

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



**The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024**

**8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (spoken)
Page 4**

**10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (sung)
Page 14**

**Children's Activities
Page 18**



Today's Readings—The Third Sunday of Advent

The Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore our fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The New Testament Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Watchful and attentive at all times, we hear once again the command to rejoice because we are filled with joy and hope as we eagerly await our coming Savior, saying, Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy. We pray for Fr Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Justin and the Worldwide Anglican Communion during this time of transition, The Anglican Church of Tanzania, and Good Shepherd, Milford. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness. We pray for our President and all of those in positions of power and authority. We pray for those who live in fear and danger, especially the people of Ukraine and the Middle East. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen. We pray for those on our parish prayer list printed in the bulletin, and those we name now either silently or aloud... We also pray for all of those who have suffered abuse; may they find healing and wholeness. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may refresh everyone who is celebrating this week: especially Carol Bausher. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, as we remember Nancy Wilson and D. Irvin Fulton. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: God of joy, in this season of Advent, teach us to share in your joy, that in times of sorrow and in times of happiness, we may come to know the reassurance of your promises fulfilled in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Cover image: "Preaching of St John the Baptist" by Domenico Ghirlandaio (1486-90)

**Christ Church (Episcopal)
Reading, PA**

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right side of this bulletin are from "The Book of Common Prayer" (BCP) - the black book in the pew racks.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please stand

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

People: **So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.**

The Collect for Purity (said together)

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 Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

People: **Christ have mercy.**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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 Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
**And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**
Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

The New Testament Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:
People: **Glory be to you, Lord Christ.**

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord:
People: **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed 358

The Prayers of the People (page 3 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) 362

The Sanctus 362

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 10 of this bulletin

The Lord's Prayer and Breaking of the Bread 364

The Invitation to Communion and Communion

Everyone is invited to receive. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking).

The Post-Communion Prayers

Celebrant: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Then all pray together: on page 365

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant: As we look to see God's salvation, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

8:00 AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Communion Assistant
Ellen Sunderman

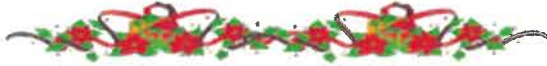
Lector and Intercessor
Rick Wolf

Altar Guild
June Tull (Captain), Pricilla
Hirschenhofer, Andrea Griffith and
Kim Alarcon

Usher
Ellen Sunderman

Welcome to Christ Church

We are happy to welcome you to our church and worship services. Here are some things that you may find helpful. If you would like to **know more about us** there are cards that you can fill out hanging in each pew. Please hand your completed card to an usher as you leave today. Please join us after the service in our **Fellowship Hall** (down the stairs near the front of the church and on your right at the bottom of the stairs) to get to know us better. The most readily accessible **restroom** is through the door near the front of the sanctuary. Once you go through that door turn right; the restroom is across from the elevator. **Parking** is available for free on the street on Sundays and in the M&T parking lot behind the church on the corner of Washington Street and Madison Ave.



2024 Christmas Memorial Flower Order and Mary's Shelter Benefit Form



Please use this form to place your order for poinsettias and/or greens AND/OR contribute to Mary's Shelter.

Please mark with an (X) to complete the following:

_____ I wish to donate #___ poinsettia(s) at \$10.00 ea. for a total of \$_____

_____ I wish to donate \$_____ for the greening of the church.

_____ I wish to donate \$_____ to Mary's Shelter.

TOTAL DONATION \$_____

Make checks payable to "Christ Church" writing either "Poinsettias" or "Mary's Shelter" in the Memo line. Place your check with this form in the offering plate or mail to Christ Church, P.O. Box 1094, Reading, PA 19603-1094 so that it arrives *no later than Wednesday December 18th*

Please print names in the spaces below for listing in the Christmas Bulletins. My gift is given...
In Memory of (if deceased)

In Honor of (if living)

In Thanksgiving for

_____ I wish to pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 10:00am service on Sunday December 29th

_____ I will deliver my poinsettia(s) to a homebound member.

Please make checks payable to "Christ Church" and

NAME: _____ e-mail _____

PHONE: _____

**Christ Church (Episcopal)
Reading, PA**

10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right side of this bulletin are from "The Book of Common Prayer" (BCP) - the black book in the pew racks.

Prelude Chorale prelude on "*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*" BWV 745

J. S. Bach

Processional Hymn 74 *Blest be the King whose coming*

The Liturgy of the Word

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

People: **He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.**

Leader: As we draw ever closer to the advent of our God, we give thanks for those people in our lives who point us and direct us where we need to go. We recognize that it isn't always easy to know the right path, to make the best decisions, to know how God is wanting our lives to develop. We give thanks for those who, like John the Baptist, have the vision and the courage to direct us in the paths of righteousness and make us ever ready to receive the light of God into our lives. We light this third candle of Advent as we look to the pointers, to those willing to make a level place for us to know our God.

The third candle is lit on the Advent Wreath

Leader: Let us pray: God of gods, whom saints and angels worship and adore, as we prepare our hearts for your Son's coming, renew our spirits with the joy of your hope, that reaching out to you in our waiting, and praising you in our worship, we may come to know more deeply the mystery of Christ and the fullness of your divine compassion for our world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Please be seated

The Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 59 *Hark! A thrilling voice*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 (full text on page 2 of this bulletin)

Before the reading:

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

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

After the reading:

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed 358

The Prayers of the People (page 3 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements and Children's Message

The Offertory Anthem *Ave Maria*

Gregory Norbet

1. Ave Maria, gratia plena,
O holy Mary, full of grace
Dominus tecum, with you the Holy One.
Such is your gift to know, God in your heart

2. Benedicta, blest among women,
Benedictus, the child that you bore,
Jesus the saviour, God's love incarnate,
Benedicta, deep woman of faith
Ave Maria, Ave, Ave Maria

3. Sancta Maria, Holy Mary,
Mater Dei, Mother of God,
Ora pro nobis, pray for our
faithfulness
All through the seasons of life, with
hope and with love
Ora pro nobis, pray for our
faithfulness
All through the seasons of life, with
hope and with love

Presentation Hymn 54 *Savior of the nations come* (vs 1)

Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer A page 361)

S120

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The celebrant continues with the Great Thanksgiving

362

The Sanctus S130 (at the front of the hymnal)

Franz Schubert

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

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 362

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Fraction Anthem

James E. Moore, Jr.

Musical score for 'The Fraction Anthem' in 3/8 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. The score ends with a 'Fine' marking.

The Invitation to Communion

364

Agnus Dei

Healey Wilan

Musical score for 'Agnus Dei' in 3/2 time, featuring a treble clef. The lyrics are: O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

Everyone is invited to receive. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking).

The Communion Hymn *The Advent of our King*

TUNE 2: ST THOMAS SM

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics: "1. The ad-vent of our King our prayers must now em-ploy, and". The second system has the lyrics: "we must hymns of wel-come sing in strains of ho-ly joy." The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

2. The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.

4. As Judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heav'n to reign.

3. Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

5. All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
trans. John Chandler (1806-1876) alt.

From Aaron Williams'
'New Universal Psalmist' (1770)

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Then all pray together on page 365

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn 432 *O praise ye the Lord!*

The Dismissal

Celebrant: As we look to see God's salvation, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Fugue in C minor*

J.S. Bach

Adult Forum is using portions of "The Chosen" episodes. This TV show focuses on those around Jesus throughout his life and how they received his message and ministry. It has been a very popular show over the last few years. We will take this time during the Sundays in Advent to wonder what it might have been like to follow in Jesus' footsteps 2,000 years ago. Please join us at 9:05am in the Parlor.



10AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist

The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Organist and Choir Director

John Painter

Verger

Jeff Morris

Gospel Book Bearer

Milah Smith

Lector

Joann Hyneman

Intercessor

Ashleigh Hoelscher

Ushers

David Emes, Joann Hyneman, Garrett
Hyneman, Jack Lacey

Communion Assistants

Victoria Wilson and Richard Laedlein

Crucifer

Andrea Griffith

Acolytes

Alex Brantman and William Barkley

Altar Guild

June Tull (Captain), Pricilla
Hirschenhofer, Andrea Griffith and
Kim Alarcon

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Kristin	Wyatt	Marcia
Connie	Randall	Beverly	Brian
Fianna	Peggy	Tim	Mel
Duane	Bob	Penny	Joe
Ken	Wendy	Marvin and Chase	Sarah
Dot	Lola and family	MJ	Shelly
Mary H	Ray M	Sandi and Tom	

Kindly submit any names you would to be added to the prayer list by emailing Kim @officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org or writing the name on the paper on the table inside the church.

Altar Candle Memorials for December are given for **Blessings Received** by Susan Frankowski; **Paul and Alice Swain and Arthur and Mary Hoare** by Stephen and Charlotte Hoare; **Sherry Feick Chandler** by David and Judy Feick.

Altar Flowers for today are given to the **Greater glory of God and in Loving Memory of his mother and grandfather, Nancy Wilson and D. Irvin Fulton** from James and Victoria Wilson.

Regular Christ Church Office hours:

Monday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00AM-12:30PM

Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

Please visit us at www.rdgchristchurch.org. The Church staff members are listed, as well as a calendar of events. You may use this website to send in prayer requests. You may also request to be added to the list for e-news and newsletters.

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.

We are grounded in the values of love, service and faithful stewardship. Firmly rooted in compassionate collaboration, we welcome partnerships that nurture our neighbors and address pressing issues in our community. We endeavor to be a cornerstone for the city of Reading, enabling all that come through our doors to experience the dignity, purpose and opportunities that God desires for everyone.

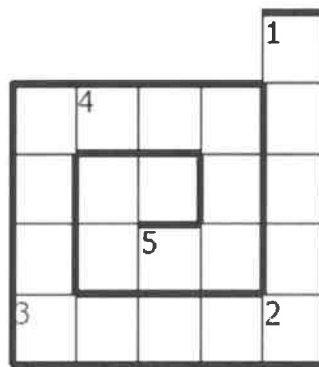


Did you forget your checkbook this morning? Have you been wanting to set up a pledge but keep forgetting? Life just got a whole lot easier: scan the QR code on your phone and it will take you directly to our giving homepage.

The Spirit of Christmas

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3:10-11 (CEV)

Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flames which are used to burn something 2. A large, woody plant with branches and leaves 3. What we eat | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The edible, usually sweet food that grows on trees and plants 5. A warm outer garment usually worn in winter |
|--|--|

tree	food	coat	fruit	fire
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The Spirit of Christmas

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3:10-11 (CEV)



Words are taken from Luke 3:7-11 (NLT).

I C P W Y O H P P S V Q V S A
 A G T R F Q W R R O H G A X F
 L H O U O K V P L O O I O Y U
 C Z U P R D P U T O V R R O U
 H Z F N Q N U C R X T E T T D
 U F O F G E E C E U W S E P S
 I R O Q M R J D E Q E R C F D
 P U D S C N Y Q J K A K D E Q
 C I U E U F Y S A H U R H T R
 I T X M L Z E N S W A R N E D
 S I N S I G S I O U W C V Q P
 H E X Z V I S R M T W O I W A
 K E O A E V B F C R O W D S Q
 T O A R L E D R E P E N T N O
 Z G L Q O H B O B A P T I S M

baptism	give	poor	share	tree
crowds	good	produce	shirts	turned
food	hungry	prove	sins	two
fruit	live	repent	snakes	warned

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, December 15—The Third Sunday of Advent

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9:05AM Adult Forum
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
11AM Fellowship Hour
11:15 Children's Choir Practice
3-5:30PM Berks Youth Chorus
4-5PM NA meeting

Monday, December 16

12PM—1PM NA meeting
5:30-7PM NA meeting

Tuesday, December 17

9AM Citizenship Class
9:30AM Centering Prayer in the Chapel
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, December 18

8:30AM Staff Meeting
12PM Holy Eucharist
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
3:15-4:15PM Children's Choir rehearsal
5:30-7PM NA Meeting
7:15PM-Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

8:30AM—12PM Citizenship Class
9:00AM Bible Study
9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer
11AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel
12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Friday, December 20

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, December 21

12PM-2PM NA meeting

Sunday, December 22—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9:05AM Adult Forum
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
11AM Fellowship Hour
11:15 Children's Choir Practice
4-5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

December 18 Blue Christmas at 6PM

December 22 Christmas Lessons and
Carols at 5PM

December 24 Christmas Eve

Christmas Pageant with Eucharist at
4PM
Festal Eucharist at 11PM (Pre-service
music begins at 10:30PM)

December 25 Christmas Day

Eucharist at 10AM

January 1 Holy Name of Jesus

Eucharist at 12PM

January 7 Vestry Meeting at 6:15PM

January 26 Annual Meeting at 9AM



Christ Episcopal Church
Christ is all and in all