



CHRIST CHURCH

in SHORT HILLS

Welcome to Christ Church. We are glad you are here today, affirming our shared faith in Christ, and worshiping in the Episcopal tradition. If you are new to Christ Church, be at peace here, find God at work here, and know that we are grateful to pray with you today.

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.

HOLY EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 14, 2025: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM

The people stand, as able.

ACCLAMATION

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *The collect is said in unison*

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.

THE TRISAGION

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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.**

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9

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

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

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

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

**The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

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

The people stand.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated.

SERMON

The Rev. George Dredde

A moment of silence is kept following the sermon.

The people stand.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions for the Christian People (Year A, Advent III)

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Jesus said that the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world, saying: O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the goods of all your creatures. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming, and grant us wisdom to discern your will in our daily lives, that each of us may serve others for the building up of our common life. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love. Guide us in the fulfillment of your mission, that we may be one. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you all who are sick and in need. We pray for those who have died. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience and to be strengthened by our common life in the body of Christ. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for your countless gifts. Above all, we thank you for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, and for our unity in him through baptism. O God, most worthy of praise,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God.

A moment of silence is kept.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*To make a donation or pay your pledge online,
visit: www.christchurchshorthills.org/give-online*

*Scan the QR Code with your phone and
you will be directed to our online giving page.*



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The people stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Enriching Our Worship: Eucharistic Prayer 2

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 our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (CONT.)

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, he loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe, language, people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FRACTION

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All members of God's household are welcome to receive Communion.

*Come forward and extend your hands, palms up to receive the bread.
If you wish to receive a blessing, but not communion, please approach with your arms
across your chest.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.
If you would like a Eucharistic visitation, please contact the Parish Office.*

The people stand.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

you have fed us

with the bread of life and cup of salvation;

you have united us

with Christ and one another;

and you have made us one

with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth

in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever

in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. George Dredden
Acolyte	Clyde Williams
Usher	Brandon Edling

Please join us for our Coffee Hour in the St. Mark's Room
immediately after the 8am service.
All are welcome!

PRAYER LIST

Each week, we continue to remember those in need of prayer.

Special Prayers: Grady, Rosalie, Lana B., Cindy D., Claire H., Inese H., Marc K., Katie M. Andy O., Monte P., Tyler P., Natalie Z.

Ongoing Prayers: Celine, Emmanuel, Graham, River, Tim, Angelo B., Elena B., Joy B., Amy C., Dione D., Liz D., Lynn B., Sofia D., Sus G., Gregg L., Charlie M., Helen M., Miller M., Clare P., Graham P., and Kerrie S.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Wayne.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

We pray for: For peace in the world and an end to war, especially in Iran, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, and Yemen; for Haiti; for Sudan; for the Democratic Republic of Congo. For immigrant communities. For the LGBTQ+ community, and especially transgender people.

Please contact Catherine Flynn, Pastoral Assistant, if you have any prayer requests or would like a pastoral visitation. Email: pastoral@christchurchshorthills.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING AT CHRIST CHURCH



Messiah Concert

Sunday, December 14 | 4pm

Join us later today for a special holiday concert! We'll gather for a magnificent performance of Handel's *Messiah* featuring the Festival Choir, soloists, and orchestra under the direction of guest conductor George Mathew. This concert is free and open to the public. Invite a friend! You're encouraged to arrive early. Doors open at 3:40pm and seats are expected to go fast.



Cookie Coffee Hour!

Sunday, December 21

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas together, we invite you to help sweeten our fellowship. Please consider bringing 1–2 dozen cookies to Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 21. These cookies will be shared that day and enjoyed again during our Christmas services. Thank you for helping make our celebrations warm, welcoming, and delicious for all!

Christmas Flowers and Music

Christmas is coming! Help fill Christ Church with beautiful music and flowers as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Your donations make this joy possible. **To contribute, complete a flower dedication form in the info center or email the Parish office by Tuesday, December 16.**



Youth Christmas Party

December 21 | 5-7pm

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to a festive Christmas Party tonight, starting at 5pm. The evening kicks off with a Chipotle-catered dinner and wraps up with a lively "Secret Santa" gift exchange. In between, enjoy fun activities and plenty of snacks! Christmas sweaters encouraged.

What to bring: A wrapped gift valued at \$10–\$15 for the "Secret Santa" exchange (please, no gift cards). This event is free and open to friends! To help us plan, RSVPs to Chris Whitaker are appreciated.



Parish Epiphany Retreat:

Holy Cross Monastery

January 23-25, 2026

This January, you are invited to join Rev. Bowie for three days of prayer, reflection, and silence at Holy Cross Monastery, an Anglican Benedictine community of monks on the Hudson River in West Park, NY. RSVP to Rev. Bowie by January 5. The cost is \$250. Scholarships available.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Children ages three and up are invited to join the Christmas pageant; roles can be signed up for in the sanctuary after the 10am service this Sunday. Rehearsals will be held after each 10am service through December 21, with a final rehearsal at 2:30pm on Christmas Eve.

2026 ROLL OF PLEDGERS

We offer thanks to the following households who have indicated their support for the ministries of Christ Church in the coming year.

If you have not yet pledged, please join your fellow parishioners in their commitment to the vitality of our church and its work in our community.

Yvonne Adighibe	Grant & Marie Garcia	The Payne / Horan Family
Chuck Albers	Joanne Ng Gordon	Arnold & Sandra Peinado
Patricia Andrews	Douglas Grigg	Julie Planck
Richard Appelgren & Peter Kolonia	David & Holly Harms	Lew & JoAnn Price
Phil & Peggy Baggailey	Lauren Harrison	Deborah Purdon
Jean Bailey	Adrienne Harrison-Surgeon	Lynne Ranieri
Joanne & Loren Balady	David & Lisha Hendel	Sam & Sue Reckford
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Rey Calcano & Frances Adkins	Molly Lach	Rev. Bowie Snodgrass
Robert & Cheryl Campbell	Shaun & Lisa Landers	& George Mathew
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& Arden Canecchia	Peter Lewis & Yanni Hao	John Sogliuzzo & Gaye Torrance
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Libby Clarke & Jen Ragonese	Mike & Cynthia McChesney	Thomas Swartz, III
Kathey Coombs	Sharon McGrady	Don & Audena Syracuse
Todd & Alison Corbin	Jay & Jane McGraw	Tom & Susan Thompson
Valerie Crawford	Andrew Moore & Susan Ironside	Stan & Diane Tso
Rosemarie Dackerman	Louise Moos	Ken & Rose Udland
David & Helen Dwyer	Scott & Laura Morgan	Myles & Pam Udland
Brandon Edling	Michael & Julie Murphy	John & Claire Van Der Tuin
John & Cathy Fernandez	Barbara Murray	Michael & Jennifer Vinsonhaler
Terry & Heather Finan	Bob & Dara Near	Hannah Wallace
Dendy & Ida Franco	Adaeze Nwachuku	Kevin Walsh & Marie Goriachi
Paul & Jean Funk	Chuck Nwachuku	Gary Walz
William & Lisa Gadsden	Ayo & Saha Onabule	Greg & Sing Williams

Updated 12.10.2025

2026 STEWARDSHIP GOAL



To be added to our list of supporters, make your pledge by:

- Visiting www.christchurchshorthills.org/stewardship or scanning the QR code.
- Emailing office@christchurchshorthills.org or calling 973-379-2898.
- Picking up a pledge card in the Narthex and returning it to the Parish Office.



Celebrate with us this Christmas!

Sunday, December 14

Handel's *Messiah* Concert | 4pm



Sunday, December 21

Advent IV Holy Eucharist | 8am & 10am

Longest Night Service at St. Stephen's, Millburn | 7:30pm



Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Pageant & Eucharist | 4pm

Candlelight Choral Eucharist | 8pm

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

Festive Eucharist with Choir | 10am



Sunday, December 28

Christmas Lessons & Carols | 10am



Learn more at www.christchurchshorthills.org/christmas



WARDENS AND VESTRY

Dara Near, Senior Warden
Chuck Nwachuku, Junior Warden
Danny Jacobs, Clerk

Sue Bovan, Michael Cerino, Libby Clarke,
Todd Corbin, Heather Finan, Jean Funk,
Anne Miller, Deborah Purdon, James Sammartino,
Jennifer Vinsonhaler, Kevin Walsh

Richard Appelgren, Treasurer
Bonnie Rountree, Assistant Parish Treasurer
Lise Davis, Parish Counsel

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Bowie Snodgrass, Rector
The Rev. George Dredde, Community Engagement
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, Priest Affiliate
Dr. Andrew Paul Moore, Organist & Choirmaster
Chris Whitaker, Communications, Outreach, & Youth
The Rev. Dr. R. Kevin Johnson, Children's Ministry
Georgeann duChossois, Parish Administrator
James Johnson, Plant Supervisor
Lydia Zapico, Finance Manager
Catherine Flynn, Pastoral Assistant
Jennifer McGregor, Director of CCNS
Janet Aulet Maulbeck, Director of Interweave

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CHRIST CHURCH IN SHORT HILLS
66 Highland Avenue – Short Hills, NJ 07078
973.379.2898
christchurchshorthills.org