

Christ Episcopal Church

Disciples making Disciples for Jesus Christ:
By Encountering God, Equipping God's People,
and Extending God's Kingdom



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31, 2017

A Service of Lessons & Carols

8 a.m.

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us at Christ Church. We are a Christ-centered, joy-filled community and we are blessed by your presence. Be assured that no matter who you are or where you are in your journey of faith, you can find a home here.

If you are visiting, please fill out a Visitor Card and give it to an usher or clergy member. Our regular Sunday worship is at 8 am, 9:15 am Joy!, and 10 am. There is a time of fellowship following each service, which is a great time to meet others and the clergy.

Sunday School for grades K-12 begins at 10:00 a.m. Moms and Dads of preschoolers meet at 9:45 a.m., on the playground if weather permits. Nursery Care is offered Sundays from 9:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. Adult education begins at 9 a.m. Sundays in the Guilds Room, just down the hall from the Church.

By joining us this day, and each week, you give witness to the continued truth of Christ's presence in the world. Together we can proclaim the Good News that the Christ is born anew in the hearts and lives of those who follow him.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

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.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Christ; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this village.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

People Amen.

FIRST LESSON

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

Reader Here ends the reading.

CAROL: HYMN 100, vs. 1 & 2

JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

SECOND LESSON

A READING FROM THE GALATIANS

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

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.

Reader Here ends the reading.

THIRD LESSON

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 1:1-18

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

THE NICENE CREED

said, all standing

BCP, p. 358

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, FORM II

BCP, p. 385

Intercessor

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; remembering especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Primate; Mark our Bishop, Tom and Bill our priests; and for all people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS, & ANNIVERSARIES

We are doing weekly birthday blessings and monthly anniversary blessings (first Sunday of the Month)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP, p. 367

THE SANCTUS, *said, all standing*

S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant & People

We remember his death
We proclaim his resurrection;
We await his coming in glory.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Traditional*

BCP, p. 364

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

AT COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church. You may receive in both kinds, the Body and Blood—Bread and Wine, or only in one kind. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available upon request to the priest or chalice bearer.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(stand as you are able)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: 'We wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New Year! Glad tid - ings we bring to you and your kin; Glad tid - ings for Christ-mas and a hap - py New Year! We wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New Year!'.

We wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry
Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New
Year! Glad tid - ings we bring to you and your kin; Glad
tid - ings for Christ-mas and a hap - py New Year! We
wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas, we
wish you a mer-ry Christ-mas and a hap - py New Year!

THE DISMISSAL

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