

# 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

8:00 & 10:00 am

*\*omitted at 8:00 am*

**\*Prelude**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Michael D. Costello

**\*Opening Hymn #54**

Savior of the nations, come    *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

**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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Congregation may please be seated.*

## The First Lesson

**Isaiah 7:10-16**

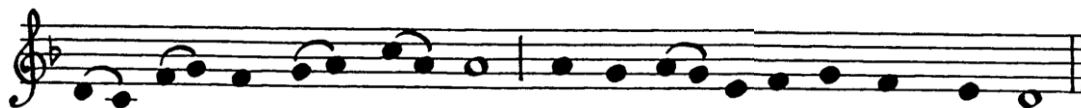
Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 80

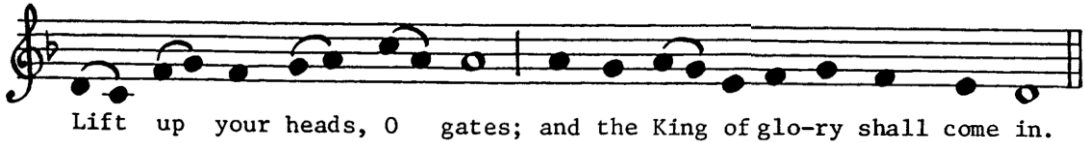
*8 am: said responsively; 10 am: led by the choir*



Lift up your heads, O gates; and the King of glo-ry shall come in.

- 1      Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
         **shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2      In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
         **stir up your strength and come to help us.**      [ANTIPHON]
- 3      Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
         **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
     how long will you be angered  
     despite the prayers of your people? [ANTIPHON]
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
     you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
     and our enemies laugh us to scorn. [ANTIPHON]



### The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

\*Sequence Hymn #265      The angel Gabriel from heaven came      *Gabriel's Message*

\*The Gospel Acclamation



Verse      *A virgin shall conceive and bear a son; \*  
                  and his name shall be called Emmanuel.*

Clergy  
People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Clergy  
People

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

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Tricia Lyons

### **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 love, 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 love, 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 love, 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 love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, including Paul Pfeil in whose memory the columbarium flowers are given this morning, and all those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them and grant them peace.

**God of love, 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.

**God of love, hear our prayer. 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 Streeter

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\*Offertory Anthem

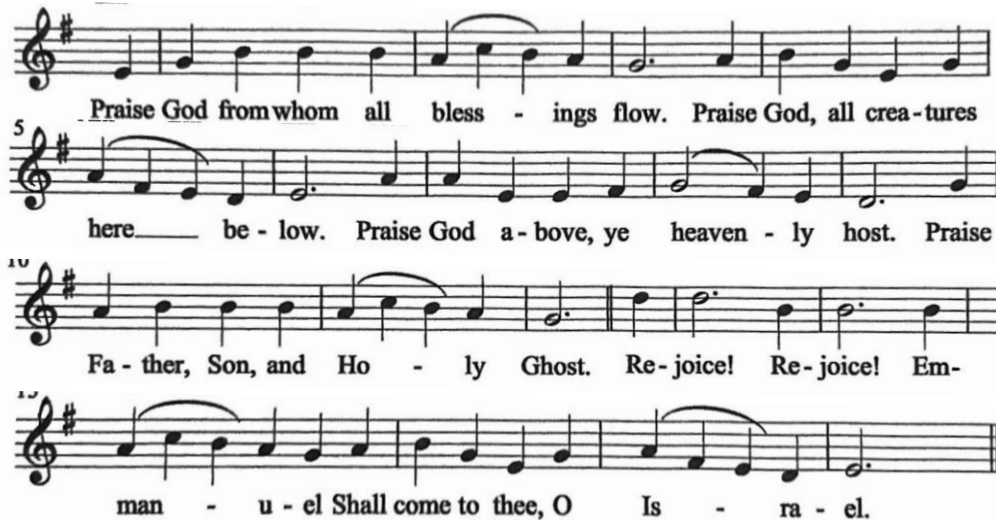
Mary's Song

Richard Donn

Shannah Yerofeyev, *soprano*; Susan Tummillo, *flute*

(The text is a paraphrase of The Magnificat, found on page 65 of the Book of Common Prayer)

The Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The Holy Communion  
Eucharistic Prayer B



*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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.



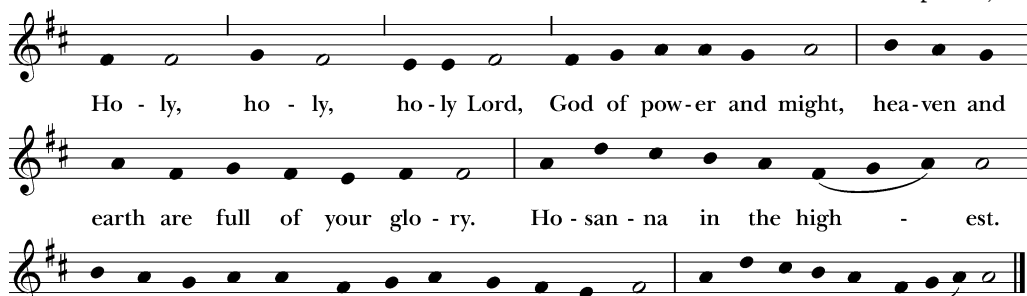


*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 -

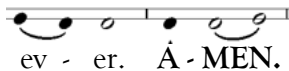
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*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



## The Lord's Prayer

*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

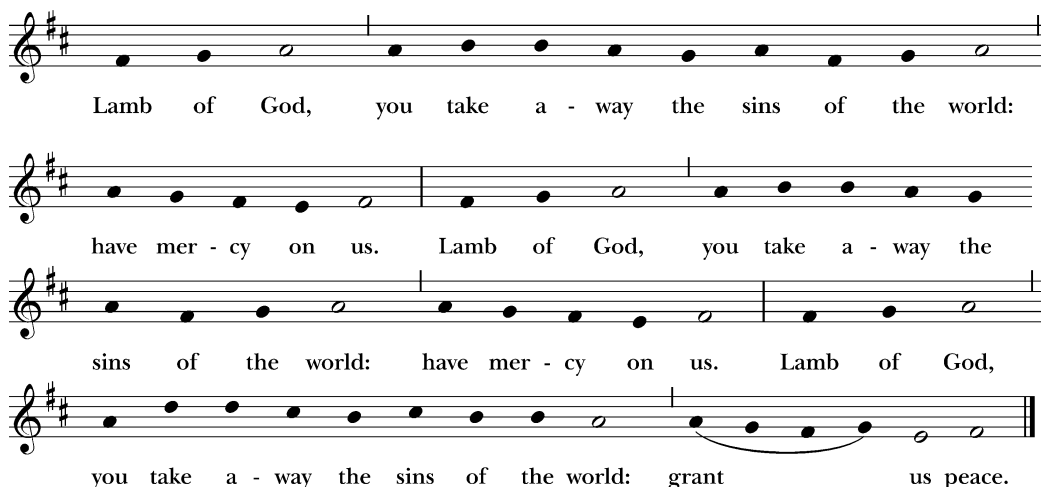
8 am: spoken

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

Ecco virgo concipiet: Mode 1

Gerald Near

\*Communion Hymn #66

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Stuttgart

## 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 #56**

O come, O come Emmanuel (vs. 5-8)

*Veni Emmanuel*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

**\*The Voluntary**

Toccata on Veni, redemptor gentium

*Charles Callahan*

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You ©2023, MorningStar

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Ecco virgo concipiet ©2000 MorningStar

Toccata on Veni, Redemptor Gentium © 1962 Concordia Publications

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## Serving in God's House Today

**8:00 am**

Lector: Cecelia Clayton

L.E.M.: Eric Fohl

Ushers: Bill Habermann

**Altar Guild:** Suzie Mittelstadt

**10:00 am**

Crucifer: Josh Szelesta

Lectors: Alex Zander, Tracy Zilmer, Debbie Mello

L.E.M.: MaryAnn Risley

Ushers: Nick Pachnos & Erika Clavel

## Joining us in worship & fellowship on December 14, 2025

8:00 am: 14

10:00 am: 90

### Christ Church Prayer List

**For those who are ill:** Fred, Jennifer, Gizelle,Carolyn, Madeline, Gloria, Lorraine, Mark, Phyllis, Michael, Antoinette, Jackie, Carole, Linda, Michael Patrick, Charlie, Derek, Guy, Ryan, Tricia, Lauren, Tony, Sam, Marie, Antonia, Ronnie, Colleen, Frances, Jenna, Deena, Dale, Karen, Becky, Laura, Ed, Brenda, Alex, Becky, Amy, Elaine, Judi, Jason, Todd, Reid Family, Lou, Gabbie, Susan, Marlene, Ed, Trina, Barbara, Albert, Jane, Daryl, Jane, Judi, Debbie, Jeffrey, Amy, Alyssa, Katie, Laura, Janet, Stevie, Mookie, Emilie, Andy, Lorraine, Tammy, Ann, Liz, Roberto, Ovidro, Aceneth, Louise, Mike, Art, Ray, Madeline, Sharon, Nadine, Mark, Michele, Ann, Eva, Jenny, Brian, John, Oscar, Joyce, Sharon, Jon, Mark, Dennis, Rick Jr and Marie

**For those serving in the armed forces:** Dean, Michael, Jonathan, Rich, Zach and Angel.

**We rejoice with...** Jill Pierson, Greg Guinsler, Bobbie Armstrong, Mark Maruska, Austin Seames, Donna Shaw, James Nelson, Ann DePietro, Robin Ann Burke and all who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

*The Columbarium Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Danise Tellefsen  
in loving memory of her husband Paul Pfeil.*



## First Coming

*He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.*

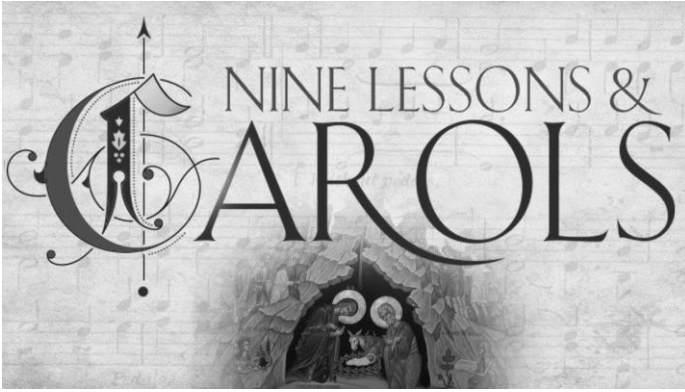
*He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Madeline L'Engle*

**Service of Nine Lessons & Carols – A Christ Church Tradition!**  
**TONIGHT! Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 pm**



Join us **TONIGHT** 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**

**Wednesday, 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 pm: Festive Choral Eucharist**

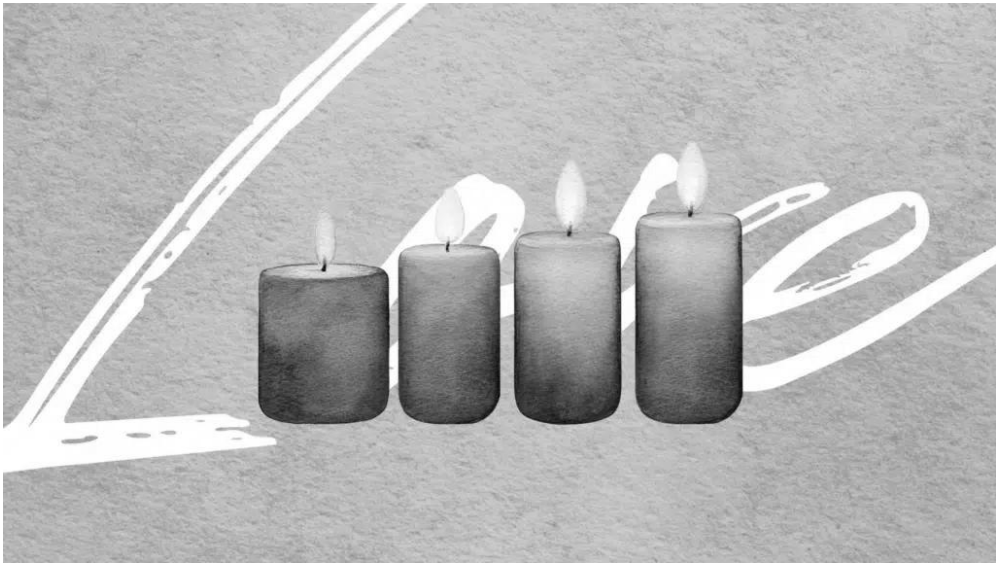
*This is our traditional Christmas Eve service. Come at 7:30 to join in our Carol Sing!*



**Thursday, December 25: The Feast of the Incarnation**

**9:00 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 Leadership**

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

The Rev. Christopher M. Streeter, Rector

*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

The Rev. Jenny Streeter, Christian Formation

Sue Mittelstadt, Children's Ministry

Alex Zander, Altar Guild

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