

# CHRIST CHURCH

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY

*The Episcopal Church in the Heart of Sussex County*



*Founded in 1769*

*Chartered on August 15, 1774*

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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEWTON  
The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

8:00 & 10:00 am

*\*omitted at 8:00 am*

**\*Prelude** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night *Mark Hayes*

**\*Hymn in Procession #67** Comfort, comfort ye my people *Psalm 42*

**Opening Acclamation**

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

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*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. **Amen.**

**Trisagion**

*8 am (said three times)*

*Celebrant* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

*People* **Have mercy upon us.**

*10 am: S-100*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

**Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.

*People*          **Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

*said responsively*

- 1      Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
         **he has come to his people and set them free.**
- 2      He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
         **born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3      Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
         that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
         **from the hands of all who hate us.**
- 4      He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
         **and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5      This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
         **to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**
- 6      Free to worship him without fear, \*  
         **holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
     **for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
     **by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God \*  
     **the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
     **and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**
- 11 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
     **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### The Second Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.

People           **Thanks be to God.**

\*Sequence Hymn #75           There's a voice in the wilderness crying           Ascension

### \*The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu -ia, al-le-lu -ia, al-le -lu-ia.

Verse           *Prepare the way of the Lord, says the Lord, make his paths straight; \*  
                     and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.*

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

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

### **The Holy Gospel**

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Chris Streater

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand.*

**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**

*Please stand or kneel*

Let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church, that as the advent candles glow more brightly, our hearts may be awakened to see the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We ask your blessing upon our Christ Church family. May we continue to be a sign of your loving presence and hope, even when hope seems in vain. Keep us mindful and responsive to the community beyond these walls and give us strength to serve all your people. We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, because of illness, troubles or addictions, and all whose struggles are known to you alone. Guard them with your healing presence, and restore them to health and wholeness in your good time and way.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, including Anthony Caggiano, in whose memory the flowers are given this morning.. Grant to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

O God our Maker, you have put a restlessness in our souls and a thirst for a deeper knowledge of you in our hearts. Turn us now in the right direction. Give us the grace to realize that there are no easy answers to our questions and no shortcuts to our goals. As we move toward Christmas, help us to search our own lives, that we may be ready to receive the new life that is coming into the world. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sin & Absolution

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silence is kept, ended by the Celebrant.*

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 Peace

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

*People* And also with you.



## Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Chris Streeeter

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and you will be directed to our online giving portal.*



## \*Offertory Anthem

Every Valley

John Ness Beck

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted  
and ev'ry mountain made low  
and the crooked made straight  
and the rough places plain.  
and all flesh shall see it together.*

*For the glory of the Lord  
shall be revealed, revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.  
Amen.*

Isaiah 40:4-5

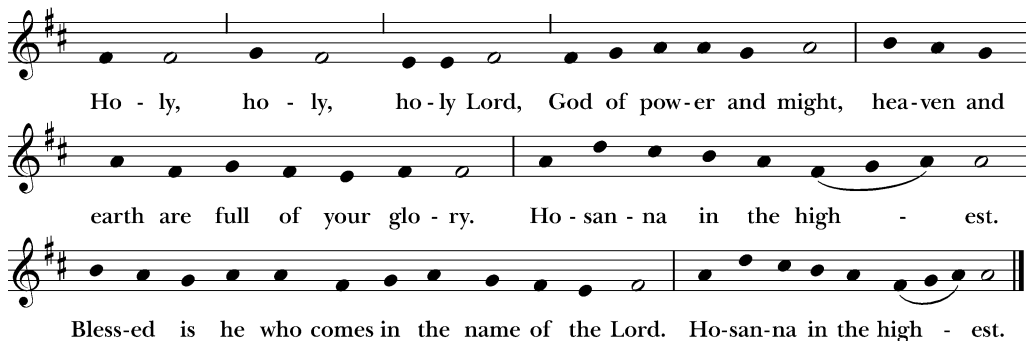




Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus and Benedictus

8 am: spoken; 10 am: S-124



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.

*Celebrant* 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."

*Celebrant*

There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

*Celebrant and People*

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -  
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*Celebrant* 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 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

ev - er. A - MEN.

*Celebrant* 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Fraction

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## Agnus Dei

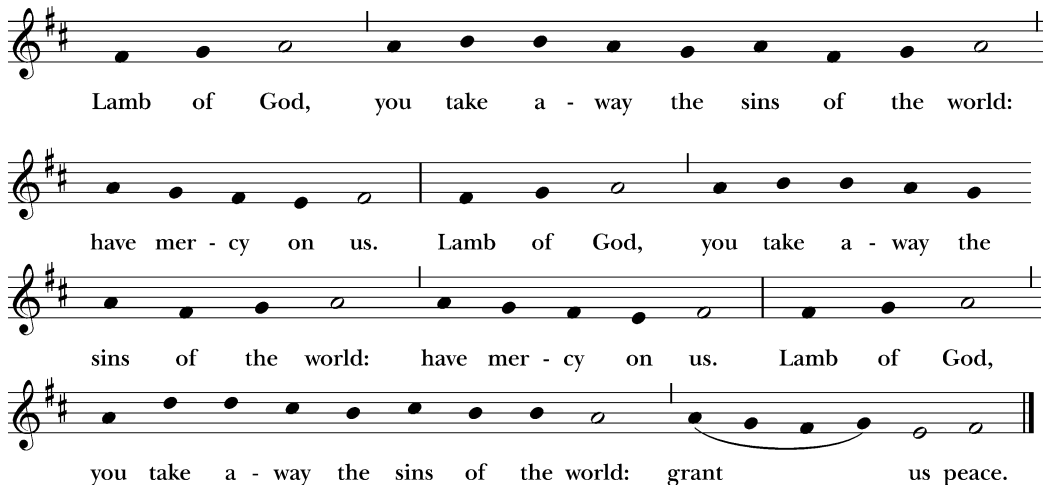
8 am: spoken

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **grant us peace.**

10 am: S-161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

## All are welcome at God's Table

*Please come forward, at the direction of the ushers. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the priest. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it). If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest.*

**\*Communion**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Michael D. Costello

**\*Communion Hymn #63**

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

Verbum supernum prodiens

## Thanksgiving after Communion

*Please stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* 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

\*Closing Hymn #76      On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry      Winchester New

## The Dismissal

Celebrant      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
People      Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

\*The Voluntary      Nun komm der Heiden Heiland      Johann Walther

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### A Poem for Advent

*If we fill our lives with things,  
and again with things,  
if we must fill every moment of our lives with action,  
when will we have the time  
to make the long slow journey across the desert  
as did the Magi?  
Or sit and watch the stars  
as did the Shepherds?  
Or brood over the coming of the child  
as did Mary?  
For each of us, there is a desert to travel,  
a star to discover,  
and a being within ourselves to bring to life.*

*Michael Podesta*

Serving in God's House Today

8:00 am

Lector: Shari Hillard

L.E.M.: Andy VanOrden

Ushers: Mitch Hillard

10:00 am

Crucifer: Messiah Bent

Lectors: MaryAnn Risley, Debbie Mello,  
Randy Kurie

L.E.M.: Mark Hoyer

Ushers: Nick Pachnos & Lou Slammer

Joining us in worship & fellowship on December 1, 2024

8:00 am: 28

10:00 am: 119

Christ Church Prayer List

**For those who are ill:** Antonia, Fred, Georgeann, Gizelle, Frank, Emily, Ruth, Daryl, Linda, Diana, Bill, Nathaniel, Kevin, Lauren, Tricia, Kathy, Chris, Aibie, Patrick, Marie, Carolyne, Ryan, Lorraine, Daryl, Patricia, Francis, Rick Jr., Patricia and Michael

**For those serving in the armed forces:** Parker, Dean, Michael, Angel and Nicholas.

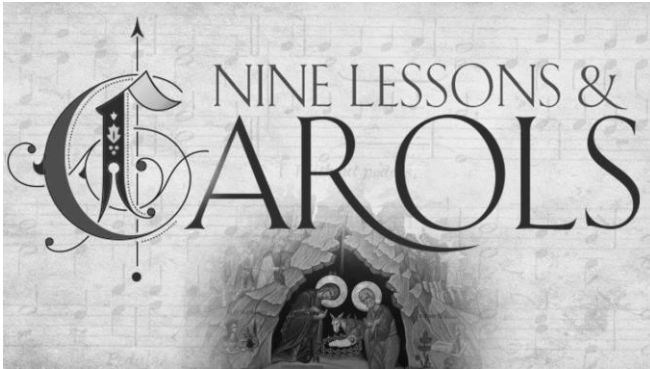
**We rejoice with...** Jennifer Rowe, Ray Regenthal, Keith Thies, Tammy Arfken, Stacy Grant, Denise Streeter and all who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

*Please contact Karrie Miller in the church office to have names added or removed from our prayer list.*



## Announcements & Events:

Service of Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 22 at 7:00 pm



Mark your calendars now for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. This powerful liturgy includes nine Bible stories interspersed with Christmas carols which depict the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It features our own Senior and Youth Choirs, accompanied by organ and orchestra.

This is a perfect service to invite friends, family and neighbors to attend with you!

## Christmas Services at Christ Church

### Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

#### **4:00 pm: Family Christmas Service**

*This shorter service features the Christmas story told by our Sunday School students and is the perfect service for families.*

#### **8:00: Festive Choral Eucharist**

*This is our traditional Christmas Eve service. Come at 7:30 to join in our Carol Sing!*



### Wednesday, December 25: The Feast of the Incarnation

#### **10:00 am: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist**

*This quieter service celebrates the day of Christ's birth, a perfect way to spend part of your Christmas morning.*

Christ Church Calendar: Week of December 8, 2024

- Sunday Dec. 8 - The Second Sunday of Advent  
8 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, spoken)  
8:45am Parish Breakfast  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, with music)  
**Coffee & Fellowship Following**  
11:45 am Sunday Brunch in a Bag  
3:00 pm Sussex County Oratorio Society Concert
- Monday Dec. 9 (*Church Office Hours: 8am to 1pm*)  
7pm Sussex County Oratorio Society
- Tuesday Dec. 10 (*Church Office Hours: 8 am to 1 pm*)  
11 am Christ Church in Stitches  
7pm Sussex County Youth Orchestra
- Wednesday Dec. 11 (*Church Office Hours: 8 am to 1 pm*)
- Thursday Dec. 12 (*Church Office Hours 8am to 12pm*)  
10 am Thursday Morning Worship  
7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday Dec. 14
- Sunday December 15 - The Third Sunday of Advent  
8 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, spoken)  
9 am Adult Bible Study  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, with music)  
**Coffee & Fellowship Following**  
11:45 am Sunday Brunch in a Bag



### Christ Church, Newton Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Newark

The Rev. Christopher M. Streeter, Priest-in-Charge

*cstreeter@christchurchnewton.org*  
*585-730-0904: pastoral emergencies*

Geri Livengood & Mary Ann Risley, Wardens

Karrie Miller, Parish Administrator

Luz Quintero, Sexton

Joseph Mello, Director of Music/Choirmaster

Diana Greene, Organist

Deborah Mello, Youth Choir

Sue Mittelstadt, Children's Ministry

Alex Zander, Altar Guild

Beth Batastini, BSN, RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse

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