

*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day, 2023
9:30 AM*



“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.” —Luke 2:6,7

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

Image: He Qi, Nativity, 1998

PRESIDING BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

Hello to my family of faith in The Episcopal Church, and to all of our ecumenical and interfaith friends, and to all people of love and goodwill.

I want to first thank you all for your prayers and well wishes this year as I have weathered some health issues. Please know that I'm doing well, following the doctor's orders.

I'm also ever more aware of the power of the messages of Advent to watch, to wait, and to listen to the pregnant voice of silence, as one version of the Bible says. And out of that watching, waiting, and listening, following the way of Jesus of Nazareth and his way of love, the Spirit of God being our helper.

So please allow me to offer a reading from the Gospel according to Luke. You know it well. The deep truth embedded in it, simple story of the birth of a baby. That deep truth has long given me strength for these 70 years, strength that I often did not have on my own. For some, it may seem fanciful, but in its own way, it points to what the Bible calls hope beyond hope. It reads:

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the guest room. Now in that same 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. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. And 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, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The message of the angel is as scandalous and striking now as it was then. For in it is embedded God's message in the death and resurrection of Jesus: to trust and believe in the invincibility of the good in spite of the titanic reality of evil, because God is good all the time. To trust and believe in the enduring power of love, of truth, of the good, and of justice when the reality of the opposite seems so prodigious.

To trust and believe in the enduring power of love, justice, kindness, and compassion, all because God is love and the author of all that is true, noble, and just. "Do not be afraid," the Scripture says, "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. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Lord, we pray, give us this sign anew. Give us the lowly, the tired, those of high estate and low, and those of no estate. Church folk, those who haven't stepped through the red doors for years or ever, give us all a sign. Give us the working, the watching, the weeping. Give us that sign anew; as you did in the first century, so now in the 21st. Give us the expected, the faithful, the passionate, the undeserving; give us a sign.

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

On behalf of the entire Episcopal Church, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a joyous new year.

God love you. God bless you. May God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas..

— *The Most Rev. Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church*

*The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Christmas Day, 2023
9:30 AM*

Christ Church

*5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
732.545.6262 • ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish in the worldwide Anglican Communion. We rejoice that you have chosen to worship with us this Christmas, and we invite you to enter into worship as much as you are comfortable doing so! We invite you to ask questions, explore and make yourself known to the many wonderful people around you. Please know that children are a welcome presence at Christ Church. If you need a changing table, there is one located in one of the bathrooms near the Paterson Street doors.

If you would like us to be in touch with you or if you would like to receive parish mailings, please fill out one of the white visitor cards in the pew pockets and either drop it in the offering plate during the service or give it to one of the clergy afterwards. Another option is to write your name in our guestbook near the tower doors. Also, after service, we invite you to take one of our welcome gift bags located on the back table that contain all kinds of goodies and information about the parish.

Looking for more information about Christ Church? You can find it on our website www.ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org or...

look us up on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchNB/>

Again, welcome, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*The Rev. Joanna Hollis
Rector, Christ Church*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays

8 AM—Holy Eucharist with Music

9:30 AM—Church School

10:30 AM—Choral Eucharist

Wednesdays

12:00 PM—Noonday Prayer via Zoom

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDER

Pastorella (I), BWV 590

J.S. Bach

All who are able please stand as the ministers enter, and sing

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Joy to the World"

Blue Hymnal 1982, #100

The Presider welcomes the congregation, and then says

Presider Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

People **He is the Son of God, the Light of the world, and the Savior of all.**

SONG OF PRAISE "Angels We Have Heard on High,"

GLORIA

Blue Hymnal 1982, #96 vs 1 & 3

An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet-ly through the night,
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply, E - cho-ing their brave de - light.
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!
Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. God of grace and truth, whose word brings hope to birth in the heart of a world which fears a love it cannot name: may flesh be blessed and born anew by a truth which leaves the heavens and walks the waiting earth; through Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Silence is kept for a space

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- ² With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- ³ The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- ⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- ⁶ Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.**
- ¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-12

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Silence is kept for a space

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

All who are able please stand for the Gospel procession and sing

GRADUAL CAROL "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Blue Hymnal 1982, #82

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

*Reader
People
Reader*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Silence is kept for a space

*Reader
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Reverend Daphne Roberts

All who are able please stand

NICENE CREED

ALL

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Let us pray for the church and for the world responding,
“In the light of Christ.”

The Leader requests the prayers of the People of God for the world, the mission of the Church, and for those individuals who have asked for or need our prayers. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.

After the last petition, the Presider adds a concluding Collect

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The People and Ministers greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

All who are able please stand and sing the Offertory Carol as the gifts are presented

OFFERTORY CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Blue Hymnal 1982, #79

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

Franz Schubert

ALL

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-
san - na in the high - est, Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na in the high - est, Ho-san - na in the high - est.

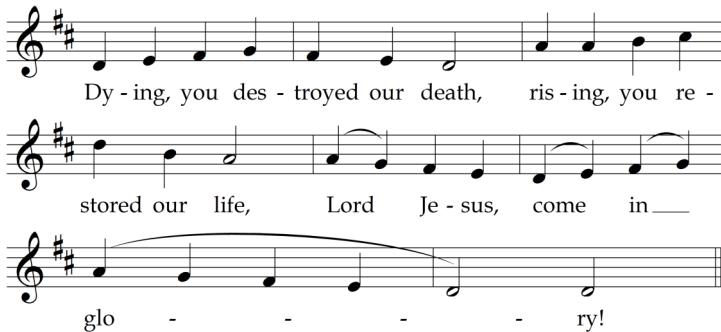
Presider Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

ALL

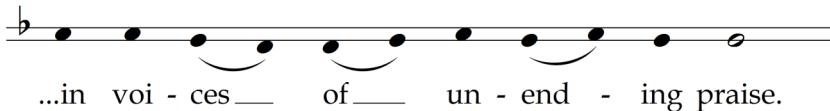


Dy-ing, you des-troyed our death, ris-ing, you re-
stored our life, Lord Je-sus, come in-
glo- ry!

Presider

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator

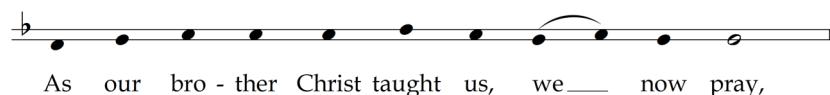


...in voi-ces of un-end-ing praise.



Presider and People
Bless-ed are you now and for ev-er. A-MEN.

Presider



As our bro-ther Christ taught us, we now pray,

ALL

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

BREAKING THE BREAD

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

ALL

Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten,
Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
He the source, the end - ing he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that fu -ture years shall see, Ev -er - more and ev -er - more!

INVITATION

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation. All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this morning, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Recipient Amen.

Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Recipient Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THOSE JOINING US ONLINE:

Gracious God, our sustainer and source of all good things in the universe. As we gather in community this day, we are mindful of those who through circumstance or conscience are unable to partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at this time. You are the source of the food and water which nourishes and sustains us. As we are the product of all we have partaken, we know that we are infused with your life-giving food and drink and that are never separated from you. Though we are many, we are joined in Christ. We are one Body, one Cup in the name of the One God. Amen.

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

“What Child is This”

Blue Hymnal 1982, #115

“Away in a Manger”

Red LEVAS II Hymnal, #27

AFTER COMMUNION

All who are able please stand

Presider Let us pray.

ALL God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Blue Hymnal 1982, #99

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Presider May the song of the angels, the joy of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child be with you this day and always.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella"

Richard Hudson



The Interfaith Rotating Shelter is looking for overnight volunteers to host homeless members of our community at Christ Church and other area churches.

The shelter will visit Christ Church January 2-8 and February 12-19 but volunteers are welcome any week throughout the winter, starting December 11th.

If you can't stay the night, consider preparing a meal for the guests. Contact Jason Kaelber interfaithrotatingshelter@gmail.com or (848) 228-3620 for information or to sign up.

CHRIST CHURCH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Music, Rite I

9:30-10:20 a.m. – Church School via Zoom

(No Church School 3rd Sunday)

9:30 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. – Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
followed by Coffee Hour

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – Tuesdays Book Club via Zoom

7:00 p.m. – Vestry (second Tuesday of the month, no meeting in July)

WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. – Noonday Prayer via Zoom

7:30 p.m. – WomenSpirit

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. – "Open" AA meeting for all in the Auditorium

The Parish Office will be closed this week Monday – Thursday. We will be back in the office on Friday from 9:00am to 12:30pm.

There will be no choir rehearsal this week.

MINISTERS OF THE
LITURGY

	December 25	December 31
Presider	Rev. Joanna Hollis	Rev. Joanna Hollis
Preacher	Rev. Daphne Roberts	Rev. Joanna Hollis
Deacon	Rev. Daphne Roberts	Rev. Daphne Roberts
Organist	Katia Kravitz	Katia Kravitz
8:00 a.m.		8 AM
Lector & Intercessor		Shannon Pullaro
LEM <i>LEM will read the Epistle</i>		Kevin Stansbury
Vestry Announcements		Shannon Pullaro
Ushers		
Altar Guild		Nancy Walworth, Sheila Cooper, Jennifer Ryan
10:30 a.m.	9:30 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Lector & Intercessor	Debra Lowe	Mel Garber
LEM <i>LEM will read the Epistle</i>	Kevin Stansbury	
Acolyte / Server		
Vestry Announcements	Rev. Joanna Hollis	
Usher	Peggy Smith	Peggy Smith, Mel Garber
Production Minister	Jason Kaelber	Jason Kaelber
Altar Guild	Mervis Johnson	Nancy Walworth, Sheila Cooper, Jennifer Ryan
Coffee Hour		
Counters		

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

WORSHIPPING GOD, SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Historic Christ Church is a mutually supportive Christian community worshiping in the living Anglican tradition of beauty in liturgy and music. Christ Church bears witness to the love of Christ in prayer, service and fellowship.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

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The Reverend Joanna P. Hollis, Rector
The Reverend Daphne Roberts, Deacon
Dr. Katia Kravitz, Interim Music Minister and Organist
Jane Esmonde, Seminarian Intern
Brittney Girault, Parish Administrator
Elaine Winkler, Bookkeeper
Carlos Garcia, Sexton



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