

**The Parish of Christ Church  
Andover, Massachusetts**

For this week's  
announcements and  
prayer list, please scan:



**Second Sunday of Advent  
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

**December 7, 2025  
at eight and ten o'clock in the morning**

**Voluntary** Partita on "Comfort, comfort ye my people" *Anton Heiller (1923-1979)*

*All stand, as able*

**Processional Hymn 67** Comfort, comfort ye my people

*Psalm 42*

**Welcome**

**Advent Prayer and Wreath Lighting**

*The Camuso family (Michael, Kate, Carly, Amelia) will light the first candle of the Advent wreath and read the following:*

You know what time it is. A voice has cried out from the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." It is time to make things ready, in our lives and in our world, for the Word to be flesh again. It is time to prepare to live as God showed the ancestors of our faith, through the teaching of the prophets and the stories we have passed down until now. Prepare to make all things ready, for Christ to be born in our hearts again, that we might remember who we are, who God intends us to be. Prepare the way of the Lord.

*Prayer:* God of our Ancestors, we repent of where we have gone astray. Help us to listen to the voice that cries out from the wildernesses, the margins of our world. Help us to listen to Your voice call us to prepare for justice, Your voice that calls us into the hard work of reparation, Your voice that calls us to pursue the path of peace. **Amen.**

**Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

**Holy God [Hymnal S-102]** *Trisagion - Sung three times (10:00 a.m.) Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)*

The musical score is for the hymn 'Holy God' (Hymnal S-102). It is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn: 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,'. The second system contains the next two lines: 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A reading from Isaiah (11:1-10 NRSV)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*At the 10:00 a.m. service, the Congregation remains seated and is invited to sing the ANTIPHON.*



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## Psalms 72:1-8, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

[ANTIPHON]

- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
     from one generation to another. [ANTIPHON]
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
     like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
     there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 He shall rule from sea to sea  
     And from the River to the ends of the earth. [ANTIPHON]
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
     who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
     and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. [ANTIPHON]

**A reading from Romans (15:4-13 NRSV)**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.

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

**Gradual Hymn 603**

When Christ was lifted from the earth

*St. Botolph*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12 NRSV)**

*At the Announcement, all say*   **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"

*Priest*  
*People*

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

**The Sermon** The Reverend Jane W. Van Zandt

**The Nicene Creed**

*BCP, p. 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**

*Based on Form I, BCP, p. 383*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Julia, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this town, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We give thanks for the Pennacook-Abenaki people who inhabited the lands upon which our church building is located. That we may be faithful stewards of this sacred space, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Becky, Peter, Debbie, Maddie, Nancy, Leslie, Jessica, Ed, Carol, and Mary, and those family and friends of parishioners who have been commended to our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

I invite your prayers and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

*The people may add their own prayers silently or aloud.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Schang, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence.*

### **The Confession**

*BCP, p. 360*

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader 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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive 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**

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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

### **The Offertory**

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offertory Hymn 65 (8:00 a.m.)** Prepare the way, O Zion *Bereden vag for Herran*

**Offertory Anthem (10:00 a.m.)** How lovely are the messengers *Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

**Hymn at the Presentation: 56, v. 2** O come, thou Wisdom from on high *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

*BCP, p. 367*

### **Lift up your hearts [Hymnal S-120]**

*Sursum corda (10:00 a.m.)*

*Plainsong*

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 God 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.

*Here a proper Preface is sung or said.*

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord [Hymnal S-124] *Sanctus (10:00 a.m.)***

*David Hurd (b. 1950)*

**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 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,

*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. **AMEN.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer [Hymnal S-119] (10:00 a.m.)**

*Plainsong*

**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

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

**Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God [Hymnal S-161]** *Agnus Dei (10:00 a.m.)*

*David Hurd*

**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.**

## Invitation to Communion

*Celebrant* This is Christ's table of love and forgiveness. 'The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation' provide food for our souls. All are welcome to draw near and share these holy mysteries. Take Christ within your bodies and become the Body of Christ.

~ Everyone is Welcome at God's Table ~

*The Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the communion hymns (as needed).*

**Communion Hymns 597** (10:00 a.m.)  
**583**

O day of peace that dimly shine  
O holy city, seen of John

*Jerusalem*  
*Morning Song*  
BCP, p. 365

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**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 Blessing

### Announcements

**Hymn 65** (10:00 a.m.)

Prepare the way, O Zion

*Bereden vag for Herran*

## Dismissal

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

**Voluntary** "Allegro maestoso e vivace" from Sonata II

*Felix Mendelssohn*



## The Parish of Christ Church

*As we have been fed at God's Table as the Body of Christ, we warmly invite you to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service. Our Coffee Hour is held in the Parlor following the 8:00 a.m. service, and we gather in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service. These are wonderful opportunities to connect with others.*

## Serving at Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Michael J. Hodges, Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Jane W. Van Zandt
Organist	Barbara A. Bruns
Parish Choir	
Lectors	(8:00) Holly Jarrell-Marcinelli (10:00) Tim Pickard
Eucharistic Ministers	(8:00) Karen Herman (10:00) Nancy Taber
Ushers	(8:00) Linda Borland (10:00) Helen and Tim Pickard
Flowers	Rita DeLollis
Altar Guild	(8:00) Frances Jennings Dodson (10:00) Nancy Taber
Acolytes	Caitlin Nason, Helen Barrett, Matthew Marcinelli
Verger	Ross Morgan
Videographer	Sophie Marcinelli
Sunday Sexton	Abbi Serrano

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## Welcome to Christ Church!

We're delighted you have found us! We are blessed by your presence here today and want to do everything possible to make you feel at home. In our celebration of Holy Communion, we believe that everyone is welcome at God's table. Our welcome extends to all people without preference for age, ability, gender, race, ethnic or religious background, sexual orientation, marital or family status. We desire to know ourselves and one another as God knows us – as beloved children of God – and to embody Jesus' own example of radical hospitality. If you have questions about this parish specifically, or about the Episcopal Church in general, please ask someone seated near you. There's wisdom in the helpful people in the pews. You may also talk with our Rector, Rev. Michael Hodges.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms, including one with a changing table, are located behind the Parish Hall at the end of the long hallway on the left. Follow the red signs.



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## The Parish of Christ Church

25 Central Street  
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[www.christchurchandover.org](http://www.christchurchandover.org)