





## WELCOME

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. Kellie Wilson, Senior Associate Rector  
The Rev. Scott Fleischer, Associate for Pastoral Care  
The Rev. Lindy Bunch, Associate for Parish Life  
The Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley, CCES Chaplain

## UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

10:30 AM • Holy Eucharist, Rite II • Church

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

10:30 AM • Carols for Christmastide & Holy Eucharist, Rite II • Church  
*No Sunday School. No other services on this day.*

## CHRIST CHURCH LITURGY & MUSIC STAFF

Donald W. Duncan, *Director of Liturgy & Music*  
Robert J. Powell, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*  
Sarah Marczynski, *Program Coordinator for Liturgy & Music*  
Chase McAbee, *Assistant Parish Musician*  
Dr. Charles Tompkins, *Artist in Residence*

## THE CHRIST CHURCH ALTAR GUILD

The church and chapel have been lovingly decorated and made festive for this Feast of the Nativity by the many members of the Christ Church Altar Guild who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make our worship beautiful and reverent.

## Order of Service

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

### The Organ Voluntary

*Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music*

*The congregation stands at the sound of the Tower Bell and remains standing for the Hymn In Procession.*

### The Hymn In Procession | O come, all ye faithful, stanzas 1-3 only

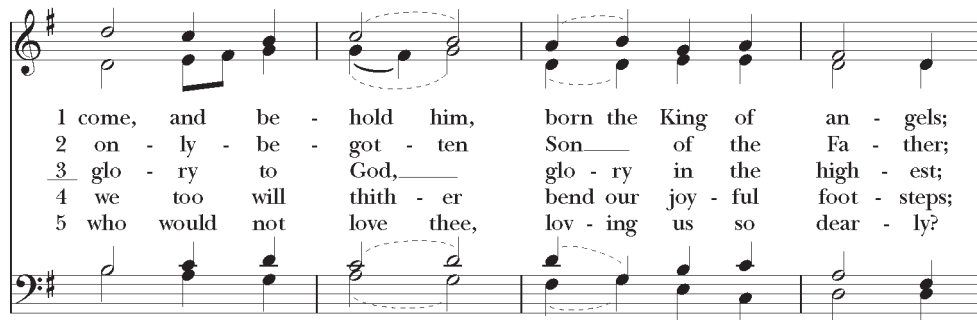
ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

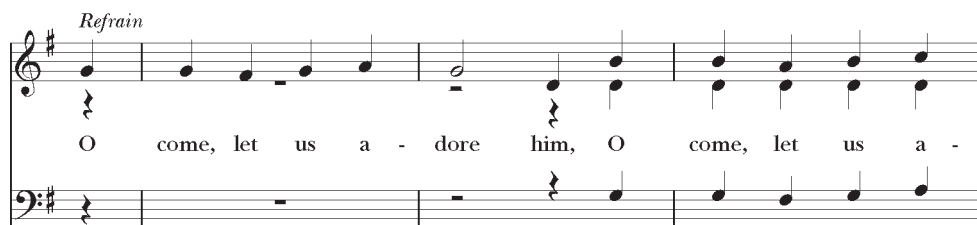


1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore 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.

## The Song of Praise | Joy to the world, stanza 1 only

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
ceive her King; let ev - every heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and  
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **The Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **The Legend of the Friendly Beasts**

### **Mary and Joseph Journey to Bethlehem**

**Luke 2:1-7**

*O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*

### **An Angel Speaks to the Shepherds**

**Luke 2:8-12**

*The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

### **A Multitude of Angels Appears**

**Luke 2:13-16**

*Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## **The Shepherds Return to their Flocks**

**Luke 2:17-20**

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

## **The Friendly Beasts**

*Jesus our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude,  
And the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother, kind and good.*

*“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown, “I carried his mother uphill and down.  
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town. I,” said the donkey shaggy and brown.*

*“I,” said the cow, all white and red, “I gave him my manger for his bed.  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head. I,” said the cow all white and red.*

*“I,” said the sheep with curly horn, “I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn. I,” said the sheep with curly horn.*

*“I,” said the dove from rafters high, “I cooed him to sleep, so he should not cry.  
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I. I,” said the dove from rafters high.*

*“I,” said the camel bumpy and brown, “I carried the Three Wise Kings around.  
I carried them through the desert and town. I,” said the camel bumpy and brown.*

*Thus every beast by some good spell, in the stable dark was glad to tell  
of the gift he gave Emmanuel, the gift he gave Emmanuel.*

*(The “camel verse” is a new addition for 2023 to our annual Friendly Beasts pageant. The text of the verse was written by Libby Sigmon, a 5th grade student and parishioner of Christ Church.)*

## **The Conclusion**

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The congregation stands for the creed.*

## **The Children's Creed**

I believe in God above.  
I believe in Jesus' love.  
I believe the Spirit, too,  
Comes to teach me what to do.  
I believe that I must be true and loving, Lord, like thee. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for God's Church, for Christ Church, for all bishops, priests, and ministers.

Let us pray for our Christ Church family.

Let us pray for our country, our state and our city of Greenville. Let us pray for all who lead us: Mr. Biden, our President; Mr. McMaster, our Governor; Mr. White, our Mayor; and for all leaders in the world.

Let us pray for the earth, that we may learn to take care of God's gifts to us.

Let us pray for those people who are sick or in trouble, both here at home and in the world.

Let us pray for those who have died.

Let us thank God for the many blessings of our lives.

God, you know what we need before we can ask for it. Help us to understand that we may not get what we ask for, but that you always give us what we truly need.

**All            Amen.**

## **The Peace**

**Celebrant**    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The people greet each other in the name of the Lord. The children will now return to their seats.*

## **The Rector's Welcome**

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod

*Welcome to Christ Church and Merry Christmas!*

*To those who are weary this night - may this time of worship refresh your spirit and feed your soul.*

*To those who are lonely this night - may you find the loving presence of Christ as he is revealed in Word and Sacrament.*

*To those who are searching this night - may you be led by the star to the manger, wherein lies the Savior of our souls.*

*To those who are grieving this night - may the Prince of Peace fill you with all peace this night.*

*To all those who are worshipping here this night - may the Lord bless you and keep you this night and always.*

## **The Anthem at the Offertory** | *Angels from the realms of glory*

arr. Philip Ledger

Christ Church Schola Cantorum

*Following the offertory, the congregation stands and joins in singing as the gifts are presented at the altar.*

## **The Presentation Hymn** | *The First Nowell*

NOEL

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

## 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.**

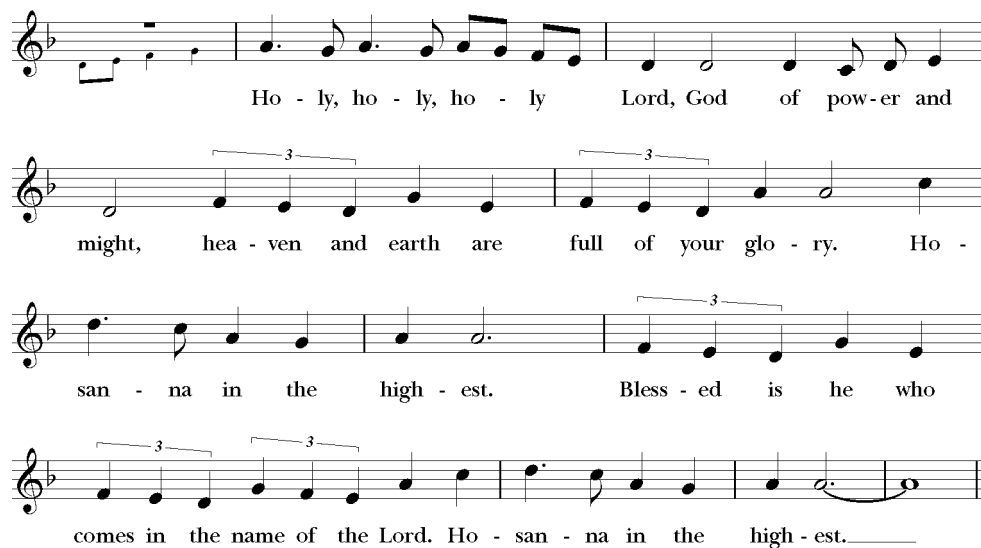
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

## The Sanctus et Benedictus

Robert J. Powell



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 evening'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.

**People      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***

Cantor      Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**All              Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### ***The Invitation to the Table***

Celebrant    The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The congregation is seated following the Invitation to the Table.*

## The Ministration of Holy Communion

*Please approach the communion ministers at the direction of the ushers. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the bread, place one hand over the other, palms facing upward. For those with special dietary needs, gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the priest at the altar rail. The wine which follows may be received either by drinking from the cup as it is extended to you, or by retaining the wafer and dipping it lightly into the cup. You are also welcome to receive the bread only. Anglican theology teaches that Communion in one kind is a full and complete reception of all the benefits of the sacrament. If you are not receiving, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing.*

## The Communion Music

*We'll dress the house  
O Holy Night*

Alfred Burt  
Adolphe Adam

Katherine Trask, soprano

*The congregation kneels for the Post Communion Prayer and Blessing.*

## The Post Communion 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 Hymn In Procession | *Hark! the herald angels sing*

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*  
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born 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