



The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day 2025
10:30 am

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Christ Church Episcopal.

Known as the “Parish in the Heart of the City,” Christ Church is blessed by the beauty of its physical surroundings, which have been preserved and expanded by the energy and vision of faithful stewards, both past and present. For more than two centuries, we have been gathering to worship God and demonstrate our faith in our daily lives. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to be *a joyful community sharing life in Jesus Christ.*

We hope you will experience God’s blessings during this service as we have been blessed by your presence.

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod, Rector
The Rev. Scott Fleischer, Associate for Pastoral Care
The Rev. Lindy Bunch, Associate for Parish Life
The Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley, CCES Chaplain

ORDER OF SERVICE

In preparation for the service, we invite your quiet prayers and ask that you please silence your cell phone.

THE PRELUDE

John Alan Wickey, harp

The congregation stands for the hymn in procession.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of God the Father;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.
People **O come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4

Lector A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands for the Sequence Hymn.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
 now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

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

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

The congregation is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

The Rev. David Upton, *Guest Preacher*

The congregation stands for the Nicene Creed.

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

Intercessor Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvellous light.
Christ born for us, Son of God given for us:
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.
Lord, in your mercy;

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Wonderful Counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal
the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth. Lord, in your mercy;

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations,
and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy;

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy
all your children, bless our families, and renew our communities. Lord, in your mercy;

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power
give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy;

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit,
hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives.

People Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The congregation is seated for the Words of Welcome.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME & OFFERTORY SENTENCES

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OFFERING PLATE LANGUAGE HERE**

The congregation stands for the Presentation Hymn.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King:
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.

Celebrant 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven 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.

*In observance of the joyful nature of this morning's liturgy,
the congregation **remains standing** throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

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

**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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The congregation may be seated following the Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table.

THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion in this Church. Ushers will direct you to the altar rail where you may stand or kneel to receive the sacrament. Should you desire to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the priest. Gluten-free wafers are available to those who need them, and are kept and administered separately from the other wafers. Please indicate your desire for a gluten-free wafer to the priest.

THE COMMUNION MUSIC

Tom Spooner, soloist & John Alan Wickey, harpist

The congregation kneels for the Post Communion Prayer and Blessing.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

**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

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation stands for the Hymn in Procession.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION

Hark! the herald angels sing

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
- 3 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings.
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

A JOYFUL COMMUNITY
SHARING LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST