



**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II – 10:00 A.M.**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026**

THE REVEREND NOELLE YORK-SIMMONS, *Rector*  
THE REVEREND BETH BINGHAM, *Associate Rector*

THE REVEREND ROBBIE LAUGHTON, *Associate Rector*  
ABBY MERK, KEVIN CRILEY, *Seminarians*  
*Childcare is available in the nursery*

**PRELUDE** Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany

Maurice Duruflé

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

*Please stand and sing*

**HYMN 124**

What star is this

*Puer nobis*

**THE ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

**SONG OF PRAISE HYMN 96, VS 1 AND 4** Angels we have heard on high

*Gloria*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

**THE FIRST LESSON**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*All children ages three through third grade are invited to Children's Chapel. Parents are encouraged to accompany very young children as they learn the rhythms of this service designed especially for children.*

*The children will return before communion.*

*All remain seated and sing*

**PSALM 84:1-8**



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The people may be seated.*

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. Beth Bingham

*A period of silence for reflection will follow the sermon.*

*The people stand and say*

**THE 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.

*The People stand or kneel.*

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Creating God, you have made us in your image that we might reflect your glory, hear us now as we say, God of light and life, hear our prayer.

*Leader* God of light and life,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The people kneel and say*

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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 ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*All stand*

#### THE PEACE

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

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

#### BIRTHDAY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We invite you to support the mission and ministries at Christ Church by making an offering.*

*To donate via PayPal:*



*To donate via Shelby:*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The sun's in his cradle,  
The bird's in her nest,  
The shepherds are calling  
The lambs home to rest.  
Go sleep, little Jesus!  
The wind's riding by  
To set all the candles  
Alight in the sky.

A candle for Kingship,  
Sweet laughter it brings,  
And mirth's golden music,  
The riches of Kings.  
Go sleep, little Jesus!  
The wind's riding by  
To set all the candles  
Alight in the sky.

But oh! In the skytop  
Up there I can see  
A cross, it is shining,  
It's shining on Thee.  
Go sleep, little Jesus!  
The wind's riding by  
To set all the candles  
Alight in the sky.

Words: Star Candles, Margaret Rose  
Music: Michael Head

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*All stand.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING / EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth... 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Celebrant* 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.... Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All We remember Christ's death.  
 We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
 We await Christ's coming in glory.**

*Celebrant* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all... By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

**All 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 FRACTION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*To receive communion, please follow the ushers to the altar. Upon placing your hands forward, you will receive a wafer. You may consume it and then receive the wine from the chalice or hold onto the wafer and the chalice-bearer will intinct it for you. You may also cross your hands over your chest for a blessing to receive neither element or not to receive the wine.*

## ANTHEM AT COMMUNION

Mary sits by the rose bower  
And rocks her little Jesus,  
Softly through the leaves  
The warm wind of summer blows.

A brightly coloured bird  
Sings at her feet:  
Go to sleep, sweet child,  
It's time to go to sleep.

Your smile is lovely,  
Your happy sleep lovelier still,  
Lay your tired little head  
Against your mother's breast!  
Go to sleep, sweet child,  
It's time to go to sleep!

Mariä Wiegenlied  
Max Reger (1873-1916)

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **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

## THE CLOSING HYMN 128

We three kings of Orient are

*Three Kings of Orient*

## THE DISMISSAL

*Leader* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

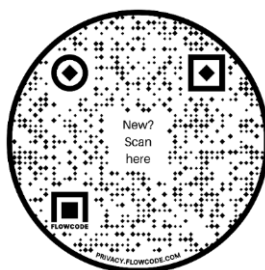
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE Improvisation

## THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In memory of Joann Engel and Alice Ard

NEW TO CHRIST CHURCH? PLEASE SCAN AND LET US KNOW!



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*For inclusion on the prayer list, please submit names to [PastoralCare@ccalex.org](mailto:PastoralCare@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4936.*

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