

## The First Lesson

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

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.

## Canticle 15

Luke 1:46-55

*The Song of Mary--Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

*From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.*

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

*He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

*He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.*

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

*The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.*

*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

*I Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Hymn

*Rejoice! Rejoice, believers*

**H 68**

## Gospel Lesson

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do

not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



## The Sermon

### The Nicene Creed

BCP 327

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

### Prayers of the People

BCP 328

*We pray together as the people of God*

### Confession & Absolution

BCP 331

*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

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Schalk

### 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

<u>Eucharistic Prayer "I"</u>	BCP 333
<i>Sanctus</i>	Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S113
<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	BCP 336
<i>Fraction Anthem</i>	H-S 152
<i>Prayer of Humble Access</i>	BCP 337

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 come and 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

<i>O saving Victim</i>	H 311
<i>The angel Gabriel from heaven came</i>	H 265
<i>Savior of the nations, come!</i>	H 54

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 339

Hymn *Blessed be the King* H 74

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!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Rob and Mimi Merritt. 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!

The Altar Flowers are given today by Mr. and Mrs. John Kersey in memory of loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte	John Allen	Kipp Cortez
Chalicer	Kipp Cortez	Don Williams
Lector	Bea Paine	Kip Cortez
Altar Guild	Patty Richardson	Becky Beckett
	Carol Georgis	

Attendance Last Sunday

41

Birthdays This Week: Kim Farmer



Prayer Requests

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes - Wanda Myers - Bonnie Taylor- Joe Sanders  
Tom Blevins – Marlene - Lee Puckett, Sr. – Phyllis & Nelson  
Walker - Linda - Valerie Mahood - Edi –Sierra – Alex B. - Toni  
R – Thomas Jaworski - Linda Sydeski – Ed – Peggy – Alexis –  
Don – Johnmark – Debbie – Maxine – Sylvia - Brian - Judy  
Anderson – Zac Carter – Ellie Spencer – Dawson family.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday-December 19	DoK Meeting 10:30am
Thursday-December 21	Food Pantry
Sunday-December 24	Morning Prayer 10am HE at St. Mary's 6pm HE at CEC 11pm
Sunday-January 7	ECW meeting after church

Announcements:

Food Pantry: We will be collecting blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves in December. Thank you for your donations.

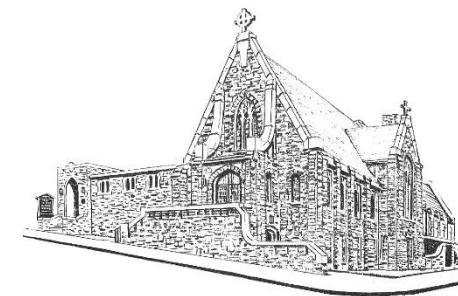
ECW: The Episcopal Church Women will meet after Coffee Hour January 7, 2018 to elect new officers and plan for 2018 projects.

Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one, there will be a sign-up sheet at the usher's station beginning next Sunday. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

Coffee Hour Note: If you can volunteer for Coffee Hour, please contact Mary Catherine Williams. Your help will be much appreciated!

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
Mr. David Hardin	Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett	Junior Warden



# Christ Episcopal Church

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December 17, 2017

## The Third Sunday of Advent

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* H 56

The Service Begins BCP 323

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.*