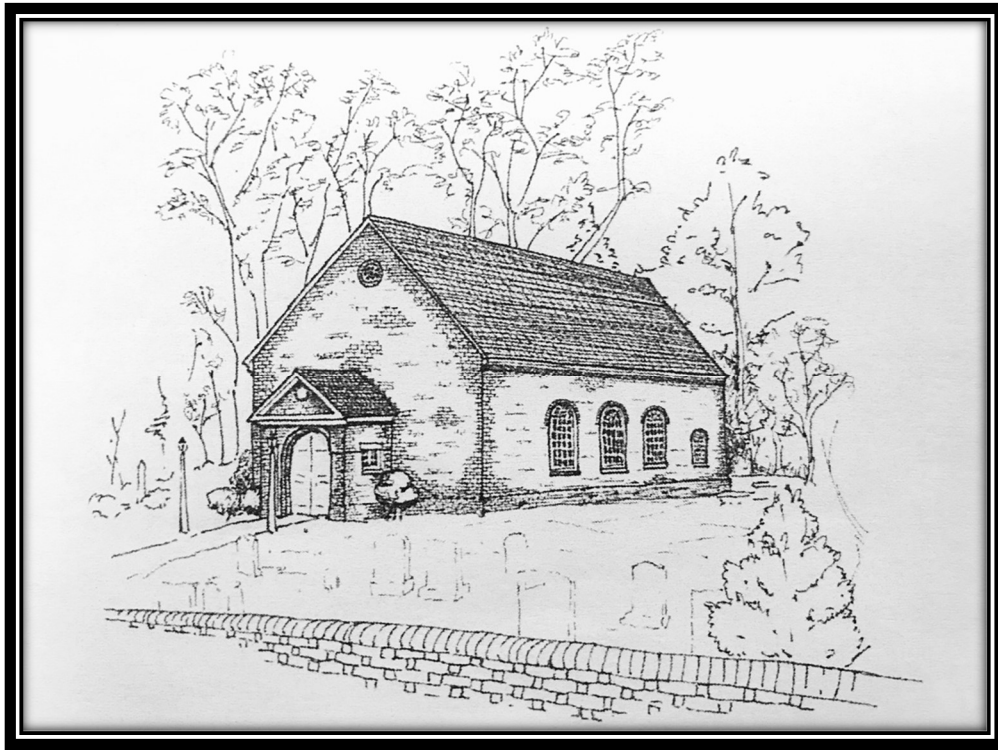


*Welcome to Christ Church Parish
(Episcopal)*

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent



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.*

The Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist: Rite II – December 17, 2023

The promised day of God is dawning. John is the herald of that day.

Opening Voluntary *Come, Redeemer of Mankind* J.S. Bach
Processional Hymn 72 *Hark! The Glad Sound*
Opening Sentences BCP Page 355
Kyrie (S-96)

THE WORD OF GOD

The Collect of the Day (*Advent 3*) BCP Page 212
First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 BCP Page 782
Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Sequence Hymn 65 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*
Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28
The Sermon The Rev. Peg Moncure, Deacon
The Nicene Creed BCP Page 358
The Prayers of the People Insert
The Confession and Absolution BCP Page 360
Healing Service *El Cant Dells Ocell* – Carol of the Birds George Emlen
The Peace BCP Page 360
Offertory Anthem (soloist Merri Hanson) *A Voice Proclaims* John Bell

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Officiant Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us
from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer D BCP Page 372
Sanctus (S-130) BCP Page 373
The Lord's Prayer BCP Page 364
Breaking of the Bread:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though
we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Agnus Dei (Hymnal S-164)

Psalm 126

In convertendo

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Please Remember in Your Prayers This Week:

Those on our Prayer List: Jack Tarran, Helen Tarran, Tom Cockrell, Mike Gorin, Gibbie Mangum, Betty Evans, Ann Donoff, Zubin, Taylor Johnson, Shannon Budd, Lori Rexinger, Br. Christopher Hamlett, Joanne Bruce, Dick Debnam, Lucille Redmon, Jennifer Montague, Jean Crown Hodges, Cole Sullivan, Keith Callis, Trip Poates, Colt Johnson & Mary Breedon.

We give thanks with those celebrating their birthdays this week: Mary Lynn Landgraf, and Joe Jones; and with those celebrating anniversaries: Ray & Martha Stokes.

We pray for our Diocese and in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the clergy and parishioners of: St. Asaph's – Bowling Green, and St. John's – West Point.

**The mid-week Eucharist will be celebrated on Wednesday
Morning this week at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel.**

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