

## The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

H 68

### The Service Begins

BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis

H-S 280

*The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP*

### The Collect

*Our collective prayer for the day.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### The First Lesson

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

### The Response

*The First Song of Isaiah*

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One  
of Israel.

*Said together:*

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.

### Second Lesson

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let  
your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do  
not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ  
Jesus.

### Hymn

*Blest be the King*

H 74

### Gospel Lesson

*Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by  
him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the  
wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin  
to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I  
tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to  
Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees;  
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down  
and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"  
In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share  
with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do  
likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they  
asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them,  
"Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were  
questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might  
be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize  
you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;  
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will  
baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork  
is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the  
wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with  
unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the  
good news to the people.



### The Sermon

#### The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith*

#### Prayers of the People

BCP 387

*We pray together as the people of God*

#### Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

*We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon*

#### The Peace

*We share the joy of the Good News!*

### The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

#### Offertory

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Kirk

#### Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*To God the Father, God the Son,*

*And God the Spirit, ever One,*

*Praise, honor, might, and glory be*

*From age to age eternally*

*From Hymn 63 vs. 5*

#### Eucharistic Prayer "D"

BCP 372

*Sanctus*

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S 129

*Memorial Acclamation*

H-S 141

*The Lord's Prayer*

BCP 364

*Fraction Anthem*

H-S 152

#### The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to  
receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is  
welcome to receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front  
of you as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish  
that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar  
rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their  
seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten  
free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

*Bread of heaven, on thee we feed* H 323  
*How bright appears the Morning Star* H 497  
*Come with us, O blessed Jesus* H 336

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes* H 72

Recession to Library

We will retire to the Library for Coffee Hour and return to the Sanctuary for our annual business meeting.

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

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The Altar Flowers are given today by Mr. & Mrs. John Kersey in memory of loved ones.  
The Advent Wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of Mr. & Mrs. M.T. Meachum.  
The Door Wreathes are given by Mr. Bill Davis in memory of Mrs. Betsy Davis  
The Chrismon Tree is given by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Richardson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richardson

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Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Becky Beckett John Allen  
Chalicer Teresa Paine Becky Beckett  
Lector Linda Ammar Becky Beckett  
Altar Guild Patty Richardson Becky Beckett Carol Georgis  
Delia Kersey Chris Justice Elizabeth Clement

Attendance Last Sunday Cancelled Due to Snowstorm

Birthdays Last Week and This Week:

Valerie Mahood Rev. Chad Slater Susan Rutherford

This Month's Plate Offering: the Boy's Home

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Marlene, Lee Puckett, Sr., Phyllis & Nelson Walker, Alex B., Toni R., Jared Cregger, Kerrigan Farmer, Lindsey Parsley, Daisy Bowman, Ellie Spencer, Sue Godwin, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Ann Richardson, Sherry Mitchell, Carrie D., Loraine Keffer, Sharon Cranfill,, George Strike, Levertt T., Bea

Paine, Frankie Sparks, Diane Sudduth, Audrey, Denny Arner, Jodi Scarberry, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Bob Waschler, David Kersey, Elizabeth Kane

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Following our service today will be Coffee Hour, hosted by **Delia Kersey**. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us.

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Calendar of Events

Sunday – December 16 Annual Meeting after Church  
L.E.M. Training after Church  
Food Pantry bagging after Church  
Canterbury Club at the Beckett's 6:00pm  
Tuesday – December 18 DOK meeting 10:30am  
Wednesday – December 19 ECM Fellowship Home Dinner  
Vestry Meeting 7:00pm  
Thursday – December 20 Food Pantry 9-11:00am  
Monday – December 24 Christmas Eve early service 5pm  
Christmas Eve late service 11pm

Announcements:

ECM Dinner: The Episcopal Church Men will be having dinner on December 19<sup>th</sup> with the Fellowship Home. Encourage all men of the Parish to attend. R.S.V.P. to Frank Dragotto at: 301-725-6962.

Collecting Items: ECW will be collecting hats, scarves, and gloves for our Food Pantry recipients during the month of December. Please bring these items to the donation basket in the narthex. Thank You!

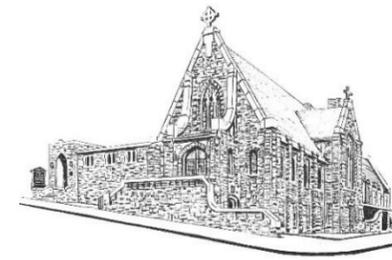
T-Shirt Order Form: Please use the pre-order forms in the Narthex. The cost is \$15 for short-sleeve shirts and \$21 for long-sleeve shirts and hoodies.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas add your name to the sign-up list at the Usher's Station in the narthex. Poinsettias are \$15 and can be donated in honor or memory of a loved one.

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Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Chad Slater Rector  
Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator  
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster  
Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton  
Dr. Rob Merritt Senior Warden  
Mrs. Dee Puckett Junior Warden



# Christ Episcopal Church

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THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

December 16, 2018

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.