

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025

## Welcome to Christ Church Alexandria!

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith. If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can be scanned via QR code in your bulletin, or at the bottom of this page. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. An infant caring room is also available in the Parish Hall, up the stairs to the right of the main entrance, for children five and under. We are glad you're here!

## TODAY – ADVENT IV

Please join us today at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Pageant.  
The Yuletide Feast & Cookie Exchange follows in the Auditorium.

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit [www.historicchristchurch.org/events](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/events)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Fowler House  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant  
6:00 p.m. Yuletide Feast

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
OFFICES CLOSED

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
([www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria](https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria))

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Christmas hymns and homily  
4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Christmas hymns and a sermon  
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, with the Christ Church Choir and sermon (Livestream available)  
9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II, with the Christ Church Choir and sermon

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

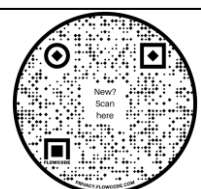
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

### AA • Al-Anon

Various groups meet regularly  
at Christ Church during the week.  
Please check our online calendar for specifics.  
([www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events))



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883  
[www.HistoricChristChurch.org](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org)



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to [ParishLife@ccalex.org](mailto:ParishLife@ccalex.org).

### Our 2026 Thank You Gift

Make a pledge and receive an only-at-Christ-Church thank you! Our 2026 gift is a bookmark that features shelves of books only found here. You'll see titles like "*How to be a Cheerful Giver*," "*It's Time for Children's Chapel*," and "*I Ain't Afraid of No Ghosts: A Churchyard Tour*." Make a digital gift and choose "2026 Pledge" or complete a card in your pew. Recurring or one-time gifts are both welcome.

### Help Spread Holiday Cheer – Deliver a Poinsettia!

Help share the joy of Christmas by delivering a poinsettia to a fellow parishioner who is homebound and unable to attend services. Flowers will be ready to pick up after the morning services today.

### Deck the Halls of Christ Church | Today

After today's 10:00 a.m. service, we need your help decorating the church! We will be hanging wreaths and getting the church all ready for Christmas

### Yes, the Democracy Circle Meets Today | Teen Center

By popular request, we are holding our December 21 Christ Church Democracy Circle meeting. We'll meet at 11:30 in the Teen Center in McMurray Commons. As a reminder, our Democracy Circle takes up the Presiding Bishop's call for us to be "Christians who seek to practice our faith fully in a free and fair democracy." Christ Church's new Democracy Circle is one of nearly 100 that have sprung up nationwide with the purpose of understanding and strengthening for the long-term the U.S. Constitutional democracy. Please contact Libby Witt ([ewitt@hotmail.com](mailto:ewitt@hotmail.com)) and Susan Marquis ([slmarquis70@gmail.com](mailto:slmarquis70@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Christmas Pageant & Yuletide Feast with Cookie Exchange December 21 | 5:00 p.m.

Our annual Christmas Pageant is almost here! Join the children of Christ Church at 5:00 p.m. to hear the story of Jesus' birth as told by our Sunday Schoolers. The Yuletide Feast and Cookie Swap will follow in the Auditorium. Bring a batch of your favorite Christmas treat to share! Pageant details for parents are in December Children's News.

### Help with the Pageant and Feast | December 21

We need your help making the Pageant and Feast a joyful and festive occasion! Volunteers are most needed for constructing and tearing down the set, decorating the Auditorium, and serving food and cleaning up during the Feast. Email Ariel ([arudy@ccalex.org](mailto:arudy@ccalex.org)) to connect with leadership these tasks.

### Calling All Bakers!

Do you have a new cookie recipe you want to try out? Do you find yourself doubling brownie recipes for no good reason? Lend your talents to the Yuletide Feast and Cookie Swap for us all to enjoy after the Pageant! Even if you don't plan to

attend the Pageant or Feast, you can drop cookies off in the Auditorium today and share the bounty of your culinary gifts.

### Completing Your 2025 Pledge

Please complete your generous 2025 pledge before December 31 so it may be recorded as a 2025 gift. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31. Remember, our offices will be closed from December 24-January 1. If you drop off a check, please let Julie Simonton ([jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org)) know to ensure it is attributed to 2025. Contributions postmarked January 1, 2026, or after—regardless of the date written on the check—will be part of your 2026 contribution record. Thank you!

### Do You Itemize Charitable Gifts?

To qualify for a 2025 charitable deduction, please ensure that Christ Church or the Christ Church Foundation receives your contribution on or before December 31. (If mailed, the envelope must be postmarked by December 31.)

### 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.

### 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)

## FAITH FORMATION

For information, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons at [rector@ccalex.org](mailto:rector@ccalex.org) or 703.549.1450

### Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library

Ever wonder why that piece of scripture is in the Bible or what it means? Show up to the sermon and wish you knew more? This Bible study is for you! We'll read the lessons appointed for the day and conduct a brief study.

### 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).

## Lent 2026

Yes, you read that correctly. We are inviting you to contribute to our annual Christ Church compilation of daily meditations for Lent. It may seem premature to focus on Lent in Advent, much less the Christmas and Epiphany seasons; however, because Lent begins quite early in 2026, we will compile all contributions by January 16. Your thoughts can be shared in narrative or poetic style (no more than 300 words) and/or by an illustration. We strongly believe that these contributions will deepen our connection with God and our sense of community in these challenging times. Thank you in advance for considering our call. Email questions and submissions to [mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org). Thank you from the Lenten Meditation Collectors, Melanie Gray, Tom Hahn, Rawles Jones, Ariel Rudy, Sharon Schambra, and Tom Suydam.

### New Sacred Ground Circle

Beginning Wednesday January 21, 6:30pm

Sacred Ground is an 11-part film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. More than 100 Christ Church parishioners have completed Sacred Ground as part of our commitment to the national Church's work of Becoming Beloved Community. Robbie and Noelle will lead the next Circle, beginning Jan 21 in person and running every other Wednesday through all 11 sessions. We do ask for a commitment to all eleven sessions and the homework in between though grace always abounds. For more information or to join the new Circle, please email Noelle at [rector@ccalex.org](mailto:rector@ccalex.org).

## OUTREACH & MISSION

For information, contact Melanie Gray at  
[mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4937

### DECEMBER: CANNED FRUIT, JELLY, AND RICE

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with the staples we're running low on: canned fruits (packed in juice, or reduced sugar preferred), jelly and rice (12oz or 16oz bags, white and brown). You can leave items in the white wooden donations box in the Parish Hall or order online (<https://amzn.to/40g4CaF>) and ship to Christ Church ATTN: Outreach at 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

### Spanish Translators needed at Lazarus Food Pantry and Lazarus Financial Ministry

Lazarus Food Pantry needs translators Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. until roughly 10:30 a.m. We need translators to help with the Lazarus Financial Ministry on Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. until roughly 5:00 p.m. Please reach out to Liz Denson for more details [ldenson@historicchristchurch.org](mailto:ldenson@historicchristchurch.org).

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at [arudy@ccalex.org](mailto:arudy@ccalex.org)

Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at [rlaughton@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughton@ccalex.org)

### Fellowship for Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Raising tiny Christians is no easy feat! One Sock On is a space for parents to come together and share the triumphs and trials of parenthood in a loving, relaxed environment while little ones get to know church friends. One Sock On meets during Sunday School (9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) in Room 103 in the Fowler House. Come whenever you can, for as long as you like. Email Jaclyn Hagner ([jackie.hagner@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.hagner@gmail.com)) if you have questions or would like to be added to the email list.

### 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.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- ❖ **2:00 p.m. | A Simple Service for Christmas Eve**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Christmas hymns and homily. We will sing selected verses of our favorite Christmas hymns and share the Bread of Life together. This service will begin and end in daylight for those who prefer to walk or drive in the daytime.
- ❖ **4:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Eucharist**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with familiar Christmas hymns and a short sermon. This service is particularly appropriate for children and families.
- ❖ **6:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. | The Feast of the Nativity**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with the Christ Church Choir and sermon. Livestream available at 6:00 p.m. Along with the Holy Eucharist, hymns, and a Christmas sermon, these two services will feature the Christ Church Choir, and Director of Music Jason Abel. Join friends and strangers alike as we welcome the infant Christ into our hearts this most holy night.

### Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

- ❖ 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, December 28 – (note schedule change)

- ❖ 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## CHRIST CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Offices Closed Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, January 1

## BLESSINGS ON...

- Amy Wilczynski for organizing our Sunday Memorial Flowers.
- 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.

## GIVING AT YEAR END

**Appreciated Stock:** As 2025 draws to a close, consider a gift of stock! If you have stock that has appreciated in value and that you have held for longer than one year, you can contribute it directly to Christ Church or the Christ Church Foundation and avoid capital gains tax on the increase in value. Donors who itemize can claim a deduction up to the full fair market value of the stock. Firm Name: Merrill Lynch, DTC: 8862, Account Name: Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Account #: 7WD - 02546. Broker Contact Information: Golda Hector, 202.659.3080; [Golda\\_Hector@ml.com](mailto:Golda_Hector@ml.com). Also contact Lia Sanchez (703.778.4933/[lsanchez@ccalex.org](mailto:lsanchez@ccalex.org)) or Julie Simonton (703.778.4935/[jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org)) with your plans.

## GIFT SHOP



Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday to Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 703.836.5258

*All proceeds benefit outreach in the Alexandria community and globally.*

The Gift Shop is open for your last-minute shopping today and we hope you will stop by. We have new scarves and leather purses, Christmas soap and of course, jams, jellies and peanuts. We will close after today for a winter break and will reopen on Sunday, January 11. Happy Holidays and we will see you in the New Year!

## CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY, CLERGY, AND STAFF

### Vestry

Steve Reed, '26, Sr. Warden  
Kathleen Hickman '27, Jr Warden  
Cornelia Horner '26  
Ken Knapp '26  
Jay Purcell Manchester '26  
Nanette Lawson '27  
Wendy Montes de Oca '27  
Christopher Thompson '27  
Jane Baird '28, Paula Dubberly '28  
Jessica Hughes '28, Steve Slaton '28

David Rees, *Treasurer*

### Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons  
*Rector*  
The Rev. Robbie Laughton  
*Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Beth Bingham  
*Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Abbott Bailey  
*Priest Associate*

### Music

M. Jason Abel  
*Director of Music*

### Parish Office

Michelle Baize  
Meredith Bracco  
Liz Denson, Melanie Gray  
Ariel Rudy, Lia Sanchez  
Julie Simonton

### Facilities

Pouyan Meghdadian  
Glen Curry Kevin Lawyer