December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy



The **9:30am** Lessons & Carols Service is on **page 6**

Parish Notes begins on **page 24**

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org



WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship this morning, and to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at the communion rail. We invite you to ask questions, explore, and to make yourself known to those around you. Please pick up any other information about the parish located on the table in the back of the church. Tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by all.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES. Changing stations are available in both rest rooms at the Paterson Street entrance; you can get there through the side door of the church.

WE REJOICE that you have chosen to worship here this Advent season. If you would like to learn more about our Parish, please phone the Parish Office at 732.545.6262. Many of our upcoming events are listed on our web site, christchurchnewbrunswick.org; we hope that you decide to join us.

ABOUT THE LITURGY

Inclusive Language in Worship: Because language has the power to shape our thinking about God and one another, Christ Church makes every effort to bring the language of worship in line with biblical theology that affirms that the personhood of God embraces all that is truly female and male, and that men and women are equals. In our liturgy some historical texts that are widely known and loved are left unchanged.

INTERCESSIONS

AT EVERY CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST prayer is offered with intercession for the Universal Church, the nation, the welfare of the world, the concerns of this community, those who suffer and those in any trouble, and the departed. Please feel free to add your own petitions during the prayers, either silently or aloud. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, you may also fill out the form in the Prayers of the People book in the back of the Church.

WEEKLY INTERCESSIONS

We remember in today's prayers:

The Sick and Others in Need— *Allen, Dennis, Doreen, Edith, Erica, Florence, Georgia, Gordon, Hansford, Jean, Jeannine, Jefferson, Jesse, Jim, Joan, Julia, Kristen, Lori, Pam, Pat, Rose, Sarah, Stanford, Steve, Thalia, Theayer, Thelma, Timothy, Tisha, Valerie, Vicent*

Anglican Cycle *– Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil*

Diocesan Cycle *– The Revs: Tinh Trang Huynh, John T. Koenig, Paul Shoaf Kozak, Canon Dr. Donald J. Muller, Tammy M. Young*

Christ Church Ministry *– Altar Guild*

Birthdays this week *– Jordan Davis, Frank Deis, Kris Hendricks, Ashley Johnson, Stephen Pemberton, Florence Rydel, Charlie Scott, Nancy Walworth, Robin Zdanowicz*

Memorial Flowers— *are given by the DeVoe Family in memory of Marion B. DeVoe*

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in crisis, having surgery, are in the hospital and are in need of pastoral counseling from a clergy person, please do not hesitate to contact the Rev. Daphne P. Roberts—732.991.6733.

If you would like to schedule home communion, please contact Rev. Roberts and she will arrange for either herself, or a Lay Eucharistic Visitor to bring communion to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Roberts if you know of someone who is in need of care or counseling.

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Worshipping God Serving God's People
Christ Church New Brunswick

Advent Lessons & Carols



December 14, 2025
Lessons & Carols, and Rite Two Eucharist
9:30 AM
Presider: The Rev. Stephen J. Connor



PRELUDE *Watchet auf* J.S. Bach

ENTRANCE HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v.1-3 **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982, #56**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Reader& Candle lighter: Ben & Kinu Johnson*

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Reader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (*First candle is lit.)*
We light this candle for peace. *(Second candle is lit.)*
We light this candle in joy! *(Third candle is lit.)*

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in 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;

Reader continues

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
Let us pray together:

All: **O Lord, our redeemer,**
you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us
to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD: LESSONS & CAROLS

Presider Dear People of God: In this season of Advent, we enter into the hope and longing of all peoples for the Prince of Peace. Together, we wait in joyful expectation for the Wisdom, Love, and Grace of God to strengthen us to bear Christ's love to this sinful and broken world.

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 this place glad with our carols of praise. As we bear witness to Christ's immeasurable love for all, let us pray for those among whom he was born: the poor and the helpless; the cold and the hungry; the homeless and the displaced; the aged and young children; the victims of poverty, war, violence, injustice and oppression; the

prisoner and the captive; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; as well as all who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that they may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over.

Silence

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Silence

We also pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For those listed on the parish prayer list, and for those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

As we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us in the life of faith, especially those who we now remember aloud or in the silence of our hearts, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Savior, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of the Kingdom, in the words Jesus himself taught us, saying:

ALL **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE FIRST LESSON *Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19*

Reader: Eli Caruso

Chorister

Reader *God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL Adam Lay Ybounden B. Ord

Christ Church Choir

Adam lay i-bowndyn,
bowndyn in a bond,
Fowre thowsand wynter
thowt he not to long;

And al was for an appil,
an appil that he tok,
As clerkes fyndyn wretyn
in here book.

Ne hadde the appil take ben,
the appil taken ben,
Ne hadde never our lady
a ben hevene quen.

Blyssid be the tyme
that appil take was!
Therfore we mown syngyn
Deo gratias.

THE SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 9:2; 6-7*
Reader: Joanna Greenwood
College Student

Reader *The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able and join the choir in singing this hymn.

Hymn "Unto us is born a son" v.1&2 All, v.3 Men, v. 4 Women, v.5 All
arr. D. Willcocks

Unto us a boy is born a son
King of quires supernal
See on earth his life begun
Of lords of Lord eternal ,
of lords of Lord eternal.

Christ from heaven descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be cradledin the manger,
Be cradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer,
and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle child
might lead us up to glory,
might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus, Domino
Benedicamus Domino.

Please be seated.

THE THIRD LESSON *Luke 1:26-35; 38*

Reader: Nancy Walworth
Altar Guild

Reader *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL "Angels' Carol" J. Rutter

Joyful Noise Choir

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night
He is come in joy, like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light
He's come in love as the child of MaryIn a simple stable,
we have seen his birth

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo
!Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'

He will bring new light to a world in darkness
Like a bright star shining in the skies above
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love

Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming
Let the heavens answer with a joyful morn

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo
!Hear the angels singing, "Christ is born"
Hear the angels singing, "Christ is born"

THE FOURTH LESSON *Luke 2:8-16*

Reader: Priya Buster
Sunday School

Reader *St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able and join the choir in singing this hymn.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982, #78**
v.1-3

Please be seated.

THE FIFTH LESSON *Luke 2:8-16*
Reader: Debra Lowe
Vestry

Reader *The shepherds go to the manger.*

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. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, 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. 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL Il est né le divin enfant (Born on earth the divine Christ Child) arr. J. Rutter
Christ Church Choir

Born on earth the divine Christ Child
Oboes, rejoice with bagpipes crying;
Born on earth the divine Christ Child,
Sing to welcome the Saviour mild.
Tis four thousand years and more
Men his birth have been prophety;
tis four thousand years and more
while we longed for the joys in store.

Refrain

Ah! such beauty and charm adore!
Ah! such perfection of grace undying!
Ah! such beauty and charm adore!
Promised us indays of yore.

Refrain

In a stable here on earth,
Jesus, in the manger lying,
In a stable here on earth,
O how lowly our Saviour's birth!

Refrain

Jesus, Saviour , heaven's Lord,
Tiny child in the manger crying.
Jesus, Saviour, heaven's Lord
Christ our King forevermore.

Refrain

THE SIXTH LESSON: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Reader: Meegan Adames
Warden

Reader *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.
Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Please stand as you are able and join the choir in singing this hymn.

HYMN "Go Tell it on the Mountain" **The Red LEVAS *Hymnal* #21**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY DUET: Ave Maria

C. Gounod
Soprano Sophia Masullo
Tenor Gregory Lorenz

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus
,et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.Sancta Maria,
Mater Dei,ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

English Translation
Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,blessed art thou among women
,and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.Holy Mary,
mother of God,pray for us sinners
,now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

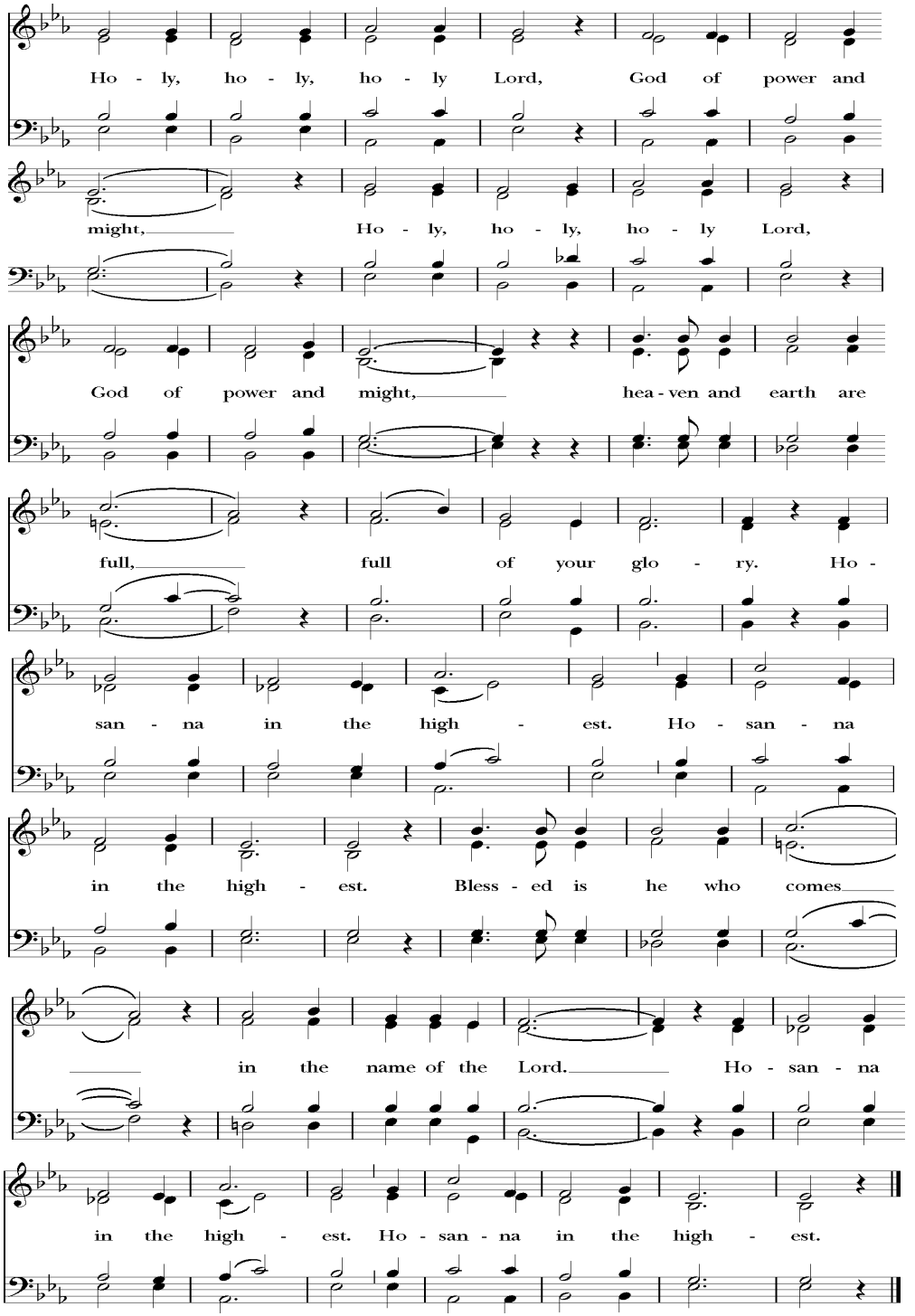
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP, p. 367*

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP, p. 367

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power 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.

The people stand or kneel, as they are able.

Then the Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy
to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

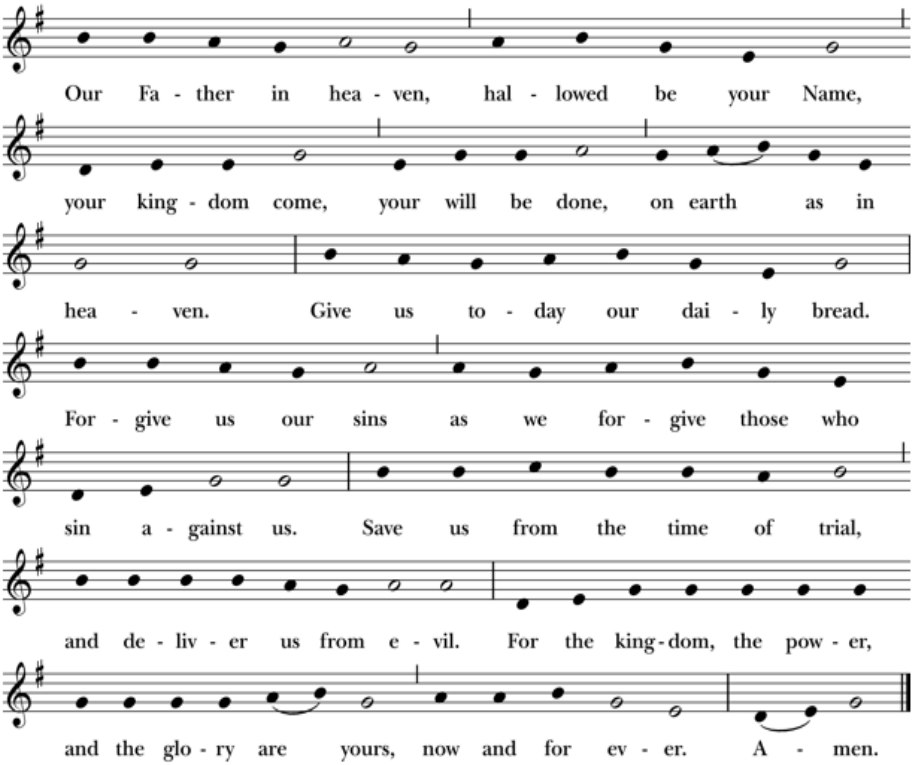
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [___and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **Amen**

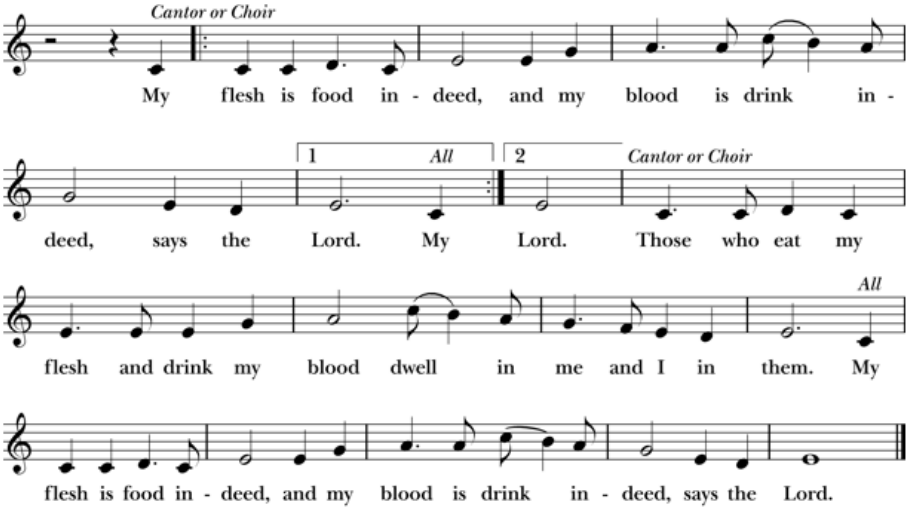
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blue *Hymnal 1982*, S-149



FRACTION ANTHEM

Blue *Hymnal 1982*, S-169



THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT

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 forever. ***Amen.***

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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN "Von Himmel hoch da Komm, inch her" F. Zachary
From heaven above I Come

All who are able please stand

AFTER COMMUNION

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

FINAL HYMN "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982, #57**

BLESSING
May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL
The Presider will give the blessing.
People **Amen.**
The Deacon will give the dismissal.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Prelude in* A Major J.S. Bach

Special thanks to the musicians today.

Soprano: Zida Abbott, Catherine Ambos, Joanna Greenwood, Marielle Leiboff*, Sophia Masullo*, Margaret Brown -Stansbury,

Alto: Fariza Anvarbek*, Beth Binde, Pat Buckendahl, Louise Deis

Tenor: Ellis Bell, Gregory Lorenz*

Bass: Paul Ambos, Gordon Arsenoff*, Chris Davis, Stephen Greenwood, James Nichols, Julian Reever*

Joyful Noise: Eli Caruso, Abby Caruso, Harry Caruso, Olli Caruso

PARISH NOTES FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 14 – DECEMBER 20, 2025

Parish Office Hours This Week:

Monday & Tuesday – 9:30am to 3:00pm
Friday – 9:00am to 12:30pm

Sunday	**9:30 a.m.**	**Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary**
Monday	4:00p.m.	Children's Pre- Choir Rehearsal, Games and Homework Time
	5:00p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00p.m.	Adult Advent Series, Zoom
Wednesday	**12:00p.m.**	**Noonday Prayer, Zoom**
	7:30 p.m.	WomenSpirit, Zoom
Thursday	6:30p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
Saturday	4:00p.m.	Christmas Splendor Concert

*JOIN US AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE FOR COFFEE HOUR IN THE NICHOLAS ROOM

FROM THE MANGER

Christ Church invites you to experience Advent this year from the perspective of the manger. Hunger is a universal experience, drawing attention to our most basic and complex needs. We await Jesus, who nourishes us and our hungry world. At the back of the church please pick up these From the Manger resources: Advent Calendar, Advent for Families, and Advent Devotional for Adults.

Adult Advent Series

This Advent we invite you to reflect on the life-sustaining hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings and to notice how the baby born in Bethlehem ("House of Bread") continues to feed a hungry world today. We shall use the *From the Manger Advent Devotional as the basis of our discussions. You may pick up a copy from the back of the church or read it online at https://tinyurl.com/4jy8497y. Join Deacon Daphne and Jonathan Clark for the following Monday sessions, 7:00-8:00 pm, via Zoom at this link: https://tinyurl.com/mwhb4yhw. You will be able to participate whether or not you have read ahead of time.*

Monday, 12/15 — Advent Three: "Joy Grows"



"Christmas Splendor: An Afternoon Concert with Sonya Headlam, Soprano, and Suzanne McDonald, Organ & Piano"

Christ Church New Brunswick presents a special Christmas concert

Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 PM

Christ Church New Brunswick is delighted to present an extraordinary Christmas concert featuring internationally acclaimed soprano **Sonya Headlam**, accompanied by **Suzanne McDonald** on piano and organ,
Favorite Christmas classics including O Holy Night.
Proceeds support the Music Ministry

Get your tickets TODAY!
Tickets are $35 per adults,
Free for students and children
Tickets may be purchased in person, via Zelle, e-tickets are available at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1975637915187?aff=oddtdtcreator



Christ Church Annual Giving Tree

This year, our Angel Tree offering will support two vital ministries: the Rector's Discretionary Account and the Men's Rotating Shelter.
These funds provide direct assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, offering help, hope, and stability where it's needed most.

We gratefully accept gifts via **Zelle, cash, or check**. If giving by check, please be sure to write **"Angel Tree"** in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us share Christ's love in this season of giving.
This campaign will run until Dec 28, 2025.

Tell Out My Soul

Have you completed your online Pledge Certificate for 2026? The link is located in the weekly email. A paper copy can be found on the table in the back of the church.

Thank you to those who have pledged $244,908 to date.

Meegan & Samuel Adames
John Ager & Anne Dillon
Paul & Catherine Ambos
Arnold Anderson
Gordon Arsenoff
Yvette Bailey
Karen Bemis & Douglas Bonar
Wendy Benjamin
Joan Borden
Sarah Braun
David & Beverly Briggs
Margaret Brown-Stansbury & Ronald Stansbury
Patricia Buckendahl
Robert Chant & Nancy Walworth
Barbara Chludzinski
Jonathan & Elizabeth Clark
Sheila Cooper
Kelly-Jane Cotter & Stacy Bruden
Christopher & Isha Davies
Louise & Frank Deis
Joyce Duhr
Thelma Fergusson
Mr. Jeffrey Fields and Mrs. Ashlinn Stansbury-Fields
Melbourne & Alice Garber
Jonathan Gloster & Christine Alston-Gloster
Joanna & Stephen Greenwood
Meg Hall
Jean Houvener
Rozanne Jhamb
Mervis Johnson
B. Pat Lowe
Debra Lowe
Nancy Lown
Mark McMahon & Roberto Moreira
James Nichols & Lori Covey
Tanya Penman-Sterling
Gloria Peroune
Fernanda Perrone
H. Arthur Phills
Shannon & Jim Pullaro
Cherene Puthethu
Barry Qualls
Vincent & Stephanie Ryan
Doreen Sirjue
Peggy Smith
Sandra Smithson
Towanda Stovall
Kenreic & Marva VanLoo
Jeremiah Weston & Monica Williams


CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC, 7:00 P.M.
CELEBRATORY CHORAL EUCHARIST 7:30 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY
HOLY EUCHARIST, 10:00 A.M.



THE HOLLY WEARS THE CROWN.

During the Advent season you may see arrangements of Holly. Throughout Germany and Scandinavia Holly is known as Christ Thorn. The prickly leaves represent the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. The berries are the drops of blood that were shed by Jesus on the day he was crucified, because of the thorns. Legend states that holly berries were originally white, but that the blood Christ shed for the sins of humankind stained the berries forever red.

Text from the English Carol: *The Holly and the Ivy*
2) The holly bears a blossom, white as the lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior. [Refrain]
3) The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to do poor sinners good. [Refrain]
4) The holly bears a prickle, as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, on Christmas day in the morn. [Refrain]



We are looking for Advent Readers and Advent candles lighters ! We encourage individuals, families, friends, folks from various ministries to sign up! Please sign up using the link in the weekly email.

Interfaith Rotating Shelter

Every winter, houses of worship in New Brunswick unite to open their doors to our unhoused neighbors. We rotate from church to church each week and typically house about 15 men. The shelter runs from 28 December to 16 March, when the temperatures are below freezing. Christ Church will be hosting 28 December to 4 January and 8 March to 16 March.

The ministry has been running for over 20 years, and is recognized by our homeless neighbors and by community leaders as compassionate, life-saving, and much needed. This year, our needs are:

- Volunteers to stay overnight with the guests
  A full shift is 7 PM – 7AM and partial shifts are possible.
  At Christ Church, volunteers will typically sleep in the choir room from 11 PM – 5:30 AM and then start the coffee pots.
- Volunteers to help with move-out and cleaning on Sunday, January 4th
- Volunteers to cook or bring meals for 15 guests + 3 volunteers
- If you can't volunteer your time, you can also donate supplies or money

To sign up for a shift or meal, please reach out to Jason Kaelber at interfaithrotatingshelter@gmail.com or 848 228 3620. We also have volunteer openings January 18-30 at First Reformed Church and elsewhere, so you need not restrict yourself to the days Christ Church is hosting.

Thank you for supporting this ministry and the homeless men of New Brunswick!



Christmas 2025 Flower Memorials and Gifts

Each Christmas our Church is beautified with flowers memorializing departed loved ones, commemorating anniversaries or representing thank offerings. Contributions in any amount are welcome. Flower memorials and gifts may also be provided throughout the year. The cost for a single date in 2026 is $50. A perpetual memorial may be established with a one-time contribution of $500.

To be included in the printed Christmas leaflets, we must receive your request no later than **Friday, December 19** Gifts may be mailed to the Parish Office or placed in the collection plate.

Please Print Clearly.

Given by _____

Telephone _____

Memorial [ ] In thanksgiving [ ] Other [ ]

For _____

Day or Date: _____

Amount enclosed:

$ _____ Christmas 2025

$ _____ Perpetual Memorial
Date_____

$ _____ Other single 2026
Date_____

Make checks payable to Christ Church
(write Christmas Flowers in the memo line),
and place in collection plate or mail to:
Christ Church, 5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901



Make a Donation: Support Our Musical Celebrations of Advent and Christmas

Our Festive Musical Celebrations

Three Special Events:

1. Lessons and Carols Service Dec 14th 9:30AM

A century-old service
Song, story, & guest singers
Adult and youth choirs

2. Christmas Splendor Concert Dec 20th 4:00PM

A Benefit Concert featuring Sonya Headlam, Soprano, and Suzanne McDonald, Organ & Piano" – Donation $35.00, Children Students Free. Proceeds benefit the Music Ministry.

3. Christmas Eve Service 7:00PM

Traditional Christmas Eve
Service with full choir and instrumental ensemble

Your Donation Makes a Difference

Your contribution helps create a magical holiday experience for our entire community. Every gift brings music, joy, and tradition to life.
Will you consider a donation to our Christmas music? Donations may be given as memorials or thanksgivings. Please make checks payable to Christ Church, and mark the memo line "Christmas Music." Gifts may be mailed to the Parish Office or put in the collection plate. To be included in the printed Christmas leaflets, we must receive your request no later than **Friday, December 19.**

Please Print Clearly.

Given by_____

Telephone_____

Memorial [ ] In thanksgiving [ ]

For _____

Please make checks payable to Christ Church, and mark memo line "Christmas Music." Please place in the collection plate or mail to: Christ Church,
5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Matthew 11:2-11**	**Jesus and John the Baptist**
Monday	**Isaiah 35:1-10**	**The return to Zion**
Tuesday	**James 5:7-10**	**Patience in suffering**
Wednesday	**1 Thessalonians 5:12-23**	**A final greeting**
Thursday	**Nehemiah 8:9-12**	**Ezra reads God's Law**
Friday	**Philippians 4:4-9**	**Paul encourages the people**
Saturday	**Psalm 146:5-10**	**Praise for God's help**
Sunday	**Matthew 1:18-25**	**God is with us**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

A Blessing to Give:
May you receive joy and gladness through Jesus Christ.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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DECEMBER 14, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you have been filled with joy?
- In what ways does God's love for us bring joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible, possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and being patient for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people.

Discuss: How does God's promise of care for our daily needs bring you joy?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help supply daily needs to those in your community who are dealing with hardships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light three candles on the Advent wreath: The Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, and the Candle of Joy. The Candle of Joy reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Leader: **This is the third week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.**

[Light three candles]

All: ***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.*** (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Leader: **Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us joy.**

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following parishioners have been appointed to the Annual Meeting Committee of Christ Church for the February 1, 2026 Annual Meeting of the parish:

Gordon Arsenoff
Patricia Buckendahl
James Nichols
Isha Davies, Chair

The offices to be filled at the meeting are:

One 1-yr term – People's Warden (elected position)

Two 3-yr term Vestry slots for the following functional positions:
- Music
- Property

Three 1-yr term representatives for Deputy to Diocesan Convention (1 meeting + associated costs)

Three 1-yr term representatives for Alternate to Diocesan Convention (1 meeting + associated costs)

Six 1-yr term representatives for Delegate to Northern Convocation (Attend 3 local meetings)

Nominations for the offices to be voted on should be made through the Committee by completing and signing a nomination form and submitting it to the parish office or giving it in person to any member of the Committee.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

	December 14	December 21
Presider	Rev. Canon Steve Connor	Rev. Canon Steve Connor
Preacher	Rev. Canon Steve Connor	Rev. Canon Steve Connor
Deacon	Daphne P. Roberts	
Organist	Suzanne McDonald	Suzanne McDonald
	9:30 A.M.	**9:30 A.M.**
Lector & Intercessor	Doreen Sirjue	Sheila Cooper
LEM	Mel Garber	Kevin Stansbury
Candle Reader & Lighter	Ben & Kinu Johnson	
Acolyte / Server		
Vestry Announcements	Jonathan Gloster	Meegan Adames
Usher	Peggy Smith	Peggy Smith
Production Minister	Steve Caruso	Steve Caruso
Altar Guild	Nancy Walworth Sheila Cooper	Mervis Johnson Margaret Brown-Stansbury Shannon Pullaro
Coffee Hour		

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.

5 Paterson Street ▪ New Brunswick NJ 08901
732.545.6262 ▪ christchurchnewbrunswick.org



The Reverend Daphne P. Roberts, *Deacon*
Suzanne McDonald, *Director of Music and Organist*
Brittney Girault, *Parish Administrator*
Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*

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