Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
10:00AM

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

Consolation No. 1

·

Frantz Liszt

Please stand

Prelude

Processional Hymn Hark a thrilling voice is sounding



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern. 1861. alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

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

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

through him.

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

The third candle is lit on the Advent Wreath

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you: People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful

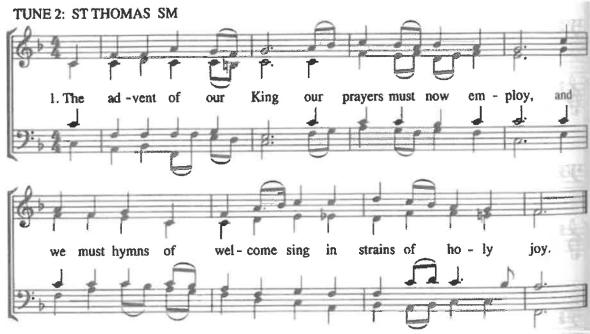
heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

At the end of the reading

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

Gospel Hymn

The advent of our King



- The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be; himself a servant's form puts on, to set his servants free.
- Daughter of Sion, rise to meet thy lowly King; nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

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

- As Judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again, and his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.
- All glory to the Son who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

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

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

Before the reading

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the

blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

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.

The Prayers of the People

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

Intercessor: That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy. We pray for Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, The Church of Ireland, and Grace, Allentown. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

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

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

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, as we remember Henry, Almeta and Lois Feick and Sherry Feick Chandler. Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

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

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 Peace

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

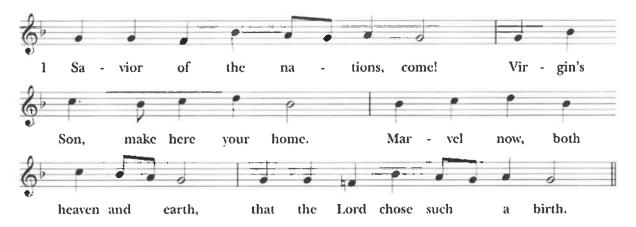
People: And also with you.

Announcements and Children's Message

The Offertory Anthem I will lift up mine eyes (Ps. 121)

Leo Sowerly

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



The Holy Communion

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:

Sanctus Frantz Schubert



Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Prouls (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

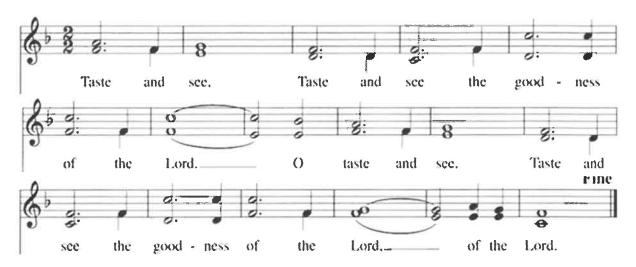
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People:

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.

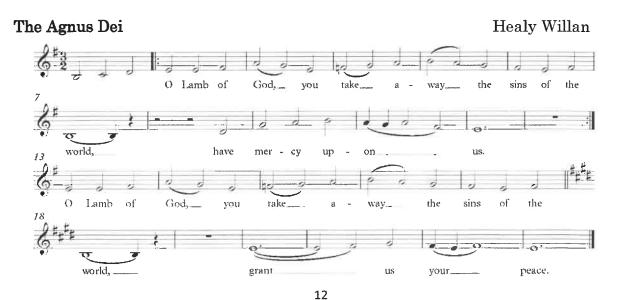
The Fraction Anthem



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.

Everyone is invited to receive. 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.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please



The Communion Hymn Be still for the presence of the Lord



- 2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
- Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
 No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
 Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

If Eucharist 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.

The Post-Communion Prayer

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesús 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

Celebrant ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Blest be the King



Hymn continued on next page



Words: Federico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt. Copyright © 1974, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Harmonization Copyright © 1984, Ronald Arnatt. Music: Valet will ich dir geben, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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 and Sherry Feick Chandler by David and Judy Feick.

Altar flowers are given today to the greater Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Henry, Almeta and Lois Feick and Sherry Feick Chandler from David and Judy Feick.

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

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 please ask for a visitor's information card. Please hand your completed card to an usher as you leave today. Please join us after the service in our Fellowship Hall to get to know us better. The most readily accessible restrooms are near the elevator (ladies) and through the north doors (men). 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.

Regular Christ Church Office hours:

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

The Christ Church Mission

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.

	For those	e in need of our prayers	
Runette	Kristin	Wyatt	Beverly
Connie	Randall	Nancy	Joann
David	Joe	Brian	Yartiza
Terra	Jonathan	Byron and Sherry	Paul
Carol	Lori	Gene	Gerry
Kate	Max	Carol	DiAnn
	Diedre	Sandi	Lola
MJ Jeri			

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

10AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Organist and Choir Director
John Painter

Lector
Dail Richie

Intercessor Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants
Andrea Griffith and Jill Braun

Verger Linda Jones

Gospel Book Bearer
Andrea Griffith

Ushers
David Emes, Joann Hyneman,
Garrett Hyneman and Jack Lacey

Acolytes
Julie Ana Gonzalez and Jaemarie
Gonzalez

Crucifer Benjamin Frymoyer

Altar Guild Victoria Wilson(Captain), Doris Schilpp and Helen Peemoeller

Advent Candle Readers
Carolyn, Eliza and Cora
Handy, Benjamin and Scarlett
Frymoyer



Our Adult Forum on December 14th will utilize a podcast episode from "On Being". We will continue to listen to Krista Tippett and Walter Brueggemann discuss Scripture and faith in the 21st century, miracles, mercy and images of God. Please join us at 9:05am in the Parlor.

Save the Dates for our Bicentennial Events!

February 10th, 2026, 6:00pm: CCR Game Night at Saucony Creek Brewing Company

May 9th-10th, 2026 Consecration weekend Events Saturday afternoon and Sunday church-hours July 18th, 2026 Neighborhood Block Party on Court St.



2025 Christmas Memorial Flower Order and Mary's Shelter Benefit Form

Please use this form to place your order for poinsettias and/or



greens AND/OR contribute to Mary's Shelter.	
Please mark with an (X) to complete the following:	
I wish to donate # poinsettia(s) at \$11.00 ea. for a total of \$	
I wish to donate \$ for the greening of the church.	
I wish to donate \$ to Mary's Shelter.	
TOTAL DONATION \$	

Make checks payable to "Christ Church" writing either "Poinsettias" or "Mary's Shelter" in the Memo line. Place your check with this form in the offering plate or mail to Christ Church, P.O. Box 1094, Reading, PA 19603-1094 so that it arrives no later than Wednesday December 17th

Please print names in the spaces below for listing in the Christmas Bulletins. My gift is given in Memory of (if deceased)						
In Honor of (if living)						
In Thanksgiving for						
I wish to pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 10:00am service on Sunday December 28 I will deliver my poinsettia(s) to a homebound member.						
Please make checks payable to "Christ Church" and						



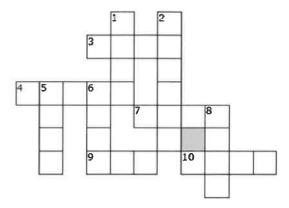
NAME:_ PHONE:

> Please consider making a child's Christmas a bit brighter! Our Angel tree program is back starting today. Take a tag from our Angel tree and bring the gift back to Christ Church by December 17. Thank you for your support!

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)





ACROSS

- To receive sound using your ears
- 4. Unable to see
- Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
- 9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
- To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

DOWN

- 1. Not living
- A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
- Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
- 6. Information or reports about recent events
- 8. Unable to hear

DEAF	SEE	NEWS	GOOD	WALK
HEAR	DEAD	BLIND	PRISON	LAME

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)





P	F	R	Α	I	S	E	D	X	P	X	G	W	0	В
R	K	P	R	I	S	0	N	T	T	U	P	0	X	0
Ε	S	J	E	F	N	I	В	S	U	Q	D	0	0	Α
Α	D	0	F	K	0	I	I	S	В	C	N	E	0	D
C	U	H	N	G	I	R	H	E	Υ	U	L	U	Α	R
H	W	N	S	R	H	M	E	F	D	R	Z	N	F	D
E	Α	M	F	C	С	С	А	D	L	E	Z	E	T	N
D	L	M	K	R	C	E	X	L	M	D	E	W	C	I
V	K	J	Α	S	D	F	L	L	C	S	W	S	Q	S
H	В	E	S	В	В	I	E	E	D	H	E	Α	R	T
E	Н	L	U	I	L	Α	M	E		H	0	N	N	I
A	Y	Z	I	P	G	W	H	I	Р	R	В	P	X	N
R	0	N	C	N	H	H	M	I			0	Q	Α	E
D	Y	D	X	Q	D	I	T	Α	H	I	Υ	S	M	J
A	О	Y	K	В	В	P	H	F		F	E	H	Υ	E

BLIND	LAME	HEARD	DEAF	HEAR
GOOD	PREACHED	POOR	CHRIST	DEAD
RAISED	SEE	LEPROSY	PRISON	JOHN
NEWS	CURED	SIGHT	WALK	HEAR

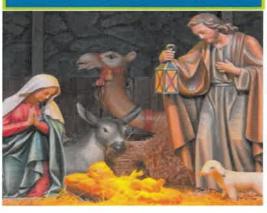
Christmas Service Schedule

at 5:30pm Christmas Pageant—December 24th at 4pm

Blue Christmas—December 17th

Festal Eucharist—December 24th at 11pm (Music begins at 10:30pm)

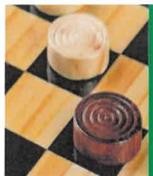
Christmas Day Eucharist December 25th at 10am





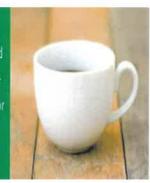
Sunday School Happenings: We are practicing in Sunday school the next two weeks for the Christmas pageant. *Please try to be with us on these Sundays so our pageant can be a success!*

The EYC will attend the movie "David" at the Reading Imax theatre on December 14. We will have pizza at church, then walk down together to see the movie at 1pm.



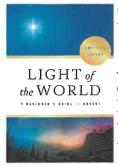
CCR Midweek Fellowship Hour

Starting on Wednesday January 7th at 12.30pm, join us on the 2nd floor in the Library for a time of midweek fellowship. We will have card and board games available if you'd like to play. Bring a snack or bag lunch. This will be a weekly opportunity on Wednesday's at 12.30pm for us gather and enjoy each other's company.





Do you need prayers? All of us have our times when we don't feel whole and we need someone to pray for us. Or, we have someone in our lives who is broken and needs healing. Our Healing Prayer Team is back on the 3rd Sunday of every month to pray for you and with you. If you would like to join them please come up to communion early (after the ushers and choir), commune with our prayer team, receive anointing with holy oil and then proceed to the baptistry for healing prayers.



Our Thursday morning bible study continues at 9:30am every week. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Galatians. Continuing on December 18th we are doing a book study for the Advent season. We will be reading and discussing each week a chapter from Amy-Jill Levine's book "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent." Free copies of this book are available to anyone who would like to join the study. Please contact Fr Bryce to obtain a copy. In the New Year we will begin to study a new book of the Bible.



Our EYC is planning to go on another **mission trip** in the summer of 2026. We would need a commitment by January. Youth ages 11 and up having finished 6th grade are welcome to bring friends along and all youth are paid for. The trip is planned for the week of June 14-20th. If you have any questions please speak to Emily and Caroline Wandrey, Jill Braun, or Milah Smith.

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, December 14—The Third Sunday of Advent

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9AM Parish Choir rehearsal, choir room
9:05AM Adult Forum "On Being"
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
1PM EYC movie "David" at Imax
theatre
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Monday, December 15 12PM—1PM NA meeting

Tuesday, December 16

9AM Literacy Class 12:00PM Zoom Centering Prayer Chapel 12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, December 17

9AM Staff Meeting 12PM Noonday Eucharist 12PM—1PM NA Meeting 5:30-7PM NA Meeting 5:30PM Blue Christmas 6PM Ridam Dance

Thursday, December 18

9AM Literacy Class 9:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM Zoom Centering Prayer 11AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel 12PM—1PM NA Meeting 5PM-6:30PM NA Meeting 7PM Parish Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 19

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, December 20

10AM Ridam Dance 12PM-2PM NA meeting

Sunday, December 21—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM Sunday School
9AM Parish Choir rehearsal, choir room
9:05AM Adult Forum "On Being"
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

December 14 EYC Movie "David" at Imax theatre 1PM
December 17 Blue Christmas 5:30PM
December 24 Christmas Pageant with
Eucharist 4:00PM
Festal Eucharist at 11:00PM (Music at 10:30PM)
December 25 Christmas Day Eucharist at 10AM