicians, nurses, medical technicians, police officers, firefighters, the military, and those whose duty prevents them from sharing this holy time with those they love. 
Lord, sustain them.

For all who have known the wonder of God’s presence in their earthly pilgrimages and who now live in larger life, remembering especially those in whose loving memory the church and chapels are adorned, that following their example we may remain faithful to the end of this earthly life and live forever in the light of Christ’s eternal glory. 
Lord, hear our prayers.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

**The Peace**

_Celebrant_ The peace of the Lord be always with you.

_People_ And also with you.

**Welcome**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory**

*Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.*

**Anthem at the Offertory**

_Anthem_ Rejoice and sing _John Rutter (b. 1945)_

Rejoice and sing! glad news I bring on Christmas Day in the morning. I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning. _Rejoice and sing Nowell, nowell! Earth’s day of gladness is dawning, for Christ is born in Bethlehem on Christmas Day in the morning._ And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning? Our Saviour Christ and his lady on Christmas Day in the morning. Pray, whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning? O, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day in the morning. And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning. And all the angel host shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning. And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning. Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day in the morning.

— John Rutter (b. 1945), incorporating a traditional carol text
At the Presentation

As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and joins in singing

All creation, join in praising God, Creator, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

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.

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
The congregation kneels or remains standing, and the Celebrant continues

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,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,
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 Gifts of God for the People of God.

Everyone is invited to Communion. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please request one from the minister.

During the Communion

The tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit and always green. The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought and pleasure dearly I have bought. I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil; here will I sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; it keeps my dying faith alive, which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

— Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs (1784)
Infant holy, Infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the 
Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, 
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the 
morning new; Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, 
Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!
— Traditional Polish, tr. Edith Reed (1883–1933)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your 
Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament 
of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and 
courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our 
Lord. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this 
holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his 
holiness. Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you 
with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, 
give you his peace and favor. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon 
you and remain with you forever. Amen.

The congregation stands and joins in singing

HYMN 100    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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us their songs employ, 
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; 
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

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

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon    Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People    Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE    Fantaisie sur deux Noëls 
Joseph Bonnet (1884–1944)
Christmas Memorial Flowers
Christmas decorations in the Church and Columbarium are given by members and friends of the parish to the glory of God and in loving memory of

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Patricia Warren Allen
John Kober Allen
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Graham Stranahan Anderson
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In honor of....
Flower Guild Steering Committe
Stuart D. Root
Annie Porter Soper
William Harrison Soper
Susan Willis Reicher’s International
    Humanitarian Work

† † †

The altar trees are given in memory of
Richard S. Johnson
Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

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The Rev. Tim Schenck, Rector
The Rev. Susan Beebe, Associate Priest
The Rev. Jeff Beebe, Associate Priest
The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, Associate Priest

Dr. Stuart Forster, Associate for Music & Liturgy
Greg Knight, Associate for Christian Formation

The Rev. Dr. Cecily Titcomb, Deacon
The Rev. Clayton Waddell, Deacon

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Gene Carter, Junior Warden

John B rim
Katie Wandoff, Clerk
Sara Griffen
Randall Gluss
Barbara Callahan
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Lisa Hastey
Chuck Zettler

The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea
141 S. County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480 | (561) 655-4554 | bbts.org

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