

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

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 Second Sunday after Christmas

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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 Flight into Egypt" 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 Church in Wales, St. Andrew's, Alden; and Clergy of the Diocese of Bethlehem. 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 Denise Frasso, Jill Braun, Garrett Hyneman, Elliott Brantman, Susan Doll and Tim Keeler. 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 Violet and John W. Braun, Margaret Johnson and Peter Braun. 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:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 (full text on page 2)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

The New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a (full text on page 2)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 (full text on page 3)

Before the reading

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

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)

The Prayers of the People (page 4)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Confession of Sin (page 8)

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)

The Sanctus (page 11 of this bulletin)

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 10

The Lord's Prayer and Breaking of the Bread (page 12)

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: All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever. **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 Epiphany Gospel (see page 20)

Before the reading

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

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

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord:

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

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.**

8AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist

The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Communion Assistant

Ellen Sunderman

Lector and Intercessor

Terry Rowles

Altar Guild

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

Usher

Chris Spohn

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:

(8AM spoken, sung on page 19 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, reconcile all things in your Christ and make them new, 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 *Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie, Op. 13* Maurice Duruflé

Processional Hymn 109 The first nowell (pages 13 and 14)

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night— that was— so deep.
 2 and— so it con - tin - ued both day— and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star— wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right— o - ver the place— where Je - sus lay.
 5 their— gold,— and myrrh,— and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc.

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.**

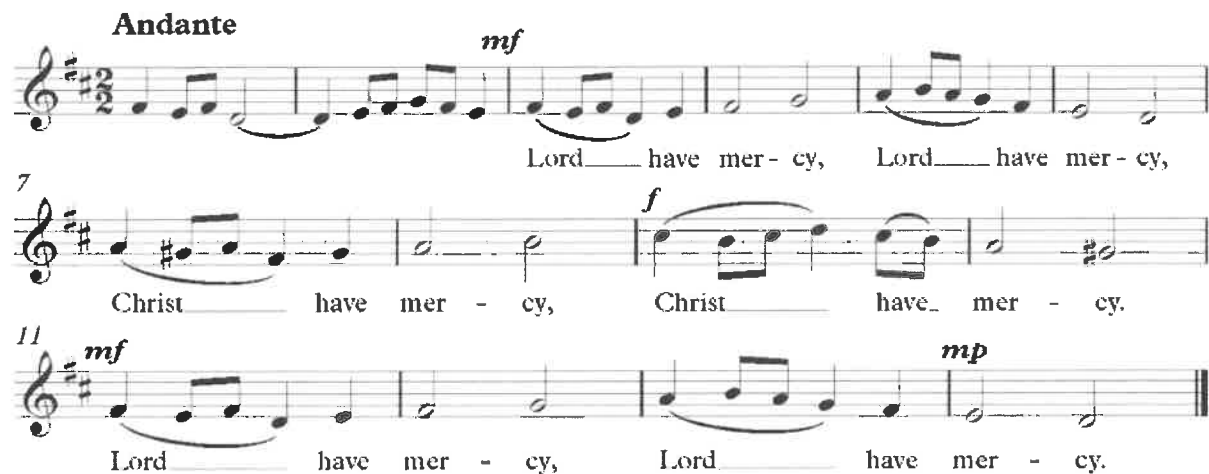
The Collect for Purity (said together)

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

Kyrie

David Thorne

Andante *mf*



Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy,

7 Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

11 *mf* *mp*
Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 (full text on page 2)

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 115 *What child is this* (see pages 16 and 17)

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 (full text on page 2)

Before the reading:

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

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 9)

The Prayers of the People (page 4)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer**

Confession of Sin (page 9)

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements and Children's Message

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

The Offertory Anthem

Three Kings
Andy Maier, Baritone

Peter Cornelius

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)

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

The Sanctus

David 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

The Lord's Prayer (page 12)

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 12)

Agnus Dei

David Thorne

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 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 117 *Brightest and best* (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: All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
 2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,
 4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,
 5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
 4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,
 5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
 4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

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 Closing Hymn 128 *We three kings* (vss 1-2) (page 24)

The Epiphany Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Before the reading

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After the reading

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

The Closing Hymn 128 *We three kings* (vss 3-5) (page 24)

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: *Grand Dialogue*

Louis Marchand

10AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist

The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Organist and Choir Director

John Painter

Verger

Jeff Morris

Gospel Book Bearer

Emily Wandrey

Lector

James Wilson

Intercessor

Charlotte Hoare

Ushers

David Emes, Joann Hyneman, Garrett
Hyneman, Jack Lacey

Communion Assistants

Kate Fanning and Milah Smith

Crucifer

Andrea Griffith

Acolytes

William Barkley and Alex Brantman

Altar Guild

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

Adult Forum Please join us at 9:05am in the Parlor. On 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?

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Kristin	Wyatt	Beverly
Connie	Randall	Zach	Jaime
Bruce	Matt and Brit	Katie	George
Kat	Jeri	Joseph	Jesus
Terra	Penny		

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. 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.

Altar Candle Memorials for January 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 Violet and John W. Braun, Margaret Johnson and Peter Braun from their family.

Our **ECW Rummage Sale** is happening this Wednesday, January 8 from 10AM to 1PM. Come check it out!

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

Today 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 along with how much it will cost. *There will be special "Building Fund" envelopes available on Sunday. Please prayerfully consider helping to fund this project.*

Our **Annual Meeting** is on January 26, starting at approximately 9am and finishing in time for our 10am service. Amongst other items of business we will approve our 2025 Budget at this meeting, celebrate our retiring Vestry Members and elect our new Vestry Members. Our Nominating Team has once again done a wonderful job putting together a great slate of new members for 2025. They are Bob Barkley, Jill Braun, Bob Kappenstein, Michelle Rowles-Cranmer and Rick Wolf.

The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

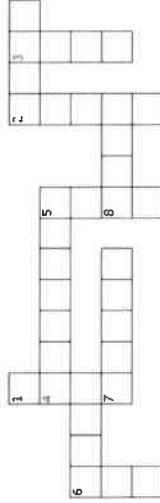
Y W A Y L X P H C H H M Q D D H
K N N T Y I G R Q V O E G M B
W I U A W C N N I R U W R Y R
O V N R T E A C H E R S R O G
R W Q G X T R V E K S A O M D
S O M C H R I S T N M T E K E
H R O V B G H V L M S H S O H
I S T Y L O O U G I E E H C Q
P H H U A D U O B L E B R Y J
E I E Y Z V S E H N M A G I D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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD



The Visit of the Magi

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ACROSS

- The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
- A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
- To come into existence by birth
- Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
- A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

- A male ruler of a country
- A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
- A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
- The direction which is opposite to west
- To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

MAGI	BOW	STAR	GOLD	KING
GIFTS	EAST	BORN	MYRRH	INCENSE

This Week at Christ Church

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

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

12PM—1PM NA meeting
9AM Citizenship Class
6:16PM Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, January 8

8:30AM Staff Meeting
10AM-1PM ECW Rummage Sale
12PM Holy Eucharist
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5:30-7PM NA Meeting

Thursday, January 9

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

Friday, January 10

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, January 11

12PM-2PM NA meeting

Sunday, January 12—The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9:05AM Adult Forum
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
11AM Fellowship hour
11:15 Children's Choir Practice
3-530 BYC Practice
4-5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

January 6 ECW Meeting at 6:30PM

January 7 Vestry Meeting at 6:15PM

January 26 Annual Meeting at 9AM

February 2 The Presentation of our Lord (Candlemas) at 8AM and 10AM



Christ Episcopal Church
Christ is all and in all