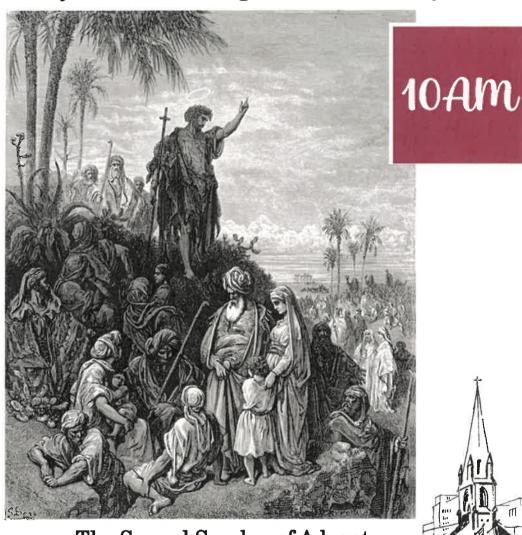
# Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
10:00AM

## Christ Church (Episcopal) Reading, PA

10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude Please stand Consolation No. 5

Frantz Liszt

Processional Hymn

On Jordan's bank



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: Winchester New, melody from Musicalishes Hand Buch, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

### The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

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

Lord.'

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

Leader: As we hear the voice of the Baptist in the wilderness, we are reminded of the prophets from ages past who called people to turn and see what God was doing. We give thanks for their courage to proclaim God's message, especially when it was one that was difficult to hear and accept. We also give thanks for the prophetic voices that still speak in our world today. We need those brave voices to ring out, we need their brave messages and we need to hear that God is calling us to turn and see what new things God is accomplishing in our lives. We light this second candle of Advent as we welcome the light of the prophets into our lives.

#### The second candle is lit on the Advent Wreath

Leader: Let us pray: Lord God, through your prophets you comforted us in our weakness and called us to use our strengths for the good of others. As we pray in this season for Christ's coming, we ask that we would have the confidence to renew our own lives, that, through compassion and service, we may be made agents of your kingdom in our world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant: Let us pray:

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### Please be seated

#### The First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the

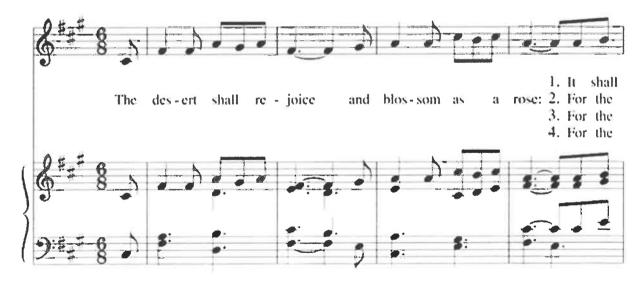
fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

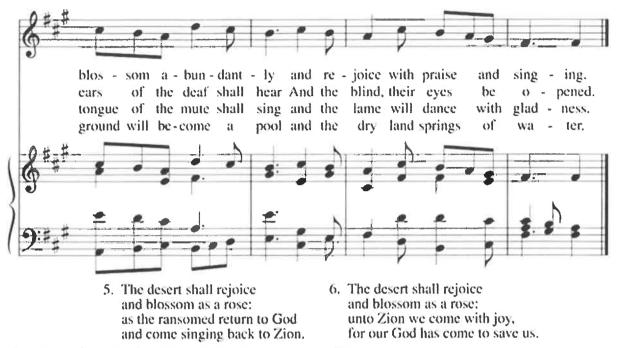
At the end of the reading

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

#### Gospel Hymn

#### The desert shall rejoice





Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943). Music: Sterling, Joy F Patterson (b. 1931)

#### The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

Before the reading

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at

the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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: Lord, we pray for your Church, that we would open our eyes to your light in our world and open our hearts to be eager for your coming kingdom, as we say, Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for all in our society who strive for justice and peace. We pray for your church, especially for Bryce, our rector, Kevin, our bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, and Good Shepherd, Milford. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. We pray: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Come to your world as King of the nations. 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. Before you rulers will stand in silence. We pray: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for all of those whom we know to be in need; the sick, the suffering, the lonely and the destitute, for those on our parish prayer list printed in the bulletin, and those we name now either silently or aloud.... Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!** 

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember all of those who have departed this life, especially Cynthia and Louis Thun. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. We pray: **Lord Jesus, come soon!** 

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with Blessed Mary and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. We pray for those celebrating this week: Donna Katzaman, Joan Worthington, Cathryn Clinton, Fianna Holt and Rachel Lawes. We pray: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Celebrant: Lord our God, through your prophetic voices you comfort us in our pain and call us to new ways of life; heal us and give us the confidence to go where you are leading, 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

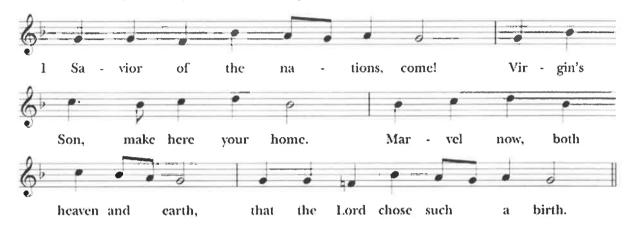
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements and Children's Message

#### The Offertory Anthem Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth arr. David Willcocks

#### 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,

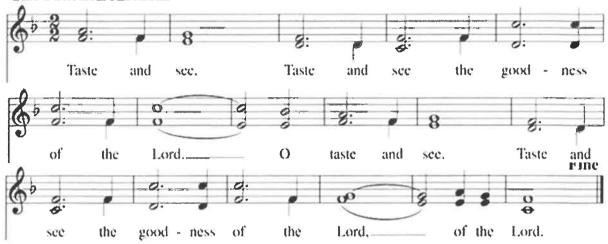
People:

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.

11

#### The Fraction Anthem

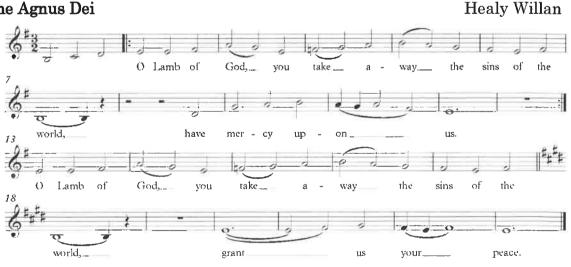


#### The Invitation to Communion

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 indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please





12

### The Communion Hymn The great forerunner of the morn



Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: The Truth From Above, English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.

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

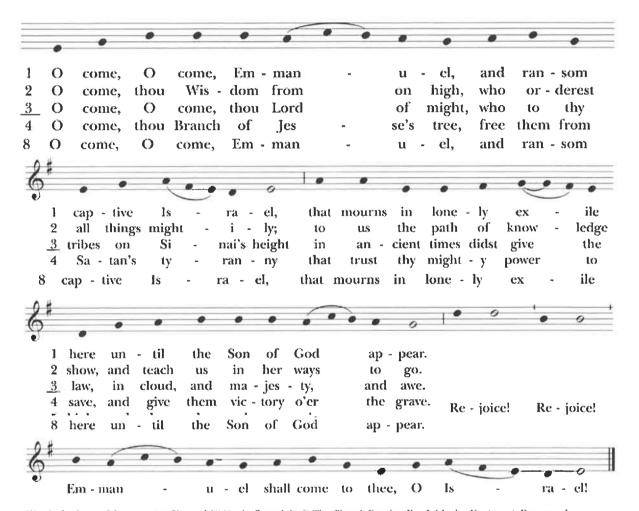
All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### The Blessing

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

#### Closing Hymn

#### O come, O come Emmanuel



Words: Latin, ea. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

#### The Dismissal

Celebrant: As we hear the prophetic call, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### 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.

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 Cynthia and Louis Thun from Chip Karasin.

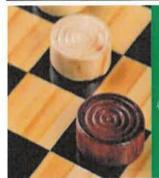
Cover image: "John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness" by Gustave Dore (1866)

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette Kristin Wyatt Beverly Connie Randall Nancy Joann

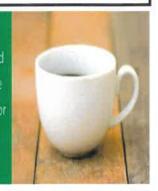
David Joe

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.



## **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 funch. This will be a weekly opportunity on Wednesday's at 12.30pm for us gather and enjoy each other's company.



## O B E I N G

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.



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.

### 10AM Service Participants

Celebrant and Homilist
The Reverend Bryce Wandrey

Organist and Choir Director
John Painter

 $\frac{Lector}{\text{Runette Gabrielle}}$ 

Intercessor Diane Morris

Communion Assistants
Terry Rowles and Kate Schuler

Verger Jeff Morris

Gospel Book Bearer
Derek Morris

Ushers Walt Frankowski, Doris Schilpp, Linda Jones and Sherry Faust

Acolytes
Lillian Arguelles and Elliott
Brantman

Crucifer
Derek Morris

Altar Guild
Linda Jones (Captain), Linda
Lacey, Brittany Underkofler,
Armani Rodriguez and
Julie Anna Gonzalez

Advent Candle Readers Mary and Lillian Arguelles

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.



PHONE:

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



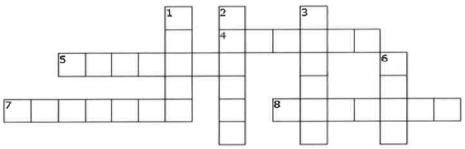
Please use this form to place your order for poinsettias and/or greens AND/OR contribute to Mary's Shelter.

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:e-mail							

## A Voice in the Wilderness

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)





#### **ACROSS**

- To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
- What John did to people in the Jordan River
- 7. To get ready for something that is going to happen
- One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future

#### DOWN

- The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
- 2. To deliver a sermon
- 3. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
- The man who preached that Jesus was coming

REPENT	PREACH	VOICE	BAPTIZE
NHOL	PROPHET	DESERT	PREPARE

## A Voice in the Wilderness

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

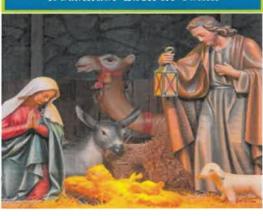




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R	D	E	F	D	E	S	0	Α	0	X	0	В	E	E
Т	0	Y	Z	E	K	N	В	J	Н	E	Α	V	E	N

PREPARE	STRAIGHT	CLOTHES	LOCUSTS	REPENT
PATHS	BELT	LORD	KINGDOM	PROPHET
JOHN	DESERT	BAPTIST	HONEY	LEATHER
CAMEL	HEAVEN	PREACHING	HAIR	WILD







**Sunday School Happenings**: Our next EYC will be Friday, 12/12 from 5:30-7:30pm where we will be preparing items for Opportunity House dinner. We will then be serving on Saturday, 12/13.

The EYC will attend the movie "David" at the Reading Imax theatre on December 19.

**ECW Events**: The December Rummage Sale will be held on Wednesday, December 10th from 10AM to 1PM.

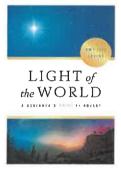
The Cookie sale will be held today after both services. Many varieties to choose from and at a cost of \$5.00/half pound.

ANGEL TREE

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. Thank you for your support!



Our next Opportunity House Dinner is Saturday
December 13th. Our Thursday Spirituality Groups
(Bible Study and Morning Prayer) will be teaming up
with our EYC to serve. Please keep them and the
people at Opportunity House in your prayers.



Our Thursday morning bible study continues at 9:30am every week. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Galatians. Beginning on Thursday November 20th we are going to shift to 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.



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 7—The Second Sunday of Advent

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9AM ECW Cookie Sale
9AM Sunday School
9AM Parish Choir rehearsal, choir room
9:05AM Adult Forum with Ken Saul
from Restoration Artisans
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
4PM—5PM NA meeting

### Monday, December 8

12PM-1PM NA meeting

#### Tuesday, December 9

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

#### Wednesday, December 10

9AM Staff Meeting 10AM-1PM ECW Rummage Sale 12PM Noonday Eucharist 12PM—1PM NA Meeting 5:30-7PM NA Meeting 6PM Ridam Dance

#### Thursday, December 11

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

#### Friday, December 12

12PM—1PM NA Meeting

## Saturday, December 13

10AM Ridam Dance 12PM-2PM NA meeting

## 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
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung)
4PM—5PM NA meeting

#### **Upcoming Events**

December 7 ECW Cookie Sale
December 7 Adult Forum with Ken Saul from
Restoration Artisans 9:05AM
December 10 ECW Rummage Sale 10AM1PM

December 12 EYC 5:30PM-7:30PM Opportunity house dinner prep December 13 Opportunity House Dinner December 17 Blue Christmas 5:30PM December 19 EYC Movie "David" at Imax theatre

**December 24** Christmas Pageant with Eucharist 4:00PM Festal Eucharist at 11:00PM (Music at 10:30PM

**December 25** Christmas Day Eucharist at 10AM