



HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I – 8:00 A.M.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

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

THE REVEREND ROBBIE LAUGHTON, *Associate Rector*
ABBY MERK, KEVIN CRILEY, *Seminarians*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please stand and sing

OPENING HYMN 56, vs 1-4

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 323

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robbie Laughton

A period of silence for reflection follows 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition concludes with "Let us pray to the Lord." People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE OFFERTORY

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

To donate via PayPal:



To donate via Shelby:



After the altar is prepared, all stand and sing

THE DOXOLOGY (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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The People remain standing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord and God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God... Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS S-114

Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people remain standing or kneel.

Celebrant All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father...

By whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

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

To receive Holy Eucharist, please follow the usher to the end of the aisle.

After all have received, the People stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Stuttgart

THE DISMISSAL

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

In honor of the members of the Christ Church Foundation

In memory of Thomas and Carolyn Jones

In memory of William and Mary McDermott

In memory of William and Mary Junk

WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Catherine Clagett

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY OVERSEAS

Kate Ballard, Holly Prousalis, Omar Sharif, the Hood, Doherty, Jennings, and Streyder families

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH

Bonnie-Lorraine Thiele, Barbara Cooley, Mary Crow, Gladys Hook, LaVerne Scott-Rayford, David Caleb, Gail & Ridge Multop, Helen Lewis, Susanne O'Neill, Hadley Kimberlin, Kimberly Richmond, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Peter West, Tyger Latham, Quiana Lawhorn, Carol Lafley, Van Bridgers, Matt Rhodes, Rusty Vellek, Susan Fitzgerald, Diane, Carol Quesenberry, Mary Ellen Freesland, the Stelmakh family, Bill Nelson, Al

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

