



CHRIST CHURCH
AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA
FOUNDED 1715, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

Our Vision: To be a church that loves the way God Loves

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Please silence your cell phones.

*Book of Common (BCP) and Hymnal pages are listed on the right. BCP: Book of Common Prayer (black),
S or H: Hymnal 1982 (blue), WLP: Wonder, Love, and Praise (green), L: Lift Every Voice (red)*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO HOLY SCRIPTURE

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on 'Sussex Carol'

Russel Schulz-Widmar

Processional Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 83 (vs. 1 - 3, 6)

**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father; Refrain**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing; Refrain**

Celebrant

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

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

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. **Amen.**

Please sit for the reading of the scriptures.

A Reading from Holy Scripture

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,

and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."

They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";

and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

**Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

**Christ by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
veiled in flesh the God head see; hail the incarnate Deity.**

Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel! Refrain

**Mild he lays in glory by, born that we no more die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace. Refrain**

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see -- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Suzanne Hood

The Nicene Creed *All stand*

BCP 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 Leader and People pray responsively

Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the believing community throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership, that they might always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the church gathered in this place, that we might always bear the good news of God's living presence in our world, towards deepening of Christmas faith and living that faith in love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war; and for all our brothers and sisters in any need, that the light and life that is the Lord might touch their hearts this night, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the homeless, and for the children born in the midst of poverty and pain, that there be room at the inn for all God's people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the dying among us, and for those who care for them, that the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross might bless them this night with the gift of peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those in whose names the poinsettias are given.

We remember Chaplains of the Armed Forces.

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your heavenly kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honor as your children for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. **

All loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your Son. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same Christ, newly born this night, our Lord and Savior, forever and ever.

Silence

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Deacon and People

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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

** Prayer offered by the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, the Most. Rev. Hosam Naoum.

The Peace *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome & Offertory Sentence

Receiving Communion

Christ welcomes all to communion. Those Baptized in any Christian tradition are encouraged to receive communion.

- Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. • If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. If you wish to intinct, or dip the wafer in the wine, please hold the wafer in such a way that the Eucharistic Minister can intinct it and hand it back to you. Please do not intinct the wafer yourself. • Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available at the lower station. • Respond to communion by saying “Amen.” • If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. • Baptism is offered several times yearly; speak to a priest to learn more.

Music at the Offertory

Child of the Poor

setting by Scott Soper

Joyful Voices

Hymn at the Presentation (*Standing*)

In the bleak midwinter

H 112, verse 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can give him give my heart.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE
HOLY COMMUNION**

Eucharistic Prayer B from *the Book of Common Prayer*

BCP 367

The people now stand. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Sanctus

S 129

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.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

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, Mary, 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. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

Refrain

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 **Refrain**

And by the light of that same star
 Three wise men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent
 And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 And there it did both stop and stay
 Right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

Then entered in those wise men three
 Full reverently upon their knee,
 And offered there in his presence
 Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Christmas Eve Post-Communion Hymn (*Stand or Kneel*)**Silent Night**

Hymnal 111

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
 Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
 Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly host sing alleluia;
 Christ the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World!

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains.
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Postlude on 'Mendelssohn' (Hark the herald-angels sing) David Willcocks

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Thank you to the Celebration Brass for playing at tonight's service. Their appearance is underwritten by the Huddle family in memory of Davis Hudson Cook.

The roping along the churchyard fence is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Dale T. & Jane K. Millns, Tucker Millns, Peg Millns Ferguson, David Millns, Megan Ferguson, Kathyryne Smith, and Janice Millns and in thanksgiving for Christ Church and their families by the Millns family, Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Pelletier, Dr. & Mrs. T. Reed Underhill, and Mr. & Mrs. David Ward.

The Christmas trees are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Thomas Brooks and Robertha Coleman, Arlys Button and Olaf Haroldson, by John & Katherine Haroldson.

The Christmas tree skirt is given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Teri Dawson Campbell by the Huddle Family.

The Advent wreath is given to the glory of God by the Christ Church Altar Guild.

We give thanks for all those in whose names the poinsettias are given.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Christ Church. You can click the QR code below to make a contribution or visit <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/give>. You can also mail a check to PO Box 1246, New Bern, NC 28563.



Christmas at Christ Church

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE**

3 pm: Children's Pageant & Eucharist
7 pm: Eucharist Rite II
10:30 pm: Choral Prelude
11 pm: Eucharist Rite II

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 25**

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am: Eucharist Rite II

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10 am: Christmas Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

The Offices of Christ Church will be closed December 25, December 26, December 27, and January 1.

SERVING US TODAY

Verger: Hal Stirling

Altar Guild: Sims Wayt, Lee Ann Fordyce, Margaret Shields, Mary Lynn Guidage, Gretchen DuPeza
Karen O'Connell, Barbara Rice, Margi Thompson, Carolyn Stevens, Diane Sanwick, Heather McCloud-Huff

Lector: Priscilla Miller

Acolytes: Celia Morini, Julia Ballard

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

Rector: The Rev. H. Paul Canady III **Associate Rector:** The Rev. Suzanne Hood

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Lisa Kirby **Director of Music:** Jacqueline Nappi

Director of Church Life: Jimi Paderick **Director of Growing in Grace:** Debbie Fodrie

Director of Christian Formation: Hannah Hutchens

Financial Coordinator: Cindy Tripp **Communications Coordinator:** Betsy Downard

Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Risty-Davis

Nursery Staff: Heidi Powell, Allison Robinett **Custodial Services:** Terry Pitner

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY

Term - 2024: Tony Embrey, Phyllis Fox (*Senior Warden*), Rebecca Buchanan Leahy, Susan Moffat-Thomas

Term - 2025: Randy Bogle (*Junior Warden*), Stephanie Bratton, Holly Lippitt, Kim Huddle (*Clerk*)

Term - 2026: Laura Overman, Elmer Praul, Wayne Rowe, Graham Underhill

Term - 2027 (*Starts January 1*): Vins Bowers, Liz Coble, Susan Husson, Ernie Williams

CONTACT US

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MISSION

The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to welcome and inspire all people to faith, hope and spiritual growth through worship, Christian fellowship, and service to one another and to the community beyond.