



**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**

Prelude 10:30 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)

View this service online: www.youtube.com/c/christchurchnewbern

Prelude on 'Sussex Carol'	Russel Schulz-Widmar	
Of the Father's love begotten	arr. David Willcocks	Parish Choir
Three Versets on 'Away in a manger'	Mark Blatchly	
Away in a manger	arr. David Willcocks	Parish Choir
Prelude on 'Greensleeves'	Richard Purvis	
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper	arr. Nicholas Palmer	Parish Choir
	Words by Mary Louise Bringle	
Prelude on 'God rest you merry, gentlemen'	John Rutter	

HOLY EUCHARST 11:00 PM
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
HEARING AND RESPONDING TO HOLY SCRIPTURE

Processional Hymn

Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 83 (vs. 1, 2, 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.**

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal 96 (vs. 1, 2, 3)

**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 Hebrew Scriptures

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.**

1 The LORD is King;

let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *

righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him *

and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; *

the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *

and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images

and delight in false gods! *

Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *

because of your judgments, O LORD.

9 For you are the LORD,

most high over all the earth; *

you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The LORD loves those who hate evil;

he preserves the lives of his saints

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *

and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *

and give thanks to his holy Name.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to Titus

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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 ever lasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, off-spring 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 his glory by, born that we no more may 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.**

The Holy Gospel *Standing*

Luke 2:1-20

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. H. Paul Canady III

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.

Prayers of the People Form VI *Stand or kneel*

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Rob our own Bishop, and all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

Silence

Hear us Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Deacon

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Deacon and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
Known and unknown,
Things done and left undone;
And so uphold us by your Spirit
That we may live and serve you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

The Peace *All stand.*

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome & Offertory Sentence

Offertory

Angels' Carol
Parish Choir

John Rutter

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.

Hymn at the Presentation *(Standing)*

In the bleak midwinter

Hymnal 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 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.



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 Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word, made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **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.**

Closing Voluntary

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, Kathrynne 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.

SERVING US TODAY

Video Assistant: Nykira Williams **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: David Skaggs **Lector/Eucharistic Minister:** Jane Merritt

Intercessor/Eucharistic Minister: Christie Wineholt

Acolyte: Baker Hudson

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

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.

CONTACT US

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