



Inspiring commitment to the Cathedral as a world-class treasure in our community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 25, 2020

Contact: Carolyn Will
612-414-9661

carolyn@cwcommunications.info

Susan Ritt

651-335-1834

susan@cwcommunications.info



Colossal light murals tell the Christmas story with U.S. debut of *Luxmuralis* Dec. 17 – 19, 2020

This free drive-along event spreads a message of peace

(Saint Paul, Minn.) ***Cathedral Illuminated: The Manger*** is a **free** drive-along December holiday event, using the Cathedral of Saint Paul as a canvas on which to tell the story of Christmas. This large-scale light and sound projection marks the U.S. debut by award-winning British company, [Luxmuralis](#). The show, offered without charge by the [Cathedral Heritage Foundation](#) as its gift to the Twin Cities community, runs 12 minutes and will be shown on a continuous loop from 6 to 9 p.m., Dec. 17 - 19, 2020, on the eastern (front) façade of the Cathedral, **239 Selby Ave., Saint Paul.** ******Officers from the Saint Paul Police Department will direct traffic one-way heading north along Summit Avenue and allow vehicles to stop temporarily in front of the Cathedral to watch the show. **Spectators must remain in their vehicles** at all times to comply with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's executive order 20-99: **Four Week Dial Back**, and **the public should not walk to this event** or attend outside a motor vehicle. *Cathedral Illuminated* will also be streamed live on the Cathedral Heritage Foundation's [Facebook page](#) to allow viewers near, far, and around the globe, to experience the monumental art display shone upon the country's fifth largest cathedral.

-more-

“We are so pleased, thanks to the generosity of our community sponsors, to have Luxmuralis debut in America on the magnificent east façade of the Cathedral of Saint Paul,” said Mary E. Schaffner, CHF board chair. “Please join us in sharing the season’s messages of joy and peace on earth as this challenging year draws to a close and we look forward to the New Year.”

The artwork, titled "The Manger" follows the story of the Nativity using traditional and abstract imagery to take the audience on a journey to the crib of the infant’s birth, according to the creator and famed sculptor Peter Walker. An original score by David Harper accompanies the illumination and will be broadcast from Cathedral Hill Park on hyper-local radio frequency, to be announced.

The show created by Luxmuralis will run concurrently at the Cathedral of Saint Paul and Lichfield Cathedral in Staffordshire, England, in a symbolic gesture of connection and unity across the globe. “Our Luxmuralis artwork is designed to present artwork in a way that brings the stories we represent to life, in new and contemporary ways. They are about showing the most striking images and curating sound and light in such a way that it reflects back at us the world around us. Each of our Christmas illuminations end on an image that is designed to bring art history, light and beautiful music to our audiences, from works of the renaissance to images of our world. This year we are featuring a beautiful stained-glass window, The Black Madonna and Child window from Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte (North Carolina) as a finale to the show. The same nativity show will be displayed at both the Cathedral of St Paul and Lichfield Cathedral in the UK, showing accessibility for all and unity between our cities, which is key to our artwork,” said Peter Walker, Luxmuralis.

The Dean of Lichfield Cathedral, the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber said at an earlier Luxmuralis event, “Our cathedrals are amongst our greatest national and international treasures. Cathedrals are at the heart of a country’s history culture and social fabric, and a testament to its faith. We would all be so much the poorer without them.”

The word “Luxmuralis” means “light murals,” and the company’s award-winning large-scale projections, synchronized to original music compositions, regularly attract upwards of 20,000 spectators to events staged across the U.K. and Europe (in non-COVID times).

Thank you to the following community sponsors whose support enables the Cathedral Heritage Foundation to present *Cathedral Illuminated: The Manger* free to the public.

Premier Sponsors: Atomic Data, Larry McGough and McGough Construction, and Premier Bank.

Community Sponsors: Dr. John and Anne Dowdle, Dr. David and Barbara Dries, Heppner’s Auto Body, Stanley S. Hubbard, Kowalski’s Markets, Minnesota Public Radio, Pioneer Press, Fr. Francis Pouliot, Saint Paul Parks

Conservancy, Mary Schaffner and Robert Lee, Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association, and Xcel Energy Minnesota.

For details on how to become a **community sponsor**, please contact Carolyn Will carolyn@cwcommunications.info. Donations from the public in any amount are also gratefully accepted. To donate, visit the CHF website [online](#).

****GETTING TO CATHEDRAL ILLUMINATED**

SPPD will manage traffic as vehicles travel one way in front of the Cathedral along Summit Avenue. Vehicles will be allowed to pause in front of the Cathedral to see the 12-minute show.

FROM THE NORTH, EAST AND WEST – Take Hwy 94 to Dale Street, and head north. Turn left onto Summit Avenue and follow signs to the Cathedral.

FROM THE SOUTH – Take Hwy 35E north to the Grand Avenue exit and turn left (west) onto Grand Ave/Ramsey Hill. At the top of Ramsey Hill, turn right onto Summit Avenue and follow signs to the Cathedral

NOTE – Selby Avenue will be closed at Western Avenue to east-bound traffic. West-bound traffic along Selby Avenue will be permitted. Residents of the area will be allowed access in both directions.

[The Cathedral Heritage Foundation](#) is a non-profit, non-sectarian, historic preservation, cultural and arts organization established to preserve, restore, and enhance the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

-CHF-