

seat-ed at the righthand of the Fa ther: re-ceive our prayer.
 Organ For you a-lone are the ho-ly one.
 You a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus
 Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men. A-men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

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

Please be seated for

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

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

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

The Choir sings

Psalm 147:13-21 *Laudate Dominum*

Chant: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;
 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you.
 He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
 He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly.
 He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold?
 He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

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

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

Please stand and sing

Gradual Hymn 82 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Hymnal 1982

The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.

The Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

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

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Once the Book of Gospels has returned to its place of honor, the People may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

The Homily

Michael Kurth

Please stand for

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us declare our faith in God:

People ***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.*

A member of the parish leads

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless and searching for safety. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Let those who are hurting know the strength of your salvation, especially N., and those we name now. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Christ, worshiped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed, and lead them to the sanctuary of your presence. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Christ, whose family fled the tyranny of Herod, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance gives light to the world, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you, especially N., and those we name now. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Christ, child of Mary, Son of God, you know us and love us; we give thanks for the blessings of our lives. Jesus our Savior,

hear our prayer.

Lord, by the song of the angels you disclosed your birth to your own people, and by the leading of a star you revealed your glory to strangers. Teach us to know you now, and to make you known to all. *Amen.*

Please kneel, as able, for

The Confession of Sin

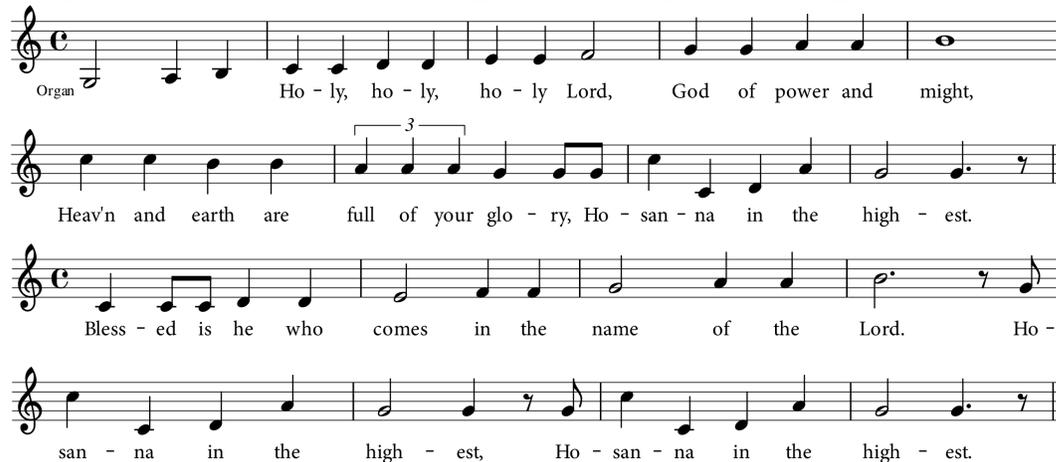
Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People *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.*

The Celebrant continues the prayer, inviting our praise in the ancient song of the Sanctus.

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:



Organ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

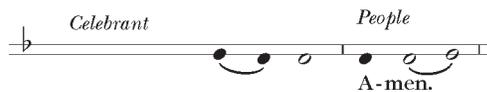
The Celebrant continues the prayer, inviting our acclamation of Christ's sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection, saying
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues the prayer, concluding

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.



Celebrant People
A-men.

The Celebrant invites the People to say the prayer Jesus taught his first disciples.

The Lord's Prayer

***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

We sing the anthem at the breaking of the bread, which is Christ's Body, broken for us. Please be seated after the sacrament is presented.



Organ Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our pass-ov - er is
sa - cri - ficed for us; There fore let us keep the feast. Al - le -
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Christ or a blessing. Come up the center aisle and take your place along the altar rail, kneeling or standing. If you desire a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to indicate your intent. Receive the host in open hands. Gluten-free host

is available; let the clergy know your need when they approach you. When you are presented with the cup, drink from it or dip the bread carefully into the cup and consume in both kinds together. If you do not wish to receive the cup, please cross your arms to indicate your intent, but wait for the minister to pass you before you leave the rail. Please use the side aisle to return to your pew. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher to let the clergy know, and communion will be brought to you.

Communion Anthem

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

“When He is King we will give him the King’s gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph.
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Please stand for

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant In thanksgiving, let us pray.

People ***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 Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

All sing

Hymn in Procession 109 *The First Nowell*

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Voluntary *In dulci jubilo*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Please take your bulletin with you or return it to the table in the narthex as you leave.

We are sent forth to be Christ’s blessing in the world. Our prayer is that today’s worship has encouraged you in love, strengthened you for service, and filled you with joy. We look forward to your presence again in worship, in service to others, in learning and fellowship.

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED



DECEMBER 29, 2024

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

THIS WEEK WE LIFT UP..

CHRIST CHURCH SUPPORT GROUPS. Support groups at Christ Church provide compassionate Christian care to people in need within and beyond our church family. Our hybrid Grief Support Group meets monthly for those seeking the support of others who have lost a loved one, and Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meet here during the week for those dealing with alcoholism and recovery. These groups offer refreshment and comfort and provide a place of safety, prayer, and mutual support. Click [here](#) or call the parish office at (302) 655-3379 for more information.

2024 YEAR-END GIFTS & 2025 PLEDGES TO CHRIST CHURCH

Please help us meet our 2024 ministry budget by completing your financial pledge for the year. If you haven't made a 2024 pledge to contribute, we welcome your offering. All donations received on or before December 31 will be credited to your 2024 contribution statement. Donations received or postmarked after December 31 will be gratefully accepted as 2025 gifts. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you to those households that have made a financial pledge to Christ Church for 2025! Christ Church is a place for inspiration, celebration, sharing, service, and worship where all are welcome, and your gift to God makes this place possible. We rely on contributions and pledges like yours as our primary source of income to support our ministries as we care for our parish family and serve the community around us. Please join us in making your pledge, and know that wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you here.

Click [here](#) to give online, make a pledge, and for instructions on giving a gift of stock. In addition, you may mail checks to Christ Church, P. O. Box 3510, Wilmington, DE 19807.

NEW YEAR'S/HOLY NAME DAY SERVICE – JANUARY 1

Join us for our New Year's/Holy Name Day celebration on Wednesday, January 1, at 12 PM in the Chapel. This communion service commemorates the naming of the child Jesus eight days after his birth.

NEW THEOLOGY SMALL GROUP MEETS – JANUARY 2 & 16

A newly-formed Theology Small Group meets every other Thursday in the Commons Room from 5:30 to 6:30 PM and explores theological writings from the earliest days of the Church up to the present. Topics include the doctrine of the Trinity, grace, salvation, and age-old questions such as: Why does suffering exist? Is evil merely the absence of good? and How much free will do we have? The conversation and company are lively, and no prior understanding of theology is needed—there is space for all people. New members are welcome on January 2 and 16.

CELTIC EUCHARIST ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 6

In our hurried and noisy world, Celtic Eucharist offers gracious space and time to enjoy the holiness of God, gently touched by candlelight, music, and prayer. This spirituality, part of our Anglican/Episcopal tradition, took root in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Northumbria, and their coastal islands. Through moments of reflection and calm, quiet words, and the sacrament of Holy Communion, we bring this tradition to Christ Church on Monday, January 6, at 7 PM as we seek to draw more deeply into God's presence. Join us as we welcome harpist Janet Witman and guitarist Trevor Koenig Sr. to play during this service in the Chapel.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION – JANUARY 8

Those of all ages are invited for Coffee and Conversation on Wednesday, January 8, from 10:45 to 11:45 AM in the Commons Room. Gather with friends for meaningful conversation and make new friends over coffee, tea, and snacks. Join us for this time of fun and fellowship and then stay for the 12 PM Eucharist in the Chapel.

JOIN OUR INVITATION WORKSHOP – JANUARY 15

Did you know that 66% of Americans say they would accept an invitation to join a friend or family member at church? The challenge for us is building our courage and skills to make that invitation. To help, Christ Church parishioners are invited to join members of our Invite Welcome Connect Team on Wednesday, January 15, at 6 PM for an Invitation Workshop in Parish Hall C. Together, we will discover our own story of knowing God's love and will learn tactics for listening to others' stories and inviting them into life at Christ Church. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP for this special offering [here](#).

CARD-MAKING WORKSHOP – JANUARY 16

Now is the time to check off a New Year's resolution and clear out your stockpile of old greeting cards and paper products! Have fun and get creative as you start the New Year with a card-making workshop with artist Leslie Davis Guccione. Join in on Thursday, January 16, from 9 to 11 AM in Parish Hall A as she gives us tips on repurposing old cards, paper, and materials in our homes to create all-occasion cards to use throughout the year—just in time for Valentine's Day. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS – JANUARY 19

Services of Lessons & Carols focus on the story of God's actions in the world for each season of the Church year. Epiphany is a multifaceted season where we see the young Christ Jesus in the manger, being presented in the Temple, being baptized, shining forth as the light of the world, and ultimately revealing his glory in dazzling brightness on the holy mountain. Join the Christ Church Choir on Sunday, January 19, at 4 PM in the Chapel as we hear and celebrate these stories of Epiphany.

CHAPEL MEMORIAL FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE

Memorial flowers for the altars at Christ Church are donated in memory of loved ones each week. With weekly services in the Chapel, there are numerous dates available to donate flowers in 2025. If you wish to offer flowers for the Chapel in memory of a loved one, please contact [Jane Rubini](#) or call (302) 655-3379.

2025 FUNDING APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Outreach Committee has begun its 2025 funding cycle. Each year, Christ Church provides funding to nonprofit agencies that feed, clothe, house, educate, and advocate for our neighbors in need. Those who work with nonprofit agencies may download an application [here](#). Completed applications must be submitted by Friday, January 31.

OUR MINISTRY OF CARING

Christ Church's Pastoral Care ministries provide Christian care and hospitality to people in need within and beyond our parish family. Everyone at Christ Church can participate in reaching out to those who could use help, especially during this holiday season when many find it to be a time of sadness, loneliness, and anxiety. Another option is to share concerns or issues that you hear about in the lives of parishioners and friends with a member of the church staff by emailing the [parish office](#) or calling (302) 655-3379. This small act will help ensure that when a need arises, the church can wrap its arms of love and assistance around those who could really use it.

HOSTS NEEDED FOR COFFEE & COMMUNITY

Volunteers are needed to host Coffee & Community each Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. This is a fun way to contribute to the life of our parish while extending generous hospitality, and it's a great activity to do as a family or with a group of friends. Click [here](#) to sign up for a date in 2025.

WEAR YOUR CHRIST CHURCH NAME TAG

Help us build community as we get to know fellow parishioners and newcomers by wearing your Christ Church name tag when you come to church. Tags are hard plastic with a magnetic clip, and donations are welcome to offset the \$8 cost to the church. Order yours [here](#).

HEARING LOOP SYSTEM

Our nave is equipped with a hearing loop system that provides clean, clear sound without a headset and transmits sound from our microphones directly into hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils of those in the pews. If you have hearing loss but no telecoil device, please ask an usher for a loop receiver.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God
in celebration of
the lay staff at Christ Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Christ Church welcomes you into a loving and joyful community that serves others and seeks to grow deeper in relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



NEW HERE? Scan the QR code to let us know or complete the card in the pews and place it in the offering plate.

PARISH CLERGY

The Rev. Ruth Beresford, *Rector*
The Rev. Michael Kurth, *Associate Rector/Preschool Chaplain*
The Rev. David Beresford, *Interim Associate Rector*
The Very Rev. William Lane, *Pastoral Associate*

LAY MINISTRY STAFF

Sheila Abio, *Head of School*
Bruce Barber, *Director of Music*
Mason Cruz, *Minister for Children & Youth*
Jo Harney, *Director of Choristers*
Cameron Kuzepski, *Organ Scholar*

ADMINISTRATIVE & FACILITIES STAFF

Sherry Lawton-Fasic, *Parish Administrator*
Terri Carpe, *Finance Manager*
Jennifer Fordham, *School Administrator*
Denise Gilliam, *CCEP Administrative Specialist*
Deb Piper, *Philanthropy/Stewardship Associate*
Jane Rubini, *Administrative Associate*
Nigel Sanderson, *Livestream Technician*
Michael Sayer, *Facilities Manager*
Deborah Webb, *Communications Associate/Graphic Designer*
Leroy Folks, Andy Marine, Charles Parfitt-Simpson, *Sextons*

VESTRY & OFFICERS

Ran Barton, *Senior Warden*; Alexia Wolf, '26, *Junior Warden*
Mark Parsells, *Treasurer*; Bob Reardon, *Assistant Treasurer*
Jennifer O'Connor, *Clerk*; Alexander Maynard, *Youth Representative*
Chuck Arensberg, '26; Audrey Bruce, '25; Cindi Cozza, '27; Barbara King, '27
Ted Ledden, '25; Thorpe Moeckel, '27; Scott Nickle, '26; Eliza Phillips, '25
Jamie Poston, '27; Bart Reese, '25; Jaqueline Whalen, '26

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

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Facebook: [ccchde](https://www.facebook.com/ccchde) / Instagram: [christchurchde](https://www.instagram.com/christchurchde) / X: [christchurchch](https://twitter.com/christchurchch)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM