

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Lake Jackson, Texas

Our Vision

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we experience the love of Jesus Christ and share it with others.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist December 24, 2023 – 10:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas! We are so glad you are here! You are invited to participate fully in today's worship service. This bulletin contains all the prayers and responses said by the People. If you wish to use the Book of Common Prayer [BCP], the page numbers are given in brackets. Music not printed here may be found in the Blue Hymnal 1982 on the rack in front of you.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(To give a Christmas Offering in thanksgiving for all God has done for you, you may give with the enclosed envelope. All loose plate offerings will go to River of Hope and The Food Basket.)

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn (all sing)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 83

1. 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.

2. God of God, Light of light, Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb; Very God, Begotten not created: *Refrain* Refrain: O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

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

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

Opening Acclamation

[BCP 355]

Priest Blessed be God: Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Priest and People 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

Angels We Have Heard On High

The Collect of the Day (standing)

[BCP 213]

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12 (sit)

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the win

and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken."

After the reading

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

Psalm 97 (spoken responsively by half verse)

1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; * let the multitude of the isles be glad.

- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
 - righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
 - and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
 - the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *
 - at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
 - and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
 - Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
 - because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD,
 - most high over all the earth; *
 - you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
 - he preserves the lives of his saints
 - and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
 - and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
 - and give thanks to his holy Name.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

After the reading

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

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
 - Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!
- 2. 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 the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 - Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!
- 3. 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: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel passage is read.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon (sit)

The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

The Nicene Creed (stand)

[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 worshipped 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

Intercessor God sent his Son to live as a man among us: let us pray in the confidence of our new life in him. Rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Savior, we pray that the Church may be continually reborn.

People Let us share the humility of the manger, the adoration of the shepherds, and the love of the Holy Family, in the light of him who is the Light of the world.

Intercessor Pity and pardon this world of conflict, deaf to the message of peace. Bring harmony where there is strife between nations and where people are divided by suspicion and bitterness.

People Heal those who have no peace within themselves.

Intercessor We pray for the families and friends with whom we celebrate this happy time. Give us true love, unselfish desires and grateful hearts. We pray especially for the children, for their unclouded joy at this time.

People Create in us a pattern of human love that will lead them to the love of God who sent his Son as a little child.

Intercessor We pray for those who cannot feel the joy of Christmas, through the burden of sickness, bereavement or other distress. Comfort with your presence all who are separated at this time from those they love.

People Bring the light of Christ into their afflicted lives.

Intercessor Have mercy on the departed who, having shared with Christ their human birth and infancy, have shared with him also the death of the body.

People Make their joy complete, in the Kingdom where there is neither birth nor death but abundant life without end.

Intercessor Through Christ who is the hope of the nations and the joy of all people we make our prayers to God who is most wonderfully with us.

Silence

We pray for the special needs, concerns, and thanksgivings of this congregation and community. (Intercessor waits a minute or two so people can add prayers aloud or silently.)

Silence

We pray especially for members: Matthew, Tony, Jim and James, The Collins family, John and Gayle, Mary, James, Jake, Denis and Judi, Bill, Kurt, Jessey, David, Steve, Michael, Robert, Kay and Roy, Donna and Larry, and Linda.

Thank you for the privilege to pray on behalf of friends and families: Kaley, Rose, Norman and family, Helen, Marcus, Melissa, Weldon, Earlene, Brennan, Pam, Annette, Liam and family, Holly, Jane, Carmen, Kristi, Leisa, Mita, Alexander, Dustin, Kristi, Hannah, Margaret, Grace, Douglas, Jean, Rebecca, Kellye, Liz, Loorie, Derek, Mary, Eric, Judy, Kelly, Jocelyn, Cheryl, Terry, Matt, Kevin, and Claire.

For our men and women serving in the Armed Forces: Jordan, Brad, Lucas, Annie, Justin, Joseph, Caleb, Ed, Brett, Thea, Jaycob, and Joshua.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.

For the diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Francis' in Houston, St. John the Divine in Houston, St. Martin's in Houston, and the Diocese of Peshawar.

Concluding Prayer

Priest O Lord, without whom our labor is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

[BCP 360]

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

Those who are able to are invited to kneel. Silence may be kept.

Priest and People 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 you 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*.

Priest 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 Peace (stand)

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Members of St. Timothy's healing prayer team are available in the side chapel to pray with anyone who desires healing for themselves or others. Simply go to the side chapel after taking communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence: But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

Note: As Episcopalians, we believe in some mysterious way the whole Host of Heaven is present with us at communion. This can be a comfort to those whose loved ones have already died.

The Offertory Glory To God from Messiah

G.F. Handel

Gracie Stutterheim, soloist

(The gifts are brought forward by members)

Doxology (The people stand) (all sing)

Hymn 380, vs. 3

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.

Priest: All things come from thee, O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving (stand)

[BCP 367]

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 Little Organ Mass (Chancel Choir)

Franz Joseph Haydn

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

[BCP 368]

The people stand or kneel

Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

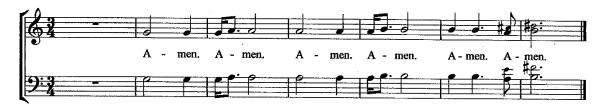
Celebrant and People

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 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, now and for ever.



The Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Priest and People 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.

A period of silence is kept.



Facing the people, the priest says the following invitation

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 Ministration of Communion

All haptized Christians are welcome to come to the Lord's Table and receive the bread and wine of communion. Others are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest just before you receive communion.

At Communion:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Chancel Choir)

arr. David Willcocks

O Little Town of Bethlehem (all sing)

Hymn 79

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
- 3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4. Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child, where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door, the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.
- O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, Abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Post Communion Prayer (stand or kneel)

[BCP 366]

Priest and People 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.

The lights go down. (Stand as you are able) At this time, the Priest and Acolytes will share the light of Christ with those at the end of the aisle. Pass it on!

Post Communion Hymn (all sing)

Silent Night, Holy Night (with handbells)

- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
- Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Blessing

The lights are brought up.

Recessional Hymn (standing, all sing)

Joy to the World!

Hymn 100

Hymn 111

- 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.
- 2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3. 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, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

interlude

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes 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 Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Noel Suisse Louis-Claude Daquin



Thank you for joining us! We hope you experienced God's love here. If you are new, we would love to get to know you better. Please consider filling out a welcome card found in the rack in front of you. You can put it in the offering plate or give it to the Greeter or Pastor after services. If you wish to make an appointment with Pastor Robin, call the office at 979-297-6003. She is available by phone, Zoom, or in person.



The Christmas decorations are given:

In memory of by

Linda and Charles Caleffie Melinda and Jon Cox

In memory of by

Harriet Cutshall, Janet Parker, Jim Cutshall

Mary and Stan Cutshall, Margaret and Jess Reed, Jack Cutshall, Mark Cutshall

In memory of by

Jade and Logan Jones Rod and Janet Hicks

In memory of by

Our parents and grandparents Denis and Judi James

In memory of by

Freda & Dickson Willis, Tony, Gigi, and Mary Janeshek

In memory of by

Donna Kautz David Kautz

In memory of by

Mrs. Felicia Udemezue The Obasi Family

In memory of by

Scholar Lechi Obasi and The Obasi Family

Sir Sidney Obasi

and William Janeshek

In memory of by

My husband

In thanksgiving for by

Addison Erin Akin, Keith and Arleen Frank

Colton Keith Frank (grandchildren)

In thanksgiving for

Patricia, Mark, and Cason Alan and Fran Hammond

In thanksgiving for by Jim, James, and animals Jim and James In thanksgiving for by Mark's time as Jr. Warden – his care Kim, Anna, and Jacob Lehnhoff and attention to St. Timothy's building and grounds In thanksgiving for by St. Timothy's leaders, volunteers, and Pastor Robin community sharing God's love with more people In thanksgiving for by Carriage Flowers and Debbie Samford St. Timothy's Altar Guild for their beautiful Sunday floral arrangements In memory of by **Aubrey Cormier** Kerry Cormier In thanksgiving for All 4 of my parents In memory of by Chester and Dorothy Jones, FA and Gary and Margaret Jones Margaret Speer Bunt In thanksgiving for Sean, Laura, Autumne, Ray, Christopher, Chandler, and Jared In memory of by Alexa and Doug Kincannon William H. Weir, Jr., Helen Kincannon, Dale Rasco In thanksgiving for Kirby and Ethan Luna, Kellye Kinannon In memory of by The McCabe Family Carolyn Pyle In thanksgiving for

Our Family

In memory of

Loved ones gone before us.

In thanksgiving for

Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

by

Osborne and Linda McKinney

In memory of

Loved ones

In thanksgiving for Family and friends

by

John and Gayle Pitts

In memory of

James and Geraldine Young, William and Joyce Halliday

In thanksgiving for

Our children Carolyn Claire,

Kyle Alexander and Rebekah Ann Young

by

Dennis and Mary Young

Notes:

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Altar Party

Acolytes

Ushers

Sondra Griner and Mel McKey

Chalicer

Gary Jones

Lector

Sondra Griner

Healing Prayer

Char Aslakson Judi James

Rector

The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

Director of Music

Andrea Hutchison

Organist

Bonnie McDaniel

St. Timothy's Vestry

Gary Jones – Sr. Warden Fran Hammond
Mark Lehnhoff – Jr. Warden Dave Mayherry
Kerry Cormier Angela McCahe
Margaret Dodson Ron Weeks
Colinda Friehauf Ed White

Keith Frank, Treasurer Tony Janeshek, Stewardship Chair

Alexa Kincannon, Finance Chair

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or school. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. Section 3.6 Clergy Manual.