

SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christ Church Parish
Sunday, December 15, 2024
10:00 AM

A Note to Parents and Caregivers with Children in Church

Thank you for bringing your children to church. We are so glad you are here!

We know it can be difficult at times to manage little ones during the service.

For that reason, we have provided some resources which we hope will make it easier for you and your family to enjoy worship together.

You will find books and coloring pages at the back of the Mary Chapel. Please feel free to utilize these at any point during the service.

We have installed a TV in the nursery! You are welcome to visit the nursery with your child during any portion of our service and join us via our livestream.

It is okay to take breaks. If you need to step out with your child, our parish grounds are a great place to get the wiggles out.

Above all, please remember: You and your family are very welcome here!

Though your children may be squirming, talking, or making noise, they are also observing, copying, and learning. Children are a gift and an important part of our community; we are grateful to have them worship with us.

CHRIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

If you are visiting us for the first time, please fill out a visitor card found in your pew and put it into the offering plate as it comes around. This will give us a record of your visit and help us to greet you more warmly. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with an usher, or a staff member following the service.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
Loving God, we seek you in both the light and darkness, the silence and the sounds, the fullness and the emptiness of this Advent season. Fill our hearts with hope for your coming, love for those who are most in need, and faith in your promises. May this time of preparation help us celebrate the birth of your Son with deep gratitude and abundant joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

Processional Carol *Brightest and Best* 1982 Hymnal 117

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: in this season of Advent, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem, and see the Son of God lying in the manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child Jesus; and let us make Christ Church glad with our carols of praise.

First, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in Plymouth.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his Blessed Mother, Mary, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.
And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Lesson 1 Genesis 3:8-15 Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Carol *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* 1982 Hymnal 81

Lesson 2 Genesis 22:1-18 Because of Abraham's obedience, God promises that Abraham's offspring will be a blessing to the nations of the world.

Carol *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* 1982 Hymnal 105

Lesson 3 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Isaiah speaks of the righteous reign of the coming King.

Carol *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* 1982 Hymnal 89

Lesson 4 Micah 5:2-4 Israel's salvation shall come forth from the little town of Bethlehem.

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* 1982 Hymnal 79

Lesson 5 Isaiah 60: 1-6, 18-19 The promise of God's everlasting peace.

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 1982 Hymnal 87

Lesson 6 Luke 2:1-7 St. Luke tells of the birth of the Savior.

Carol *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,
I love thee, Lord Jesus, Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Lesson 7 Luke 2:8-16 The angels proclaim the good news of the coming of the Savior to the shepherds.

Carol *What Child is This* 1982 Hymnal 115

Lesson 8 Matthew 2:1-11 The Magi from the East come to honor the Christ Child

Carol *The First Nowell* 1982 Hymnal 109

Lesson 9 John 1:1-14 The Word became flesh.

Carol *O Come All Ye Faithful* 1982 Hymnal 83

The Peace

Announcements

This morning we remember especially Stephen Estes in whose honor and memory the Lamp of Presence has been given.

Offertory Sentence

If you wish to make a gift to support the ministries of Christ Church Parish, you may place your offering in the plate, or scan the QR code to the right to donate online. Thank you!

Offertory Anthem ***Night of Silence*** **Daniel Kantor**

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise.
Fire of hope is our only warmth;
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.
Gentle on the ear you whisper, softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing.
Breathless love awaits darkened souls.
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of the Son's love.
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit, we wait for the loving Son.

The Presentation of the Offerings

Celebrant Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have gifts to share.

People **Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your Kingdom. Blessed be God for ever.**

The Collect

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 Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **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 Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High 1982 Hymnal 96

Dismissal

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the people.
The people respond: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Lea Tyler

Announcements

Please keep the following people in your prayers during the coming week. Any names added this week are in bold.

Anita Chase; Bea Estes; Caleb Eaton and family; Carol Owen; Cindy Boyer; Darlene Parnass; David Greene; Dianne Powers; Don Bolt; Donna Eby; Doug Perry; Elaine Christian; Fred Thornton; Gail Elliott; Greta Couter; Harvey LeSueur; John Davidson; Karen Guerra; Karen Romero; Kate Taylor; the family of Kent Kopke; Kim Fillian**;** Jack Bersani; Jim Davis; John Crosby; **Joleen Lutz;** Lauren Parnass; Laurie Ghelfi Smith; Linda Garrone; Louise Woodruff; Lynne Neeley; Maryanne Kerrigan; Rev. Melissa Howell; Michelle and Michael Almeida; Nicole Smith; Norm Zinger; Owen Smith; Paula Darsch; Polly Chadwick; Ray Rogers; Ron Kleiner; Sandy Burgess; Sam (Samantha) and Mike (Michael); Sam Barry; Sharon Steadman; Steven Mills-Price; Suzanne and Dave Salois; Suzanne Williamson-Vico; Tim N.; Tina MacAllister; Tyler Christian; Valerie B. Pflock; William Underhill

We ask your prayers for those serving in the military and their families:
Aidan McKinney, Andrew Barton, Austin Vico, Harry Morini, Joel Carveiro, Josh Zabin

From the Office

In order to have your announcements included in the weekly bulletin and *Keeping Connected,* please send them to the office by 12 Noon on Wednesday. They should include date, time, place, description of event and contact information and should be written exactly the way you want them to appear.

Christmas Flowers and Musicians - If you wish to remember or honor a loved one or give in thanksgiving, you may do so by sponsoring the flowers and guest musicians for our Christmas services. The form is included at the end of the bulletin. In order to have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletins, please return the form by Monday, December 16.

Last Deposit 2024 - Gentle reminder that your final payment for the year of 2024 needs to be in to the church by 12/30/24 so that it counts for this year. Donna Lawrence will be making the deposit on 12/30/24 in the late afternoon so that it gets into the bank on time for 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Donna Lawrence at 508-243-2293 or donnamL21@comcast.net

Church School

Pageant 2024: Rehearsals are after church on: December 15, 22 with a dress rehearsal TBD. The pageant is on Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. Please spread the word!

Church School Schedule: There are regular Church School classes for PreK-5 scheduled for: December 15. December 22 will be a Pageant Rehearsal and December 29 there is NO Church School.

Youth Group Meeting - Our next Youth Group meeting will take place Sunday 12/15 from 9:00- 10:00. This is a change from our normal Sunday meeting time. Please join us for a festive breakfast, movie discussion, and some games. 2024 was an exciting year for our church and our youth here at Christ Church. Let's start planning what amazing paths our Youth Group will take in 2025!
Please reach out to Becky Metzger, radmetzger@gmail.com if you have any questions!

Resources for Families in Church: Just a reminder that there are activities for kids, including a small table and chairs, in the back of the church. We are also providing special bulletins for kids that are aligned with the week's lessons at the front and back entrances. These bulletins have a variety of coloring, brain teasers, puzzles, and other fun activities. For students in grades PreK-1, Su will be available in the nursery to monitor young students who need a separate space during the church service. We hope that these resources will support family attendance at the 10 am service. Please let us know if you have any other ideas for ways to welcome children and families at Christ Church: education@christchurchplymouth.org

Acolytes - There will be an acolyte training session Monday, 12/23 at 12:30 following the pageant rehearsal. Please join us for some lunch and information! The role of an acolyte is an important one in the eucharist, and a very valuable ministry! Please reach out to Becky Metzger radmetzger@gmail.com if you are able to attend. Thank you!

Cookbook Update – We still have a long ways to go before we can submit our recipes for publishing. The good news is that we still have plenty of time without any stress. Please drop off your recipes to the office when possible or submit recipes through the website typensave.com. During these next few weeks, please look at your wonderful recipes you might be using for your holiday meal preparations. Please take a moment or two and share them on the website for our parish cookbook project.

Username: CCParish
Password: garlic547

With much appreciation ~
~Anne & Robin

Meal Train Program at Christ Church - Parishioners Melissa Pechey and Robin Nielsen are in the process of offering a Meal Train program available to our Christ Church Parish community. Contact Robin Nielsen if you would like to know more robinmarianielsen@gmail.com

Altar Guild – invites you to help prepare the sanctuary for Christmas with cleaning, dusting, vacuuming and polishing. Saturday, December 14th beginning at 9:30 (until about 11:00). Coffee and sweets will be provided. Thank you.

Photo Update - We will be taking individual photos this weekend after the 10 AM service both in the church and then upstairs during coffee hour. If you are new to the parish (within the last year) or didn't have your photo taken before please join us. We will also be taking photos after the 5 PM and the 8 AM services.

Christ Church Thrift Shoppe - With just **4** shopping days left, come by and browse a large assortment of gently used decorations, nativity sets, tree stands, village scenes, stockings, wreaths, linens, dinnerware, and so much more. All items now 1/2 off regular price!

Shoppe Hours
Thursday and Friday 10-4
Saturday 10-1

The Thrift Shoppe Mission includes outreach for our neighbors in need. During this season of giving, please speak with one of our leaders for confidential assistance.

Barb Hurney, Drew Lench, Lynne Neeley, Paula Sherwood, Lynn Stanne and Barbara Wojtklewicz

Overnights of Hospitality - Starting Sunday, December 1st, The Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness, in collaboration with the Fr. Bill's and Mainspring (FBMS) organization, will offer winter emergency shelter to 20-25 single individuals through Saturday, April 5th. We can't continue this important ministry without your help.

We need folks to serve as Shelter Volunteers and Meal Providers. Shelter Volunteers commit to give one evening of their time from 4:45 to approximately 8 PM. They provide support to the FBMS staff. Meal Providers prepare meals at home to serve at the shelter.

By volunteering we show our unhoused neighbors that they are not forgotten. We who have volunteered in the past have been touched by the appreciation shown by many of the guests. It has been a very rewarding experience!

The shelter rotates weekly among three congregations beginning Sunday, December 1st through Saturday, April 5th - Christ Church, First Baptist Church and St Mary's and St Joseph Collaborative at St Mary's Parish Center, using the fellowship halls. Orientation is provided.

To sign up as a Shelter Volunteer or Meal Provider, go to https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k4w5gd. Slots for Meal Provider tend to fill up quickly. To review the Shelter Volunteer and Meal Provider guidelines, go to https://plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org

Questions? Call Connie Melahoures, President of the Plymouth Taskforce to End Homelessness at 508.367.0516 or email conmel@aol.com or call Kat Libretto, our shelter coordinator at 201.286.5591 or email katlibtetto@gmail.com

The first two weeks of the shelter season begins at Christ Church on December 22nd through Saturday, January 4th. We especially need Shelter Volunteers representing CCP for those first two weeks.

Prayer Chain - Our prayer chain consists of devoted parishioners who, in confidence, pray daily for the needs of our parish family. Our mission is to life up to God the prayers of people in need, in joy, or in thanksgiving.

All prayer requests are said for a period of 2 weeks, and all requests are kept in strict confidence. If you would like a prayer said for yourself, a member of your family or friends, please reach out to Robyn Lench Whittles 781-291-9459 or email to betty02364@gmail.com

Christ Church Food Pantry –
All are welcome to the Christ Church Food Pantry!
We are open by appointment: Tuesday 4:00-5:15, Thursday 12:00-1:15 and 4:00-5:15, and Saturday 10:00-11:15. Call the pantry message line: 508-746-4959, ext 6, BY 1 PM THE DAY BEFORE YOU WISH TO PICK UP YOUR ORDER. Our volunteers check messages and return your call from their homes to ask you what you need.

Leave a message if you wish to donate non-perishable food and household items, or you may leave your donations under the mailboxes outside the office or in the front entrance to the sanctuary. Squirrels like to get into any bags left on the porch of the food pantry!

If you wish to volunteer, contact Eileen Paris at eileenpca@aol.com
For more information, please contact Barbara Wojtklewicz at 617-291-4634, or by email at barbara.wojtklewicz@gmail.com

2025 Stewardship Campaign
Walk in Love
Support Christ Church and its Ministries



Bedtime Chapel Podcast

Nightly Family Prayer & Weekly Bible Study
Deuteronomy 11:18,19

Bedtime Chapel helps families draw nearer to Jesus by gathering for nightly prayer and deepening their understanding of the Gospel. The podcast includes:

- A 5-Min nightly prayer service
- Weekly companion episodes that explore the themes of the gospel readings of the upcoming week for family members with longer attention spans

Pray with us on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or Audible.
Scan the QR Code to find us online
or visit our website:
www.bedtimechapel.com



CHRIST CHURCH PARISH ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14, Advent III
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 15, Advent III
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 AM Traditional Lessons & Carols (No Communion)

Saturday, December 21, Advent IV
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II – Music with The Hills

Sunday, December 22, Advent IV
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 PM The Annual Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Saturday, December 28, The First Saturday after Christmas Day
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 29, The First Sunday after Christmas Day
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

Week At - A - Glance * December 15, 2024 – December 22, 2024

SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – Advent III**
	9:00 AM	Church School (Adults and Grades Pre-K – 5)
	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Youth Group
	10:00 AM	**Traditional Lessons & Carols (No Communion)**
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour
MONDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	10:30 AM	Resource Committee
TUESDAY	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	5:00 PM	Parish Ministry Network
THURSDAY	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
	12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	Food Pantry
	1:00 PM	Book Study
	4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	Food Pantry
	6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY	**9:00 AM**	**Morning Prayer –** Facebook Live
	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Fore & Aft
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Thrift Shoppe
	10:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Food Pantry
	5:00 PM	**Holy Eucharist Rite II – Advent IV – Music with The Hills**
SUNDAY	**8:00 AM**	**Holy Eucharist Rite I – Advent IV**
	9:00 AM	Adult Church School
	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 AM	**Holy Eucharist Rite II – Advent IV**
	11:15 AM	Coffee Hour

Christ Church Parish
Seeking Christ in Ourselves * Serving Christ in the World

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

MINISTERS

All the people of Christ Church Parish

Staff
The Rev. Melissa Howell, Rector
The Rev. Deacons James & Natalie Thomas
David Tyler, Parish Administrator
Lea Tyler, Choir Director
Su D'Ambrosio, Sunday School Coordinator

Officers and Vestry Representatives
Bill Ferguson, Senior Warden
John Steele, Junior Warden
Ray Rogers, Treasurer
Brenna Buckley, Clerk

Wil Bernard, Barb Hurney, Kat LiBretto, Judy Lutz, Makenzie Manchester, Ellen McTighe, Becky Metzger, Amanda Peterson, and Jack Willett

149 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
Phone: 508-746-4959
E-mail: office.christchurchplymouth@gmail.com

Scan here to visit our website:
https://www.christchurchplymouth.org/

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

In order to have your memorial included in the Christmas bulletins, please return this form to the parish office no later than

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

Christmas Instrumentalists



Given by**:** _____

In Loving Memory of**:** _____

_____

As a Thank Offering**:** _____

***Amount Enclosed:**_____ **Envelope Number:**_____

*****Please put **2024 Christmas Memorials** in Memo Line.

In order to have your memorial included in the Christmas bulletins, please return this form to the parish office no later than

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

Christmas Flowers



Given by**:** _____

In Loving Memory of**:** _____

_____

As a Thank Offering**:** _____

***Amount Enclosed:**_____ **Envelope Number:**_____

***** Please put **2024 Christmas Memorials** in Memo Line