

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

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



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

**December 14, 2025
at eight and ten o'clock in the morning**

Voluntary

Advent Chorales

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

All stand, as able

Processional Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

Welcome

Advent Prayer and Wreath Lighting

The Vasquez family (Lora, Bill, and Noah) will light the third candle of the Advent wreath and read the following:

You know what time it is. It is not time to sit back and hem and haw. It is not time to question whether to risk or not. It is not time to tell those who have waited so long for justice to continue to be patient. The waiting of Advent is not passive, but active. It is participating in the reign of Christ while waiting for Christ to return in our world and lives in a new way. It is building up the beloved community now while knowing that grief and suffering are still raw and real. It is the time to risk, because if we do not, we are bound to lose. It is the time to act for justice because we know that it will not come unless we demand it. It is the time to seek peace and pursue it, because it will not come without sacrifice. It is the time to live, knowing Christ is with us now even as we wait for Christ to make all things new. Prayer: God of Justice and Mercy, we pray for the courage to pursue Your way in this world now even as we pray for Your kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2020

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 Bass/Tenor) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains two measures of music. The lyrics 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,' are written below the notes. The second system also contains two measures of music. The lyrics 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' are written below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah (35:1-10 NRSV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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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Psalm 146:4-9

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

[ANTIPHON]

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

[ANTIPHON]

A reading from James (5:7-10 NRSV)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2-11 NRSV)

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Michael J. Hodges

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 II, BCP, p. 385

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Julia, our bishop, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, especially Becky, Peter, Debbie, Maddie, Nancy, Leslie, Jessica, Ed, Carol, Mary, and Ila, and those family and friends of parishioners who have been commended to our prayers, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Lieutenant Colonial Joseph Schang. Pray for those who have died. *Silence.*

We give thanks for the Pennacook-Abenaki people who inhabited the lands upon which our church building is located and we pray that we may be faithful stewards of this sacred space.

I invite your prayers and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

The people may add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

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 438(8:00 a.m.) Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord *Woodlands*

Offertory Anthem (10:00 a.m.) E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come *Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

Hymn at the Presentation 56, vs. 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might *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 hymn.

Communion Hymn 64 (10:00 a.m.) O heavenly Word, eternal light

O Heiland, reiss

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

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 438 (10:00 a.m.)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Woodlands

Dismissal

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Voluntary Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 557

Johann Sebastian Bach



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 and Preacher	The Rev. Michael J. Hodges, Rector
Organist	Barbara A. Bruns
Parish Choir	
Lectors	(8:00) Frances Jennings Dodson (10:00) Mike Hassanpour
Eucharistic Ministers	(8:00) Chris Wagner (10:00) Fran Kuchar
Ushers	(8:00) Janice Parent (10:00) Matt Calnan, Jay Donovan
Flowers	Rita DeLollis
Altar Guild	(8:00) Debbie Kelley (10:00) Beth Rufo
Acolytes	Anthony Vinson-Ventola, Linus Barrett, Benjamin McFarland
Verger	Holly Jarrell-Marcinelli
Videographer	Michael Marcinelli
Sunday Sexton	Sophie Marcinelli

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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 a lot of wisdom in the helpful people in the pews. You may also talk with the Rev. Michael Hodges, our Rector.

Children: Children's activity bags for borrowing are available on the children's bookshelf in the back of the church. Our service is enriched by the presence of children; they learn liturgical behavior by observation. Let them see you participate in and enjoy the service!

Accessibility: Plastic magnifying sheets are available at the rear of the church. There are also hearing assistance devices located in the rear of the church. Please ask an usher for assistance.

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.

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that Christ Church is located on the ancestral lands of the Pennacook tribal nation, an Algonquian-speaking tribe of the Wabanaki Confederacy composed of the Pennacook, Pawtucket, and other Indigenous people. This was their home for more than 10,000 years. We acknowledge these caretakers of the land and waters: the elders who lived before, the Indigenous people today and the generations to come. We are guests on this land and have used it and its people for our betterment, often at their expense. We commit to doing our part to become better stewards of this land, understanding the impact of present and past exploitation, and working toward a more just and equitable future.



Everything we do here at Christ Church is dependent on the generosity of our parishioners and other donors. Please use this QR code to donate today. Our vestry greatly appreciates your support!

The Parish of Christ Church

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