

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. 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 for

The First 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.

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

The Choir sings

Psalm 84:1-8 *Quam dilecta!*

Chant: George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

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 Second 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.

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

Please stand and sing

Gradual Hymn 93 *Angles, from the Realms of Glory*

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

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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

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

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."

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

Ruth Beresford

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.

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.

The Celebrant declares the absolution.

Please stand for

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory and Preparation of the Table

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering. Giving money is a sign that our life serves God's purposes and expresses our gratitude for God's many blessings. The ushers will receive the offering and present it on our behalf. Also, you may give online or text a contribution to (302) 244-5368. For those who give electronically, a card is available in the pews to participate in the act of offering. Newcomers and guests may place the welcome card in the offering plate.

Anthem

arr. Sir David Willcocks

Unto us is born a son, King of choirs supernal:

See on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low, comes on earth a stranger;

Ox and ass their Owner know e'en cradled in a manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,

So he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer.

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

arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day this poor youngling,
For whom we do sing, by by, lully lullay?

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day his men of might,
In his own sight, all young children to slay.

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lullay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day, for thy parting
Neither say nor sing by by, lully lullay!

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lullay.

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 496 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Voluntary *Carillon de Westminster*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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.

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*

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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*
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*

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Ran Barton, *Senior Warden*; Alexia Wolf, '26, *Junior Warden*
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Ted Ledden, '25; Thorpe Moeckel, '27; Scott Nickle, '26; Eliza Phillips, '25
Jamie Poston, '27; Bart Reese, '25; Jaqueline Whalen, '26

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