



# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

FESTIVAL EUCHARIST  
DECEMBER 24, 2025  
6:00 P.M. AND 9:00 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Infant Caring Room open for all services.

*In the Infant Caring Room, parents can tend to their child's needs while watching the service live on closed-circuit TV.*

PRELUDE Variations sur *In dulci jubilo*

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The People stand and sing*

HYMN 83

*Adeste Fidelis*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

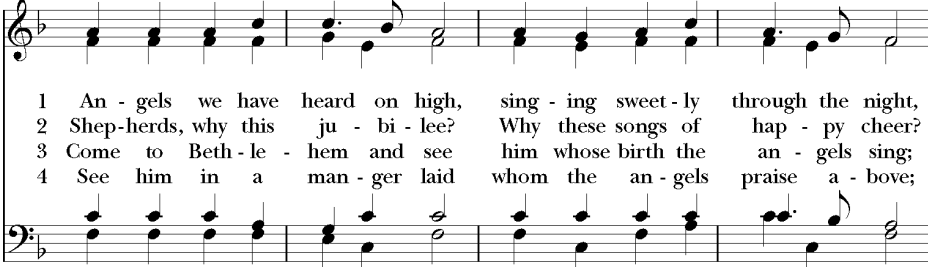
*Celebrant* Alleluia! Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

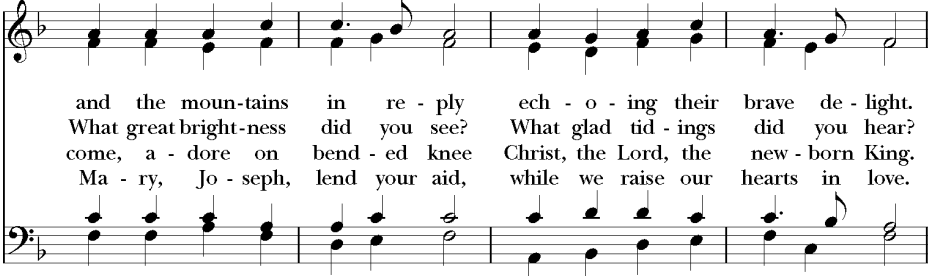
*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name: through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 96


*Gloria*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



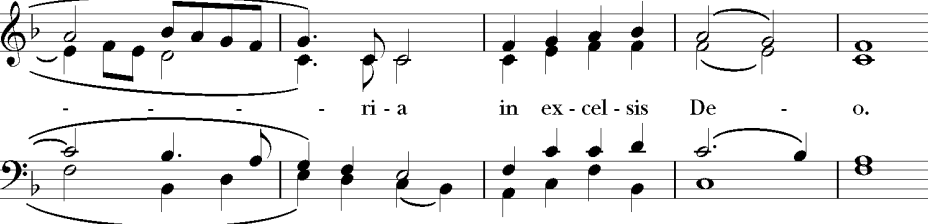
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

*The People are seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

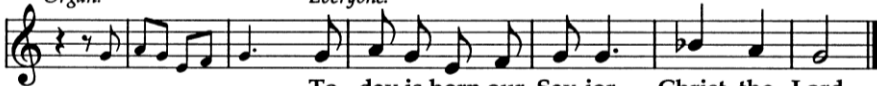
## PSALM 96

Peter R. Hallock

*The antiphon is sung twice at the beginning.*

**ANTIPHON**

Luke 2: 11  
*Organ:*



*Everyone:*  
To - day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

*Choir:* Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

### Antiphon

*Choir:* Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

### Antiphon

*Choir:* Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

### Antiphon

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The People stand and sing*

## HYMN 105

*God Rest You Merry*



1 God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis-may;  
 2 From God our heaven-ly Fa-ther a bless-ed an-gel came  
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an-gel, "Let noth-ing you af-fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais-es, all you with-in this place,

re-mem-ber Christ our Sa-vior was born on Christ-mas Day,  
 and un-to cer-tain shep-herds brought tid-ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sa-vior of a pure vir-gin bright,  
 and with true love and char-i-ty each o-ther now em-brace;

to save us all from Sa-tan's power when we were gone a-stray.  
 how that in Beth-le-hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa-tan's power and might."  
 this ho-ly tide of Christ-mas doth bring re-deem-ing grace.

*Refrain*  
 O tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and  
 joy; O tid-ings of com-fort and joy!

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

The Reverend Noelle York-Simmons

*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

All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the Earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in his light grace, let us pray for all people in need, and for all the world, saying, Incarnate Savior, hear our prayer.

Empower your Church to speak truth and to stand boldly against the dark powers of this world, that it might be a refuge and a place for hope.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Embolden your people to hold to account the leaders of the world, that they might pursue policies of peace and international fellowship.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant us discerning and generous hearts that your blessings might be made known through our actions to our neighbors near and far.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Equip us and sustain us to prevent environmental catastrophe, and to preserve the glorious abundance of creation for future generations.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Support those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and make your healing presence known to them.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

Accept the dying into your loving arms and greet us also in the hour of our deaths that we might rise again in your new age.

Incarnate Savior,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* God, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas Word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

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

*The People are seated.*

## A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

*This year's Christmas offering will support the mission and ministry of Christ Church,  
allowing us to further our outreach both here and abroad.*

*To donate via PayPal:*



*To donate via Shelby:*



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What sweeter musick can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honour to this Day,  
That sees December turned to May,  
If we may ask the reason, say:

We see Him come, and know Him ours,  
Who, with His sunshine and His show'rs  
Turns all the patient ground to flow'rs.

The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is we find a room  
To welcome Him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart:

Which we will give Him, and bequeath  
This holly and this ivy wreath,  
To do Him honor who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)  
Music: William Bradley Roberts



*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant*      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
*Celebrant*      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*  
It is right to give him 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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### SANCTUS S128

William Mathias

Ho - ly, 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.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*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. On the night before he died for us, our

Savior 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,

**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; 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.

**All 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.**

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

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

*To receive communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. Upon placing your hands forward, you will receive a wafer. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the clergy. 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.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

What is this lovely fragrance wafting  
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!  
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty,  
Hear you not heav'nly caroling?

What is this light so fair, so tender  
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?  
Never the Morning Star so radiant  
Followed his course o'er eastern skies.

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps  
Seek the Saviour, born today.  
Low at His feet we lay our treasure,  
Heart's adoration, love for aye.

Sung by all  
HYMN 101

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

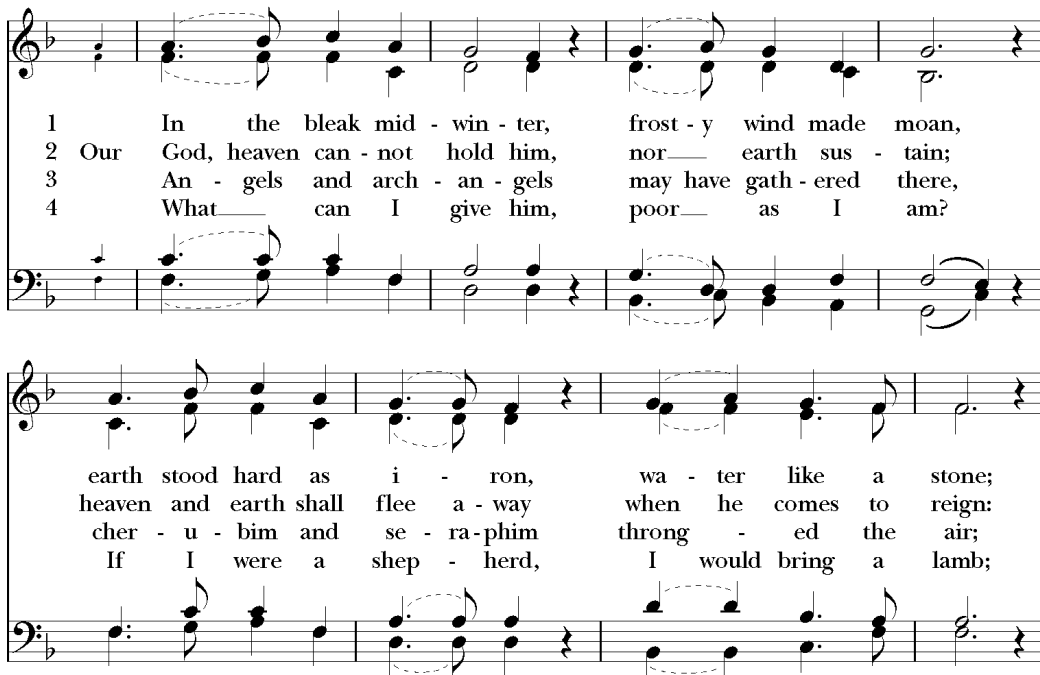
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

HYMN 112

Cranham



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor— earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What— can I give him, poor— as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

*The People kneel and sing.*

# HYMN 111

*Stille Nacht*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts — sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## 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

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. May God, who set his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

*All* Amen.

*The people stand and sing.*

HYMN 87

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

## THE DISMISSAL

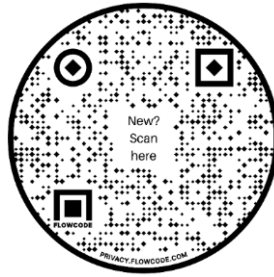
*Leader:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

POSTLUDE Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

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



*If you no longer need your bulletin following the service, please return it to an usher for reuse.*

*Cover Art: Lourry Legarde*



# CHRISTMAS SPECIAL GIFTS GIVEN

## IN HONOR OF

The Christ Church Facilities Assistants

Gerry Stacy

Jason Abel and the Choir

McKinley Jolly

Ashley Jolly

## IN MEMORY OF

Charles & Delza Chadbourn

Leon & Margareet Stroud

Elizabeth Stacy

Bruce Denslow

William Brooke Power

Jack & Jo Burns

Robert & Marcia Thomson

Carolyn Burns Mills

Ruth Wilson Salmon

Pauline Wilson Shaver

Ruth Ann Mahood

Margaret Fitch

Margo Fitch

Frances Wells

Jean Wells

Sherm Broka

Michael Murray

Ronald Albers

Robert Broka

Carroll Dority

Robert Allen Smith

Nick Wasilewski

Donald L. & Elinor W. Dickson

Harry L. & Mary W. Rudolph

Brianna Jolly

Mary & Virgil Baird

Jacqueline & James Dinwiddie

Fay Weirich

George & Cora Halwig



## PARISH LIFE • CHRISTMAS 2025



### Welcome to Christ Church

We are delighted you are here for Christmas worship, whether it is your first or 1,000th time here. For over 250 years, people have come to Christ Church to be nourished and encouraged on their spiritual journey—people of all walks of life, occupation, and age, from your neighbor across the street to archbishops and civil rights leaders, presidents and first ladies. Today, Christ Church is an active, vibrant parish with ministries that strive to inspire the soul, educate, and form spiritual seekers, deepen the bonds of friendship, and meet the needs of a hurting world. We hope you will explore some of the many ways to get involved and come again to share the joy at Christ Church! If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can also be scanned via QR code in your bulletin. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. God's blessings be with you this Christmas and always!

### OUTREACH & MISSION

Christ Church offers many ways to serve Christ by helping those in need in our community and around the world. Make a difference by helping our neighbors in Alexandria through parish-wide efforts or in small-group ministries, from one day a year to weekly time commitments. Here are just a few of many opportunities to get involved:

- The Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry provides emergency financial assistance to help Alexandrian's with rent, utilities, and medical bills.
- The Lazarus Food Pantry offers a large variety of groceries that our guests select for themselves, including fresh vegetables, meat, eggs, fish, and non-perishables.
- Our parishioners regularly cook and serve dinner to the residents of Carpenter's Shelter, prepare bag lunches at Meade Memorial Church for those in need, and volunteer with Meals on Wheels to serve homebound seniors in Alexandria.
- Our Refugee Ministry assists refugee families in Alexandria with emergency needs and long-term support to adjust to living in the Alexandria community.

Our Mission ministries reach out beyond local borders:

- We are partners with Mengo HIV/AIDS Clinic in Uganda. We provide financial support for operations and friendship and fellowship with the staff.
- We are in the process of exploring interest at Christ Church in revitalizing our mission partnership with Our Little Roses (OLR) Home for Girls in Honduras. OLR offers a home and school for girls who have been abandoned or abused, and who lived in extreme poverty.

These are just some of the opportunities to serve others locally and abroad. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach & Mission, at [mgray@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:mgray@HistoricChristChurch.org).

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

At Christ Church, we believe our spiritual journey extends through the whole of our lives, deepened and enriched by means of adult education experiences such as:

- Lecture and discussion forums at 9:00 a.m. on (most) Sunday mornings.
- Covenant Class is a ten-week class for those new to Christianity, the Episcopal Church, Christ Church, or those who have questions about the journey of faith. Sign up for the Spring class dates by emailing Jessica Williams at [jessicavilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jessicavilliams@gmail.com).
- Leaning into Lectionary is a small group discussion on the Sunday lectionary, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Library.
- Education for Ministry (EFM) are four-year programs that deeply explore the Bible, Christian history, and theology. For more information, please contact Tom Hahn as [tshahn1@aol.com](mailto:tshahn1@aol.com).

For information on adult education or small group ministries, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons Rector, at [rector@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:rector@HistoricChristChurch.org).

## WORSHIP

It takes a village to offer worship. Volunteers serve in many ways: acolytes, chancel chapter, chalice bearers, choir members, greeters, readers, and ushers. Christ Church has three opportunities for Sunday worship:

- Our 8:00 a.m. service is Rite I (traditional language for the prayers). The service includes two sung hymns, Holy Communion, and a short sermon that reflects on the readings for the day.
- The 10:00 a.m. service is Rite II (contemporary language for the prayers). It features our choirs, all of the readings appointed for the day, hymns, a sermon, and Holy Communion. During the sermon, we offer a chance for our young children to attend a special Children's Chapel. Children aged three through third grade are welcome to go to Children's Chapel, leaving the church just prior to the Gospel reading and returning for Communion. Led by the Director of Children's Ministries, this service includes a children's sermon, prayers of the people, a short confession, and more!
- Our 5:00 p.m. service is quieter, with Holy Communion using the Rite II language. A brief sermon is offered, along with special prayers of healing for those who request it. On the first Sunday of the month, from October to May, Choral Evensong, a service of Bible readings and prayers, is sung by our choir.

If you would be interested in serving in a volunteer capacity to assist us in our worship, please contact the Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector, at [rector@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:rector@HistoricChristChurch.org).

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Children, Youth and Family Ministries are an integral part of life at Christ Church.

Each Sunday, children aged three through fifth grade and youth, sixth grade through eighth grade, meet in the Fowler House from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School. They share stories, sing songs, create art, pray, and play as they learn more about God and each other. Confirmation class meets at this same time in the Teen Center of the Fowler House. The One Sock On group meets from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Fowler House, providing fellowship and support for parents with children under age three.

To learn more about Children, Youth, and Family Ministries or to find ways to get involved visit

[www.HistoricChristChurch.org/children-and-youth](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org/children-and-youth) or contact Ariel Rudy, Director of Children's Ministries, at [arudy@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:arudy@HistoricChristChurch.org) or Robbie Laughton, at [youth@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:youth@HistoricChristChurch.org).

## MUSIC

There are three choirs which provide music for this parish. Nearly 75 singers come together for rehearsals to offer inspiring music ranging from the 15th century to the modern day. There are two children's choirs—beginning at age four. We teach music fundamentals as well as offering the children an artistic opportunity to praise God. Research overwhelmingly shows the positive impact of exposing children to music at a young age, and we are eager to share this opportunity here at Christ Church. We welcome singers of all ages! For further information, contact M. Jason Abel, Director of Music at [jabel@HistoricChristChurch.org](mailto:jabel@HistoricChristChurch.org).

## CHRIST CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday January 1—offices closed.

## GIFT SHOP

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Tuesday–Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 703.836.5258

*All proceeds benefit Outreach in the Alexandria community and globally*

Did you know that all profits from the Gift Shop go to charities and outreach ministries? Thanks to our volunteers, we are open six days a week, and often have prices that are lower than stores and catalogs. Come back and take a look – your local charity will thank you!

*The Gift Shop will re-open after Christmas*

118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.549.1450 • [www.HistoricChristChurch.org](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org)



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit [www.HistoricChristChurch.org/get-involved](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org/get-involved) for more information about these and other opportunities.

### **LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

First and Third Thursday of the month | Library

LGBTQ+ parishioners gather every first and third Thursday for conversation about the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their coming out journeys. Through prayerful study of scripture in a safe, open, and loving space, we will seek a deeper understanding of our faith, our lived experiences, and our relationship with Jesus. For more information, please contact Terry Brown at [terrymbrown1@me.com](mailto:terrymbrown1@me.com).

### **Sunday School**

We will not have Sunday School December 28 or January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

### **Children's Chapel**

We will not have Children's Chapel on December 28. Children's Chapel will resume on January 4.

### **Dinner Church | January 7**

The first Wednesday of the month means Dinner Church! From 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will offer a special dinner for everyone. There will be a short "Service of Word and Table" during dinner for everyone to participate in together, and a special craft corner for kids.

### **Save the Date: Christ Church Pilgrimage to Turkey**

October 9-26, 2026

The Dean of Virginia Seminary, The Very Rev Ian Markham, and Rev Noelle will be leading a trip to walk in the footsteps of apostles and to learn up close about the rise of early Christianity. Dean Markham will lead an adult forum at Christ Church on February 15 to introduce the themes and questions for the pilgrimage. Contact Noelle for more information.

### **Monday Concert Series | March 9 | 12:15 p.m.**

Second Monday of the Month | March through May

The series resumes in March with 4-Hand Piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Barber; featuring Sean Burns and Jason Abel. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here:

[www.historicchristchurch.org/music](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/music)

## BLESSINGS ON

- All who made Christ Child a success: Grace Carry, Aaron Harmon, Allison Harmon, Katie Hostetler, James Hughes, Ellie Levanto, Noah Levanto, Boden Nelson, Henry Mills, Freya Montes de Oca, Henry Trigg; Amy Bacon, Erika Basto-Eyzaguirre, Beth Beyer, Bill Chin, Claire Chow, Ginny Doherty, Paul Doherty, Julie Duke, Claudia Ellett, Alan Harman, Claire Haymes, Kathleen Hickman, John Hill, Karen Hill, Darrin Hostetler, Erin Hostetler, Kelley Brooke Hostetler, Jack Hutcheson, Mary Dixon Hutcheson, Denise Jean-Claude, Anne Land, Brett Levanto, Holly Levanto, Andrea McNicholas, Jenna Meyer, Blakely Mulder, Leslie O'Sullivan, Anne Ramsey, Meredith Richard, Bill Schaufler, Carol Shull, Joe Shull, Bob Thomson, Sandra Thomson, Elizabeth Trigg, Christy Wyckoff, Barbara Zeigler.
- All who donated funds to make the Christ Child Ministry happen in 2025.