

# Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

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



**The First Sunday after Christmas  
December 29, 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 First Sunday of Advent

**The Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**The New Testament Reading:** Galatians 3:23-25; 4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### **The Holy Gospel: John 1: 1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **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.

Cover image: "The Nativity" by Gustave Dore (1832–1883)

## The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light, saying, hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth. For Fr Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Justin and the Worldwide Anglican Communion during this time of transition, The Episcopal Church and Mediator, Allentown. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness; 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. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities; Enliven everyone celebrating this week, especially Kristin Bergman, Ryan Frasso and Brenda Guardian Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. 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. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, bring us the joy of knowing that life everlasting is yours to give and ours to receive, especially as we remember Russell and Dorothy Richie and Frank and Dorothy Mahood. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of light, in you there is no darkness; shine your light into the darkness that surrounds us, that we may know your light and be light to others, through 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 The people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light,

People **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

**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:

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3(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 147:13-21**

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion;  
**For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.**  
He has established peace on your borders;  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
**He sends out his command to the earth,  
and his word runs very swiftly.**  
He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
**He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;  
who can stand against his cold?**  
He sends forth his word and melts them;  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
**He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**  
He has not done so to any other nation;  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

**The New Testament Reading:** Galations 3:23-25; 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:** John 1: 1-18 (full text on page 3 of this bulletin)

*Before the reading*

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

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 4 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

**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 B, page 10 of this bulletin)

**The Sanctus** (page 11 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 12 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, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; 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: Alleluia. In the joy and light of the Christ child, go in peace to love  
and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**8:00 AM Service Participants**

*Celebrant and Homilist*  
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

*Communion Assistant*  
Rick Wolf

*Usher*  
Ellen Sunderman

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



### **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 B)**

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

*(SAM 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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where,

with Blessed Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

**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**

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

**Processional Hymn 94** While shepherds watched their flocks by night

*Descant*

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
 6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line  
 4 "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,  
 5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing thron

2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind."  
 6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
 3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."  
 5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
 and on the earth be peace;  
 good will henceforth from heayen to men  
 begin and never cease."

## 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 The people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light,  
People **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

**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. Ame**

**Gloria** (see page 15 of this bulletin)

David Thorne

**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:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (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** 86 *Savior of our Fallen Race* (see page 16)

**The Holy Gospel:** John 1:1-18 (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.**

## Gloria

Mass of St. Thomas

David Thorne

**Moderato** *ff*

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High-est.

6 *f*  
Glo-ry to God in the High - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,

11  
Heav'n - ly King, Al migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we...

16 *f*  
praise you for your glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the

21 *mf*  
High - est. Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

27  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

31  
You are seat - ed at the righthand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

36 *f*  
Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High-est. For you a - lone are the

41  
Ho - ly one, You a - lone are the Lord, You a - lone are the most high,

46  
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the Glo-ry of God the

50 *ff*  
Fa - ther. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.



1 O Sa - vior of our fall - en race, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 O Je - sus, ve - ry Light of Light, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace, \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 To - day, as year by year its light \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 For from the Fa - ther's throne you came, \_\_\_\_\_  
 6 O Christ, Re - deem - er vir - gin - born, \_\_\_\_\_



1 O Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's face,  
 2 our con - stant star in sin's deep night;  
 3 how once, to save our fall - en race,  
 4 bathes all the world in ra - diance bright,  
 5 his ban - ished chil - dren to re - claim;  
 6 let songs of praise your Name a - dorn,



1 O Son who shared the Fa - ther's might be - fore the world knew  
 2 now hear the prayers your peo - ple pray through - out the world this  
 3 you put our hu - man ves - ture on and came to us as  
 4 one pre - cious truth out - shines the sun: sal - va - tion comes from  
 5 and earth and sea and sky re - vere the love of him who  
 6 whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit



1 day or night,  
 2 ho - ly day.  
 3 Ma - ry's son.  
 4 you a - lone.  
 5 sent you here.  
 6 ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan (b. 1930). Copyright © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission.  
 Music: *Gonfalon Royal*, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). By permission of Oxford University Press.

*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 9 of this bulletin)



**The Prayers of the People** (page 4 of this bulletin)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

**Confession of Sin** (page 9 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** *Virgin's Slumber Song* William Ballet & Geoffrey Shaw

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,  
When she to Bethlem Juda came  
And was delivered of a son  
That blessed Jesus hath to name:

Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby,  
Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby,

'Sweet babe,' sang she, 'my son,  
And eke a saviour born,  
Who hast vouchsafed from on high  
To visit us that were forlorn.

**Presentation Hymn 105 vs 1**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

## The Holy Communion

**The Great Thanksgiving** (Prayer B page 10 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 10 of this bulletin*

## The Sanctus

Thorne

**Moderato** *mf*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might,

6 Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na

11 in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the

16 Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 11 of this bulletin*

**The Lord's Prayer** (page 12 of this bulletin)

The Fraction Anthem

James E. Moore, Jr.

Musical score for 'The Fraction Anthem' in 3/8 time, featuring a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. 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. Fine'.

The Invitation to Communion (page 12 of this bulletin)

Agnus Dei

David Thorne

Musical score for 'Agnus Dei' in 3/8 time, featuring a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, grant us peace.' The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *mf*.

### **The Invitation to 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 Communion Hymn 82** *Of the Father's love begotten* (see page 21)

*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, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; 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 381** *Thy strong word* (see page 22)

## The Dismissal

Celebrant: Alleluia. In the joy and light of the Christ child, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude: *Prelude in G major, BWV 541*

J. S. Bach

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and  
3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own  
4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and



it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,  
deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,  
ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,  
hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,



while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -



lu - ial Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ial Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ial Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

*The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.*

Words: Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976). From *Worship Supplement*. Copyright © 1969, Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Music: *Ton-y Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

## 10AM Service Participants

*Celebrant and Homilist*  
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

*Organist and Choir Director*  
John Painter

*Verger*  
Linda Jones

*Gospel Book Bearer*  
Andrea Griffith

*Lector*  
Runette Gabrielle

*Intercessor*  
Mary Arguelles

*Ushers*  
Walt Frankowski, Doris Schilpp and  
Linda Jones

*Communion Assistants*  
Victoria Wilson and Richard Laedlein

*Crucifer*  
Emily Wandrey

*Acolytes*  
Cadence Carvalho and Dalia Carvalho

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

**Adult Forum** 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 Glory of God and in Loving Memory of their parents, Russell and Dorothy Richie and Frank and Dorothy Mahood** from David and Dail Richie.

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	Jeri	Alli	Zerben
Zachary	Wyatt	Juju	Terra

*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.



<b>Vestry</b>	Education for Ministry
Wayne Fanning (Senior Warden)	Bible Study
Diane Morris (Junior Warden)	EYC
Terry Rowles (Pastoral Care)	<b><u>Pastoral Care</u></b>
Pam Wheat (Grants)	Cards and notes
Carolyn Handy (Stewardship)	Prayer Lists
Michael West (Finances)	Eucharistic Visitors
Connie Fegley (Worship)	Flower Delivery
Anita Powell (Hospitality)	Pastoral Visits
Kim Alarcon (Outreach)	<b><u>Fellowship</u></b>
Mary Arguelles (Children/Youth)	Sunday Fellowship Hour
Chuck Brantman (Security/Property)	50+ Club
	Hospitality Committee
	<b><u>Business</u></b>
<b>Our Ministries</b>	Property
<b><u>Worship</u></b>	Churchyard Cleanup Team
Acolytes	Stewardship Team
Altar Guild	Planned Giving
Eucharistic Ministers	Communications
Lectors and Intercessors	Capital Campaign
Vergers	Security Taskforce
Guitar and Taizé Services	<b><u>Outreach</u></b>
Healing Team	Opportunity House
Centering Prayer	Rummage
Morning Prayer	Mary's Shelter
Ushers	Narcotics Anonymous
Kristallnacht Service	Literacy Council of Reading-Berks
	ESL Dinners
<b><u>Music</u></b>	Daughters of the King
Parish Choir	Episcopal Church Women
Bell Ringers	Helping Harvest
Children's Choir	Veterans Coalition of PA
Fall Festival of Arts	Angel Tree
	Berks Youth Chorus
<b><u>Education</u></b>	Sunday Service
Adult Forum	Livestream
Library	
Children's Ministries	

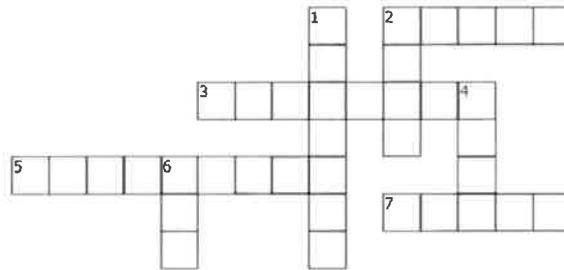
Our Thursday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9am in the Library. Prior attendance is not required; please join us.

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.

## The Word Became Flesh

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

Based on John 1:10-18



### ACROSS

2. The earth with its inhabitants
3. Boys and girl from the time of birth until thye are adults
5. To know someone because you have seen them before
7. The soft part of the body of a person which is between the skin and the bones

### DOWN

1. To think that something is true
2. A title used for Jesus in the Gospel of John (John 1:14)
4. The word or words by which a person is known
6. The One who created the universe

WORD	WORLD	CHILDREN	NAME
BELIEVE	GOD	RECOGNIZE	FLESH

## The Word Became Flesh

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12  
Based on John 1:10-18



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

CHILDREN	FLESH	CHRIST	WORLD	TRUTH
BELIEVE	DWELLING	GRACE	GOD	RECEIVE
BLESSING	NAME	WORD	GLORY	JESUS

## **This Week at Christ Church**

### **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

### **Monday, December 30**

12PM—1PM NA meeting

5:30-7PM NA meeting

### **Tuesday, December 31**

9:30AM Centering Prayer in the Chapel

12PM—1PM NA meeting

### **Wednesday, January 1** Office closed

12PM Holy Eucharist

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

5:30-7PM NA Meeting

### **Thursday, January 2**

9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer

11AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

### **Friday, January 3**

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

### **Saturday, January 4**

12PM-2PM NA meeting

### **Sunday, January 5—The Second Sunday after Christmas**

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)

9AM Sunday School

9:05AM Adult Forum

10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)

11AM What's happening @CCR with Ken  
Saul with Fellowship hour

11:15 Children's Choir Practice

4-5PM NA meeting

## **Upcoming Events**

**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