

# Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

*IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.*



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

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

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

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**Children's Activities**

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## Today's Readings—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**The Old Testament Reading:** Micah 5: 2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**The New Testament Reading:** Hebrews 10: 5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**The Holy Gospel:** Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **The Prayers of the People**

Celebrant: O Lord, whose Son came as Emmanuel, God with us, may we live out our callings knowing that you are present in each and every moment of our lives, saying, Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. For Fr Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Justin and the Worldwide Anglican Communion during this time of transition, The Church of the Province of Uganda and Grace, Allentown. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with an outstretched arm and ransom us. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. For our President and all of those in positions of power and authority and for those who live in fear and danger, especially the people of Ukraine and the Middle East. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. For those on our parish prayer list printed in the bulletin, and those we name now either silently or aloud...., and for all of those who have suffered abuse; may they find healing and wholeness. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. Enliven everyone celebrating this week, especially Gloria Obando and Kaleb Weidel. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. Revive and restore us with the good news of your kingdom, especially the promise of everlasting life as we remember Richard Schilpp, Bradley and Ryan Breneman, Earle and Marion Breneman, Albert and Mary Reed and Fridl and Ralph Hepler. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Celebrant: God of all times and places, make us ever watchful in awaiting the coming of your Son, that when he comes to knock, he will find us not sleeping but awake and rejoicing in his praises, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Christ Church (Episcopal)  
Reading, PA  
8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

**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 Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,

People **and shall call his name Immanuel.**

**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:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading:** Micah 5: 2-5a (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.**

**Psalm 80: 1-7**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**The New Testament Reading:** Hebrews 10: 5-10 (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 1:39-55 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** (page 8 of this bulletin)

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

Intercessor: We pray:

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**Confession of Sin** (page 8 of this bulletin)

**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, page 9 of this bulletin)

**The Sanctus** (page 10 of this bulletin)

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

**The Lord's Prayer and Breaking of the Bread** (page 11 of this bulletin)

**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: Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Then all pray together:*

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**

**The Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** As God looks upon you with his favor, 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*  
Chris Spohn

*Lector and Intercessor*  
Dane Miller

*Altar Guild*  
Charlotte Hoare (Captain), Christine  
Keeler, Josephine Lawson and  
Mary Jane Androne

*Usher*  
Chris Spohn

Cover image: "The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth" by Domenico Ghiraldio (1491)

### **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.

### **Confession of Sin**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.



All    **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.**

Celebrant    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.

All    **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)**

Celebrant:    The Lord be with you:

People:       **And also with you.**

Celebrant:    Lift up your hearts:

People:       **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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*(8AM spoken, sung on page 18 at 10AM)*

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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."

Celebrant   Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
All           **Christ has died.  
                  Christ is risen.  
                  Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People       **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

People       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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People       **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **The Invitation to Communion**

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Christ Church (Episcopal)**  
**Reading, PA**  
**10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**

**Prelude**      *Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*      J. S. Bach  
 (Hymn 54)

**Processional Hymn 436** *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates*

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 \*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bidel! Let me thy in - ner  
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

## 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 Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,

People **and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Leader: As we find ourselves on the doorstep of our Lord's nativity, we pray for the courage to knock at the door of Bethlehem and to hear what the messengers of God are saying to us. May we ever be grateful for those who bring glad tidings of great joy into our lives. May we also have the faith and trust exemplified by Blessed Mary to respond "Let it be" when God desires to enter our lives and lead us in new directions. We light this fourth candle of Advent as we look to the heralds of good news and to those who show us how we can follow God more closely and faithfully.

*The fourth candle is lit on the Advent Wreath*

Leader: Let us pray: Lord of redemption and salvation, who called Blessed Mary to be the mother of your Son, instill within us her spirit of wisdom and faith, that we may overcome our doubts and make your priorities our priorities, emboldening us to walk the path you laid before us, through 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:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**The Old Testament Reading:** Micah 5: 2-5a (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 438** *Tell out my soul*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-55 (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 (page 8 of this bulletin)**

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

Intercessor: We pray:

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

**Confession of Sin** (page 8 of this bulletin)

**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** *Rejoice, O Jerusalem, Behold, Thy King Cometh*

Healey Willan

The night is far-spent, the day is at hand!  
Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness,  
and let us put on the armor of light!  
Behold, the Lord shall come,  
and all His saints with Him,  
and in that day the light shall be great!  
Rejoice, O Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh!  
Alleluia!

**Presentation Hymn**

Hymn 54

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 9 of this bulletin)

S120

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts:

People: **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.**

*The celebrant continues with the Great Thanksgiving on page 9 of this bulletin*

**The Sanctus** S130 (at the front of the hymnal)

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 10 of this bulletin*

**The Lord's Prayer** (page 11 of this bulletin)

**The Fraction Anthem**

James E. Moore, Jr.

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. **Fine**



**The Invitation to Communion** (page 11 of this bulletin)

**Agnus Dei**

Healey Wilan

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
7 world, have mercy upon us.  
13 O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the  
18 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 265** *The angel Gabriel from heaven came (see page 19)*

*If Eucharistic visitors are being sent forth today to take the sacrament to people at home, the following prayer is said after Communion:*

Celebrant: In the name of God, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Then all pray together:*

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**

**The Closing Hymn** *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (see page 21)

### **The Dismissal**

Celebrant: As God looks upon you with his favor, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## 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.

## 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*  
Charlotte Hoare

*Intercessor*  
Terry Rowles

*Ushers*  
Susan Doll, Christine Keeler, Larry Whalen

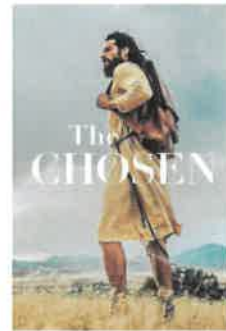
*Communion Assistants*  
Terry Rowles and Andrea Griffith

*Crucifer*  
Ben Frymoyer

*Acolytes*  
Zoe Morris and Elizabeth West

*Altar Guild*  
Linda Jones (Captain), Linda Lacey,  
and Brittany Underkofler

**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. On December 29th and January 5th we will be capturing the spirit of Christmas by watching some clips from some of our favorite Christmas movies. How do these beloved cinematic offerings bring us the meaning of Christmas?



**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 Gory of God and in Loving Memory of her husband, Richard Schilpp and Bradley Breneman, Ryan Breneman, Erle J. And Marion M. Breneman, Albert and Mary C. Reed and Dridl and Ralph F. Hepler** from Doris Schilpp.

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Kristin	Wyatt	Marcia
Connie	Randall	Beverly	Brian
Fianna	Peggy	Tim	Mel
Duane	Bob	Penny	Joe
Marie	Lola and Family	M.J.	Anna
Sandi and Tom	Lilliam	Barbara	Jim
Barbara and Tod			

*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.*

**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](http://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.

### **Vestry**

Wayne Fanning (Senior Warden)  
Diane Morris (Junior Warden)  
Terry Rowles (Pastoral Care)  
Pam Wheat (Grants)  
Carolyn Handy (Stewardship)  
Michael West (Finances)  
Connie Fegley (Worship)  
Anita Powell (Hospitality)  
Kim Alarcon (Outreach)  
Mary Arguelles (Children/Youth)  
Chuck Brantman (Security/Property)

### **Our Ministries**

#### **Worship**

Acolytes  
Altar Guild  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Lectors and Intercessors  
Vergers  
Guitar and Taizé Services  
Healing Team  
Centering Prayer  
Morning Prayer  
Ushers  
Kristallnacht Service

#### **Music**

Parish Choir  
Bell Ringers  
Children's Choir  
Fall Festival of Arts

#### **Education**

Adult Forum  
Library  
Children's Ministries

Education for Ministry  
Bible Study  
EYC

#### **Pastoral Care**

Cards and notes  
Prayer Lists  
Eucharistic Visitors  
Flower Delivery  
Pastoral Visits

#### **Fellowship**

Sunday Fellowship Hour  
50+ Club  
Hospitality Committee

#### **Business**

Property  
Churchyard Cleanup Team  
Stewardship Team  
Planned Giving  
Communications  
Capital Campaign  
Security Taskforce

#### **Outreach**

Opportunity House  
Rummage  
Mary's Shelter  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Literacy Council of Reading-Berks  
ESL Dinners  
Daughters of the King  
Episcopal Church Women  
Helping Harvest  
Veterans Coalition of PA  
Angel Tree  
Berks Youth Chorus  
Sunday Service  
Livestream

Our Thursday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9am in the Library. Prior attendance is not required; please join us.



What does an orange, a red ribbon, a candle, some toothpicks and candy have to do with Christmas? Today is special

Christingle Children's message at the 10am service. Every child in attendance will get a bag of Christingle ingredients to take home and construct their own special Christmas symbol.

Christmas Lessons and Carols is one of the most beautiful services of our year. Please join us on this evening at 5pm for this wonderful service of carols, readings and prayers.

On Sunday January 5th, at 11am (directly following our 10am service and during Fellowship Hour), Ken Saul from Restoration Artisans, will be with us to present the work that has been carried out so far on our ceiling and the plans for preserving and repairing going forward. Ken will provide pictures and valuable insights into the vital work that we need to carry out. Please plan on being present.



## Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:42-45 (NLT)

*A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.*

\_\_\_\_\_ gave a glad cry and exclaimed to \_\_\_\_\_, "God has \_\_\_\_\_ you above all women, and your \_\_\_\_\_ is blessed. Why am I so \_\_\_\_\_, that the mother of my Lord should \_\_\_\_\_ me? When I heard your \_\_\_\_\_, the baby in my womb \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. You are blessed because you \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord would do what he said."

Luke 1:42-45 (NLT)

child  
greeting

Elizabeth  
visit

joy  
believed

Mary  
blessed

jumped  
honored





## Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Replace each number in the puzzle with the corresponding letter to reveal the secret words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

5-12-9-26-1-2-5-20-8 \_\_\_\_\_

3-8-9-12-4 \_\_\_\_\_

20-15-23-14 \_\_\_\_\_

12-5-1-16-5-4 \_\_\_\_\_

13-1-18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

13-15-20-8-5-18 \_\_\_\_\_

8-15-21-19-5 \_\_\_\_\_

2-12-5-19-19-5-4 \_\_\_\_\_

ELIZABETH	CHILD	TOWN	LEAPED
MARY	MOTHER	HOUSE	BLESSED

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## The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"  
Luke 1:45 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

```

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

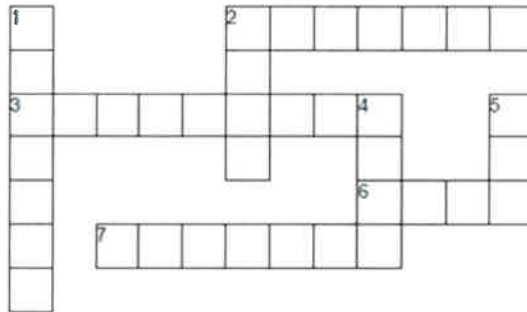
ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY

# The Gift of Love

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"  
 Luke 1:45 (NIV)



Complete the activity below.



## ACROSS

2. To accept as true
3. The mother of John the Baptist
6. The mother of Jesus
7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

## DOWN

1. Highly favored by God
2. An infant; a young child
4. The place where a person lives
5. The feeling of great happiness

ELIZABETH	PROMISE	BLESSED	BELIEVE
JOY	MARY	HOME	BABY

## **This Week at Christ Church**

### **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  
5PM Christmas Lessons and Carols

### **Monday, December 23**

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

### **Tuesday, December 24**

9:30AM Centering Prayer in the Chapel  
12PM—1PM NA meeting  
4PM Christmas Pageant with Eucharist  
11PM Festal Eucharist—Music begins at 10:30PM)

### **Wednesday, December 25** Office closed

10AM Holy Eucharist  
12PM—1PM NA Meeting  
5:30-7PM NA Meeting

### **Thursday, December 26** Office closed

9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer  
11AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel  
12PM—1PM NA Meeting

### **Friday, December 27**

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

### **Saturday, December 28**

12PM-2PM NA meeting

### **Sunday, December 29—The First Sunday after Christmas**

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 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

12PM

### **January 5** What's happening @ CCR with

Ken Saul at 11AM

### **January 6** ECW Meeting at 6:30PM

### **January 7** Vestry Meeting at 6:15PM

### **January 26** Annual Meeting at 9AM



**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Christ is all and in all