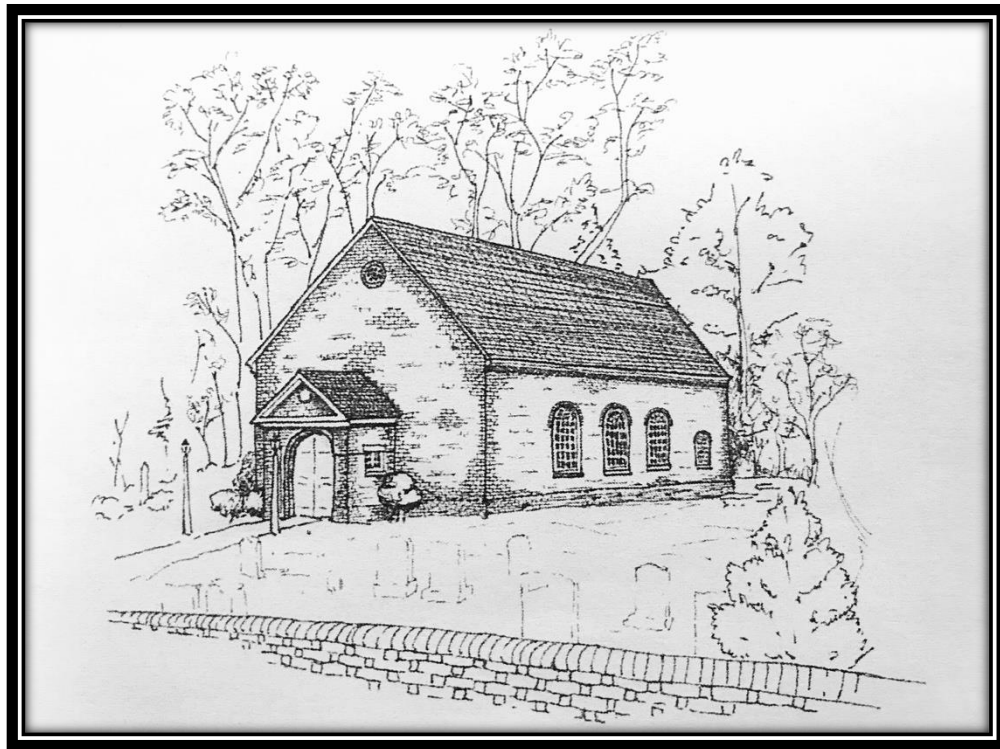


*Welcome to Christ Church Parish  
(Episcopal)*

*December 24, 2023*

*Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music - 4:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Eve - The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ  
5:00 p.m.*



*Founded in 1666*

*Before the service, speak to God in the silence of your heart.*

*During the service, let God speak to you through  
Word and Sacrament.*

*After the service, speak with your neighbor!*

**Christ Church Parish Mission Statement**

*We are a family of faith,  
growing in Christ through worship, learning, and  
service, who strive to love God  
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

**Organ Voluntaries**      *In the Bleak Midwinter*      Phil Lehenbauer  
   *Huron Carol*      David Cherwien

**Hymn 80** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*  
(Choir (1) and congregation (2 & 3))

*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* (Soloists: Darby Lancaster & Rick Smith)

**Hymn 112** *In the Bleak Midwinter* (choir and congregation)

*That Boy-Child of Mary* (choir verses & congregation refrain)

**Refrain:** "That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem."

*A Stable Lamp is Lighted* (choir with soloist – Bayleigh Albert)

**Hymn 94** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

(choir 2, 4 and congregation and choir 1, 3, 5, 6)

(Choir leaves silently)

## CHRISTMAS EVE – The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

### CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

**December 24, 2023**

+ + + + +

**5:00 p.m.**      **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**      **Rite II**

**Opening Voluntary** *Pastoral Symphony from The Messiah* George F. Handel  
   *Adeste Fideles*      Mary McDonald

**Processional Hymn 83** (1, 2, 3, 6) "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*"

### BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

*All* **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are God,

*All* **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: + bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

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

*All* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise 96** “*Angels, We Have Heard on High*”

### **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

### **Collect of The Nativity of Our Lord:**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### **First Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned

as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*After each reading, the reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96** (Cantor/choir)      Today Is Born Our Savior      Rory Cooney

**The Epistle**      Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 79**      *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
And we have seen his glory.

*People*      **Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Then the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to

whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Stuart Clary Wood

**The Nicene Creed** (*standing*)

**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**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live  
in poverty.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth.  
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in [... and in] all the world.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.  
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,  
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,  
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand [... and] all those who have passed through death  
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

**hear our prayer.**

*Father,*

*in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at  
the manger throne.*

*Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,*

*Joseph and the saints  
through him who is your Word made flesh,  
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

*Silence may be kept. Minister and 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 Priest, stands and says*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

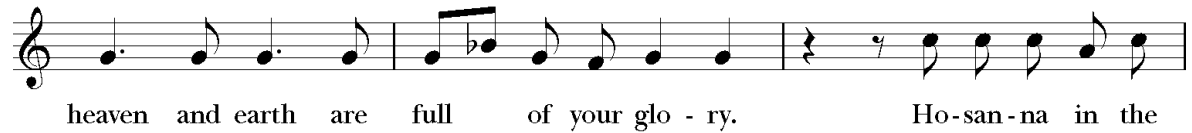
### **THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Anthem** *Pavane for a Silent Night* Soloist – Bayleigh Albert

*Celebrant* Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**







*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of the universe and giver of life.  
You formed us in your own image  
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care  
that we might be your faithful stewards  
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image  
in one another and in ourselves;  
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;  
and so we violated your creation,  
abused one another,  
and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us,  
And prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah  
you called us into covenant with you.  
You delivered us from slavery,  
sustained us in the wilderness,  
and raised up prophets  
to renew your promise of salvation.  
Then, in the fullness of time,  
you sent your eternal Word,  
made mortal flesh in Jesus.

Born into the human family,  
and dwelling among us,  
he revealed your glory.  
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,  
he triumphed over evil,  
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,  
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,  
And when he had given thanks to you,  
He broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:  
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection,  
we now present to you from your creation  
this bread and this wine.  
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us  
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Grant that we who share these gifts  
may be filled with the Holy Spirit  
and live as Christ's Body in the world.  
Bring us into the everlasting heritage  
of your daughters and sons,

that with the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be said*

**Fraction** We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All** **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.  
**All** **Lord, give us this bread always.**

[All Baptized persons are invited to receive communion at this time, and if you are not baptized, you may come forward and receive a blessing. If you

desire a gluten free wafer, please tell the priest.]

**Communion Hymns**    **82** – choir    *Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
                                 **101**    *Away in a Manger*  
                                 **89**    *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our  
eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises  
in our hearts.

*All*    **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Lighting of individual candles (*sitting*)

**Hymn 111**    *Silent Night, Holy Night*

### **The Christmas Blessing:**

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the  
foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-  
bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn 100**      *Joy to the World!*

*The people are dismissed with these words*

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*People*    **Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

Closing Voluntary *Joy To The World* from **A Nativity Suite** Wilbur Held

### **Participants in the Service:**

Celebrant/Sermon	The Rev. Stuart Clary Wood
Deacon	The Rev. Peg Moncure, Deacon
Organist	Libby Boyer
Verger	Grace Parker
Crucifer/Acolyte	Elizabeth Gobush
Torch Bearers	Pat & Roland Anderson
Lector	Alyson Holt
Eucharistic Minister / Intercessions	Harriette Floyd
Ushers	Henry Moncure & Scott Holt
Christ Church Choir	

And we give thanks for the hard work of the members of the Altar and Flower Guilds for preparing the church for our services.

**POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Jim & Martha Anne Engard**

**Barbara Barnes Robins**

**Virginia Booth, Alfred E. Booth and**

**W. Jeffery Seubel**

**Herbert T. Watson**

**John Allan "Jack" Goodloe**

**Christina Benedict and**

**Lelia Dudley**

**Michael**

**Dr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Grove**

**The parents of DeLois & Rick Smith**

**Anne Marie Jones**

**Our parents and**

**William F. Story**

**Jane Fackler**

**Charles & Virginia King and**

**Harry & Dorey Henning**

**Adm (ret) Charles & Margaret Brook**

**John & Jean McClelland**

**Marion & Elizabeth Moncure and**

**Clyde & Rose Marie Roettger and**

**Sally Anne & George Faulkner**

**The Montague Family**

**Susan Neal**

**Ruby Lee Norris and**

**Vernon W. Norris, Sr.**

**Paul Johnson**

**Mr. & Mrs. William H. Schacht**

**David Wilcox**

**Jordan E. Wood**

**GIVEN BY**

**Louanne Ambrose, Megan,**

**Courtney, and Bradford**

**Barbara Barnes Beasley**

**Lisa & Craig Booth**

**Karen & Phil Brown**

**Martha Goodloe Buchannan**

**& family**

**Lydia & Jim Dudley**

**Mike & Harriette Floyd**

**Frances Gladding**

**The Hortons**

**Kathryn J. Humphreys**

**Michael Kirk & Ann de Peyster**

**Jack Fackler**

**Bill Budd & Mary Lynn Landgraf**

**Pam & Jeff McClelland**

**Henry & Peg Moncure**

**Robert L. Montague III**

**Clayton Neal**

**Vernon W. Norris, Jr.**

**Grace Parker**

**Marilyn & Dave South**

**Anne Wilcox**

**Stuart C. Wood**

**POINSETTIAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**IN HONOR OF**

**Tonya Spears**

**Ann Sterling & Paul**

**Fr. Stuart Wood's service to**

**Christ Church Parish**

**Jo Ann Bruce**

**GIVEN BY**

**Nancy Campbell**

**Mike & Harriette Floyd**

**Chip & Jean Holt**

**Grace Parker**