

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

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

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hymn

“Thy kingdom come!”

H 615

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”



The Sermon

The Prayers of the People (Form IV)

BCP 387

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

Offertory

Bless The Lord, O My Soul

Ivanov

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-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S 141

The Lord’s Prayer

Traditional version, found on 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

O saving Victim, open wide

H 311

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

H 437

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!

H 74

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 366

Hymn

Watchman, tell us of the night

H 640



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 Jennifer Slater. 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
John and Delia Kersey in memory of loved ones.

The Advent Wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of
loved ones.

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
loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte Macon Clement

Chalicer Robb Merritt

Lectors Linda Ammar Robb Merritt

Altar Guild Becky Beckett Patty Richardson Linda Ammar Chris Justice

Nursery Help Louisa Bennitt

Vestry Member of the Month: Becky Beckett

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Kerrigan Farmer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Michelle Parks, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield, Paul Anderson, Deane Family, Donna Fortune, Deanna Edwards, Elizabeth Kane, Jerry and Debbie, Nina and family, Marlene, Amy Melvin, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Judy

Anderson, Michelle Coleman, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Ruth Metcalf, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby

Birthdays This Week: Fr. Chad Slater, Susan Rutherford

Last Sunday's Attendance

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Calendar of Events

Sunday – December 15	Bagging groceries after church
Wednesday – December 18	Assemble cookie trays for shut-ins 2:00pm ECM Dinner with Fellowship Home 6:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – December 19	Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am
Tuesday – December 24	Christmas Eve early service 5:00pm Christmas Eve late service 11:00pm
Sunday – December 29	Special service at Immanuel Lutheran 10:30am
Sunday – January 12	Annual Meeting after Church
Sunday – January 19	Altar Guild Meeting following Coffee Hour

Announcements:

Loose Offering: Any loose offering collected in December will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory of honor of a loved one this Christmas a sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. Poinsettias are \$15 and payment can be placed in the attached envelope. Please note if you have paid, and if by check or cash. Thank you!

Christmas Cookie Trays: ECW will again provide Christmas cookie trays for our shut-ins. Please sign up in the narthex to bring cookies. Cookies should be at the church by December 18. Anyone interested may meet at the church on the 18th at 2:00pm to assemble the trays. Thank you for your help with this project.

Needing Reception Volunteers: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to provide things for the Christmas Eve Reception after the late service.

100th Anniversary Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church: On Christmas morning 1919 the original Christ Episcopal Church building burned to the ground in a devastating fire. Until the new church could be completed over a year and a half later our congregation worshiped with the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church down the street. To commemorate this special anniversary of neighborly hospitality and ecumenical work we will be worshipping together with Immanuel on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at a special service at 10:30 am. The Rt. Rev. Bob Humphrey, Lutheran Bishop of Virginia, and the Rt. Rev. Mike Klusmeyer, the Episcopal Bishop of West Virginia will be joining us for this celebration. A festive reception will follow in our own Rowley Hall. Please make plans to join us!

Nursery Help: Please consider signing up to assist with our Sunday morning nursery. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Sign-ups are now open for the remainder of this calendar year! For more information please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement.

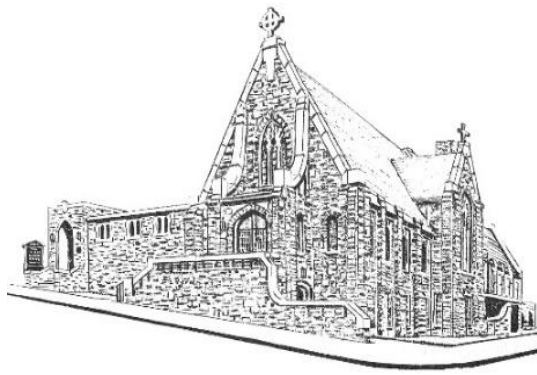
Food Pantry Items Needed: Handout lists are available in Narthex for Food Pantry items being collected during the months of December thru January. We will accept monetary contributions also. See Patty Richardson or Mary Catherine Williams if you have any questions.

The Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on January 12, 2020. This will allow us to present full year 2019 accounting figures to everyone.

Altar Guild Meeting: There will be an altar guild meeting on Sunday, January 19th, following coffee hour.

Needing One Delegate and Two Alternates: We will need one more person to serve as a delegate and two people to serve as alternates for the 2020 Diocesan Convention October 30-31 in Morgantown. Anyone that is interested please contact Susanne Pulse or Mary Catherine Williams. These people may have to attend a Special Meeting at some time during the year.

Coffee Hour: If you'd like to provide the refreshments for this very important ministry at Christ Church, please call the office at 304-327-6861



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Susan Jewell

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Parish Administrator
Organist & Choirmaster

Sexton

Nursery Attendant

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



welcomes you