

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas Day

The Old Testament Lesson

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The Epistle Lesson

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

The Gospel Lesson

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

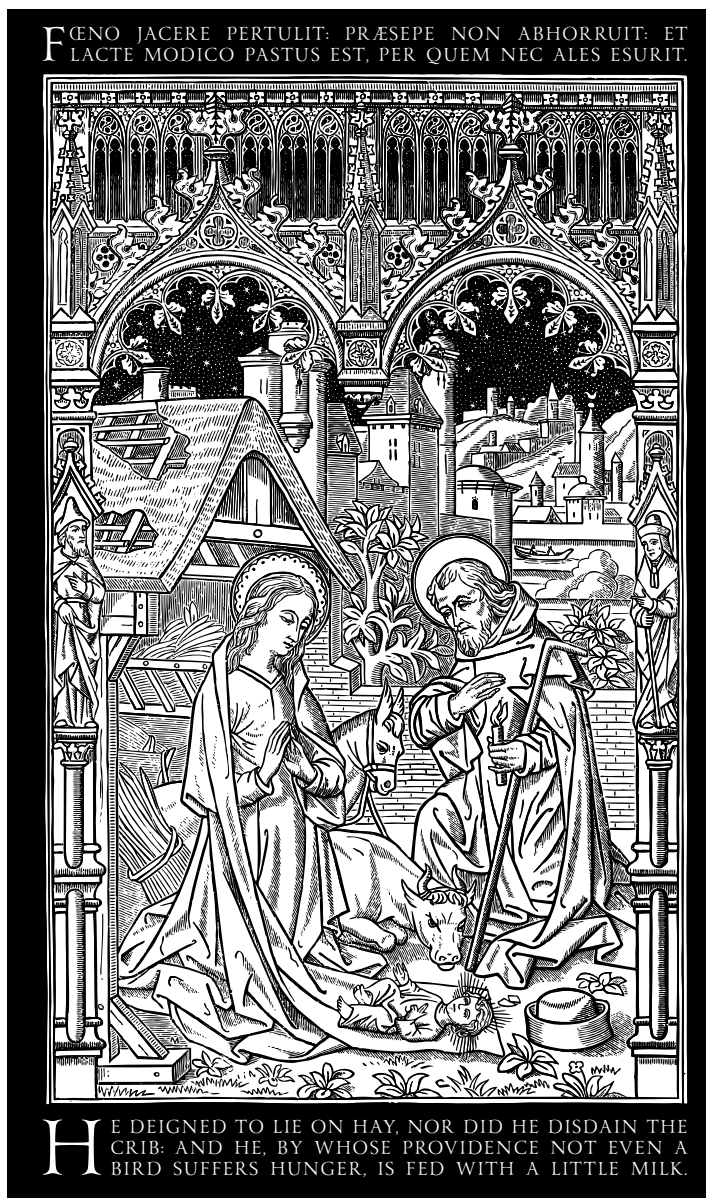
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

John 1:1-18



CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY

Nancy Kennedy, *Sr. Warden*
Chan Boyd, *Jr. Warden*

VESTRY CLASS OF 2025

Betty Parker Ellis
Norma Givens
Martha Louise Lewis

VESTRY CLASS OF 2026

Smyth McKissick, IV
Mary Holt Murphy
Phil Peterson
Angelle Reichert

VESTRY CLASS OF 2027

Wes Clarke
Jane Harrison Fisher
Dorothy Nicholson
John Wood

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, *Bishop*
The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod, *Rector*
The Rev. Scott Fleischer, *Pastoral Care*
The Rev. Lindy Bunch, *Parish Life*
The Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley, *CCES Sr. Chaplain*
Kristin Bennett, *Seminarian & Resource Dev.*
Kevin Mertens, *Seminarian & Faith in Action*

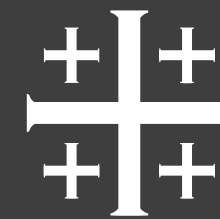
ADDITIONAL MINISTRY AREA LEADERS

Donald W. Duncan, *Liturgy & Music*
Cara Horn, *Faith Development*
Suzanne Mize, *Support*
Katelyn Barnett, *CCE Preschool*

*For more information about the
Christ Church Episcopal staff,
visit ccgsc.org.*



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL
A JOYFUL COMMUNITY
SHARING LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST



Worship Leaflet for All Services

December 28, 2025

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Serving in Worship Today

10:30 AM | Historic Church

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod, Celebrant
The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, Preacher
The Rev. Lindy Bunch, Assisting
Wes Clarke & Amy Woodson, Lay Readers
Gayle Saylor & Nelson Arrington, Vergers
The Christ Church Parish Choir
Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music
The Christ Church Altar Guild
The Christ Church Acolyte Guild

Next Sunday, January 4, 2026

we will return to our regular schedule of worship services:

8:00 am | Rite I | Markley Chapel

10:30 am | Rite II | Markley Chapel

10:30 am | Rite II | Historic Church

5:00 pm | Lessons & Carols for Epiphany | Historic Church

Welcome to Worship at Christ Church

In order to assist you in following the service, this worship leaflet provides an outline of today's liturgy. The text of the prayers and other liturgical materials can be found in the **Book of Common Prayer (BCP)**, the small red book in your pew rack. The corresponding page numbers are indicated in the worship leaflet by the abbreviation BCP. The hymns and service music can be found in the **Hymnal 1982**, the blue book in your pew rack. The corresponding numbers are indicated in the worship leaflet by *No.* or *S.*

10:30
AM

Historic Church
Holy Eucharist | Rite II
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

“*The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.*”
Habakkuk 2:20

As we prepare for worship, we invite all members of the congregation to enter the church in a spirit of stillness. The moments before the liturgy begins are a sacred time to center our hearts, pray, and ready ourselves to encounter the presence of God. Let us honor this holy silence together, creating space for prayerful reflection for ourselves and for those around us.

THE WORD OF GOD

Organ Voluntary Donald W. Duncan
Director of Liturgy & Music

Hymn in Procession, No. 102 (*standing*) *Once in royal David's city*

Opening Acclamation **Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355**
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity **BCP 355**

Gloria in excelsis (Hymnal, S-280) Robert J. Powell

Collect of the Day: First Sunday after Christmas Day **BCP 213**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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.**

Scripture Lessons (*seated*)

Sequence Hymn, No. 107 (*standing*) *Good Christian friends, rejoice*
There will be no Children's Church today.
Children are asked to remain in the nave with their parents throughout the service.

The Gospel Lesson

The Sermon (*seated*) The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, *Bishop*

The Nicene Creed (*standing*) **BCP 358**

Prayers of the People: Form IV (*standing*) **BCP 388**
During the Twelve Days of Christmas the Confession of Sin is omitted.

The Peace (*standing*) **BCP 360**

Words of Welcome (*seated*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

For guidance on receiving Holy Communion, please see the instructions on the back of the Welcome Card located in the pew rack.

Anthem at the Offertory The Christ Church Parish Choir

Presentation Hymn, No. 105, v. 4 (*standing*)

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B **BCP 367**

*In observance of the festive character of the Twelve Days of Christmas, the congregation **remains standing** throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Sanctus et Benedictus (Hymnal, S-129) Robert J. Powell

Fraction Anthem (Hymnal, S-154) David Hurd

Communion Music
Hymn No. 106 *Christians, awake, salute the happy morn*
Hymn No. 94 *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*
Hymn No. 97 *Dost thou in a manger lie*
Hymn No. 79 *O little town of Bethlehem*

If Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent out this week, the following is said:

The Sending Forth of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post Communion Prayer (*standing*) **BCP 365**

Final Blessing of the People by the Rector

The Rector blesses the people; the congregation responds with "Amen."
The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Blessing of the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship

After the Post-Communion Prayer and the final Blessing of the People by the Rector, the Rector, the Rector's family, and the Senior Warden meet the Bishop at the crossing.

The Bishop addresses the Rector and says

Harrison, in the summer of 2008, you were called to become the 20th Rector of Christ Church. Have you served faithfully?

The Rector replies

I have with God's help, and to the best of my abilities exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

After prayer and careful consideration, I believe that I have completed the work God called me here to do and I have decided to leave this charge and retire from active ministry. I publicly state to you, the Ninth Bishop of Upper South Carolina, and to all assembled, that, with your permission, my tenure as Rector of Christ Church will end this day.

The Bishop addresses the congregation

My brothers and sisters: do you, the people of Christ Church, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?
*People: **We do.***

The Bishop addresses the Senior Warden

Nancy, are you prepared and willing as Senior Warden to accept your increased responsibility under the canons to serve this congregation until such time as a new Rector is called?
Senior Warden: I am.

The Bishop continues

Let us pray. Most gracious God, you sent The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod to serve your people in this place for a season, and to work for the advancement of your kingdom: we give you humble thanks for his ministry here among the people of Christ Church. **Amen.**

We give thanks for the time they have spent together and for his faithfulness in ministry: for those he has joined to this part of Christ's family through the sacrament of baptism, for those he has joined together through the sacrament of marriage, for those he has anointed in their sickness and those he has laid to rest in burial; for opening the hearts and minds of your people to your Word, for feeding your people in the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for the many ways that they have been Christ to one another. **Amen.**

We thank you for gifting him with compassion, humor, kindness, discernment and grace, as he led your people under your guidance. **Amen.**

And we affirm that, while you have now called him to retire from active ministry, we remain brothers and sisters in Christ in the communion of your saints: one family of faith. **Amen.**

The Bishop blesses the Rector

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead you still, and keep you in his ways. **Amen.**

May God, whose Son has loved us and given himself for us, love you still and establish you in peace. **Amen.**

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine you still and strengthen you for the years to come. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Harrison, with the blessing of your bishop and this congregation, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Rector: Thanks be to God.

Hymn in Procession, No. 100 (*standing*) *Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

Dismissal **BCP 366**

The Bishop then dismisses the congregation:

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
*People: **Thanks be to God.***

Organ Voluntary Donald W. Duncan
Director of Liturgy & Music