



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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 25, 2026

VOLUNTARY ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom for ever and 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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 5-13

Dominus illuminatio

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
 whom then shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life;
 of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of the Lord;
 one thing I seek;
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord
 and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;
 he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
 and set me high upon a rock.

**Even now he lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.**

**Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

**Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.**

**You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."
Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

**Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.**

**You have been my helper;
cast me not away;
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. George Dredden

A moment of silence is kept following the sermon.

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

Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; We pray especially for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chatham and for Iglesia Anglicana de Chile;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake:
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; We pray especially for Grady, Tom, Rosalie, Jack, Andree, Lana, Thomas, Cindy, Earl, Charles, Tammy, Claire, Dana, Katie, Andy, Annie and Sam, Monte, Tyler, Jane, John, Kathi, Susie and NM, Peggy, Sarah, Natalie and all those on our ongoing prayer list.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, remembering especially John Eddy and Sarah Wasty;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Presider concludes the Prayers with a suitable collect.

CONFESsION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ had 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 BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Please join us for our “Virtual Coffee Hour” via Zoom
immediately after the service.
All are welcome!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS (8AM)

Officiant and Preacher	The Rev. George Dredden
Responder	Don Syracuse
Reader	Diane Tso

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS (10AM)

Officiant and Preacher	The Rev. George Dredden
Readers	Sandra Johnson and Danny Jacobs
Responder	John Sogliuzzo

PRAYER LIST

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

Special Prayers: Grady, Tom, Rosalie C., Jack A., Andree B., Lana B., Thomas B., Cindy D., Earl D., Charles F., Tammy G., Claire H., Dana K., Katie M. Andy O., Annie and Sam P., Monte P., Tyler P., Jane R., John S., Kathi S., Susie and NM S., Peggy S., Sarah W., and Natalie Z.

We pray for the repose of John Eddy and Sarah Wasty.

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

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chatham.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Iglesia Anglicana de Chile.

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



Holy Grounds

February 1 & 15 | 9am

Although Islam is one of the three Abrahamic religions, most Americans know very little about the Muslim tradition. On Feb. 1, we will discuss the origins of Islam, the story of Muhammad and the early Muslim community, and its basic beliefs and teachings. On Feb. 15, we will have a conversation about the Qur'an's views on women, particularly their role in the creation story, the rights of women in marriage, divorce and education, polygamy, and Islamic veiling. The sessions will be lead by Jim McBride, a faculty member at NYU, who has taught Islam for over a decade. Please join us for coffee, tea and fellowship.



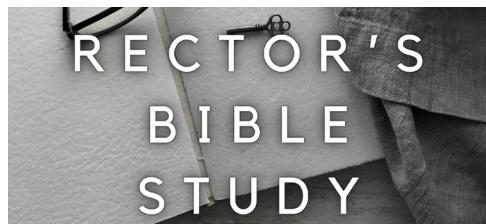
The Saint John's Bible Sunday

Sunday, February 8

Brad Neary, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Program at Saint John's University, will guide us through a Visio Divina workshop at Holy Grounds (9am) and an Adult Forum (11am). That morning we will have two volumes of *The Saint John's Bible* on hand - the Pentateuch and Gospels & Acts.

Lenten Devotional Sign-Ups

Each Lent, members of our parish are invited to write devotionals that will be shared throughout the season of Lent. You can sign-up to write a devotional by using the link in this week's Messenger or email Chris Whitaker: cwhitaker@christchurchshorthills.org



Rector's Bible Study

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 12-1pm

Continuing Jan. 27

The epic Book of Isaiah contains prophecy, poetry, politics, and promises! We will be reading Isaiah for our winter/spring Bible Study, continuing with a discussion of Isaiah 13-27 on January 27. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from January through May in St. Mark's Room or you can join by Zoom from 12-1pm.

Nursery School Registration Open!

Are you looking for a warm, play-based preschool for your child? Christ Church Nursery School is an Episcopal-based preschool open to children as young as one to five years old. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact info@christchurchnurseryschool.org.

Faith & Film Is Back!

Continuing February 8 & 22 | 3pm

St. Mark's Room

Gather on Sunday afternoons 2-3 a month with popcorn, conversation, and thoughtful reflection on our life of faith. This spring, we'll be watching season 5 of *The Chosen*, the acclaimed television series that brings the story of Jesus and his followers to life.

Upcoming dates: Feb. 8 & 22; Mar. 1, 15 & 22; Apr 12, 19 & 26



Save the Date! Absalom Jones Service

Sunday, February 15 | 2pm
St. George's, Maplewood

The Union of Black Episcopalians Diocese of Newark chapter is inviting you to celebrate The Reverend Absalom Jones on Feb 15 at St. George's, Maplewood. This service, led in part by our very own Father George Dredden, is a meaningful way to honor Black History Month. Absalom Jones was the first Black priest ordained in the Episcopal Church and a tireless advocate for racial justice, abolition, and the spiritual and social upliftment of African Americans.

VESTRY NOTES

November 2025

The Vestry met on November 18, 2025. Rev. Bowie's Rector report included a recap of the 151st Diocesan Convention, which drew approximately 350 attendees and approved the diocesan budget. Fr. George Dredden was elected to represent Christ Church and the Diocese as Clergy Deputy for the 2027 General Convention in Phoenix, AZ. He was also elected to Diocesan Council. Chris Whitaker was reappointed to the First Third of Life Commission and several parishioners were elected or appointed to a variety of roles including Sam Reckford, Treasurer of Convention; Sandra Johnson, Commission on Ministry; John Van Der Tuin, Diocesan Council; and Adrienne Harrison-Surgeon, ACTS/VIM Board. The draft 2026 budget was presented, along with updates on the Stewardship Campaign. Current projections indicate pledges may come in slightly below plan, though final totals will not be known until the campaign closes. Buildings and Grounds outlined proposed 2026 projects, including facility repairs,

initial kitchen design work, and improvements to accessibility. The meeting concluded with prayer led by Heather Finan.

December 2025

The Vestry met on December 16, 2025. Rev. Bowie's Rector report focused on updates to a Sabbatical Policy for lay and clergy staff, which was approved. The Vestry reviewed and approved the 2026 budget, including allocation of \$145,000 to the diocese and a transfer from reserves to cover the projected deficit. Fall 2025 Outreach Grants were approved, with ten grants, totaling \$34,500, awarded to local and diocesan organizations. The Stewardship Committee reported a projected pledge total of approximately \$409,000, including over \$30,000 in new and increased pledges. Buildings and Grounds shared that the Rosen Group has been engaged for the kitchen renovation project, with drawings, permitting, and bidding underway and construction likely to begin in 2027. The meeting concluded with prayer led by Dara Near.

Sabbatical Policy Approved

At its December 2025 meeting, the Vestry approved a new Sabbatical Policy that reflects Christ Church's deep commitment to the long-term wellbeing, growth, and renewal of our staff. Beginning January 2026, eligible employees may apply for a two-week paid sabbatical, separate from vacation time, to support spiritual enrichment, pilgrimage, study, continuing education, or other forms of professional and personal growth that strengthen their ministry and work. Full-time staff become eligible after five years of service, and part-time staff after seven years. Approved sabbaticals may include a grant of up to \$2,500 for lay staff (and up to \$5,000 for clergy, following diocesan guidelines). Those who receive a sabbatical will share reflections or learnings with the parish after their return, so the whole community may be enriched by the experience.



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

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CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Bowie Snodgrass, Rector

The Rev. George Dredden, 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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