The Presentation of our Lord
February 2, 2025



Artwork: La presentacion de Cristo en el templo
Artist: Kelly Latimore

The 9:30 a.m. Service p. 6
Parish Notes p. 20

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 Epiphany 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.

YOU ARE INVITED to worship with us any Sunday.

Our regular service times are 8:00 and 10:30 AM.

FREE PARKING VOUCHERS

Are available for the Lower Church Street parking deck next to the church grounds. Please see an usher for a voucher and instructions.

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— *Arnold, Barb, Brianna, Dennis, Doreen, Edith, Florence, Georgia, Hansford, Jean, Jeannine, Jefferson, Jim, Julia, Kristen, Margaret, Pam, Pat, Robert, Stanford, Steve, Thalia, Theayer, Timothy, Tisha, Vivian, Yvonne*

Anglican Cycle – *we pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa*

Diocesan Cycle – *St. Simeon-by the– Sea Church in North Wildwood, The Revs: Theodore L. Anderson, Jr., W. Joseph Leigh, George F. Rambow*

Christ Church Ministry – *Christ Church Staff*

Birthdays this week – *Sarah Braun, Melbourne Garber, Hansford Kilkenny*

Memorial Flowers—*are given by Mervis Johnson in memory of Renis Johnson, the Stevens & Hawke Families in memory of Flora Lockwood Stevens Fenton*

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. Joanna Hollis—732.354.1450 or the Rev. Daphne Roberts -732.991.6733.

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

THE VESTRY

The Rev. Joanna P. Hollis, Rector
rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Sheila Cooper, Rector's Warden
sheilajcooper@comcast.net

Mark McMahon, People's Warden
markroy53@me.com

John Ager, Treasurer
jager@optonline.net

Meegan Adames, Finance
meegzy79@yahoo.com

Wendy Benjamin, Outreach
wendyb918@gmail.com

Jonathan Clark, Discipleship
im4canoes@yahoo.com

Gordon Arsenoff, Music, Clerk
deep.friar@gmail.com

James Nichols, Property
jpnarch@gmail.com

TBD, Stewardship & Fundraising

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Joanna P. Hollis, *Rector*
rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

The Rev. Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*
deacon@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Suzanne Davis McDonald, *Director of Music and Organist*
music@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Brittney Girault, *Parish Administrator*
admin@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
bookkeeper@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*




Worshipping God Serving God's People
Christ Church New Brunswick

February 2, 2025
The Presentation of our Lord
9:30 AM
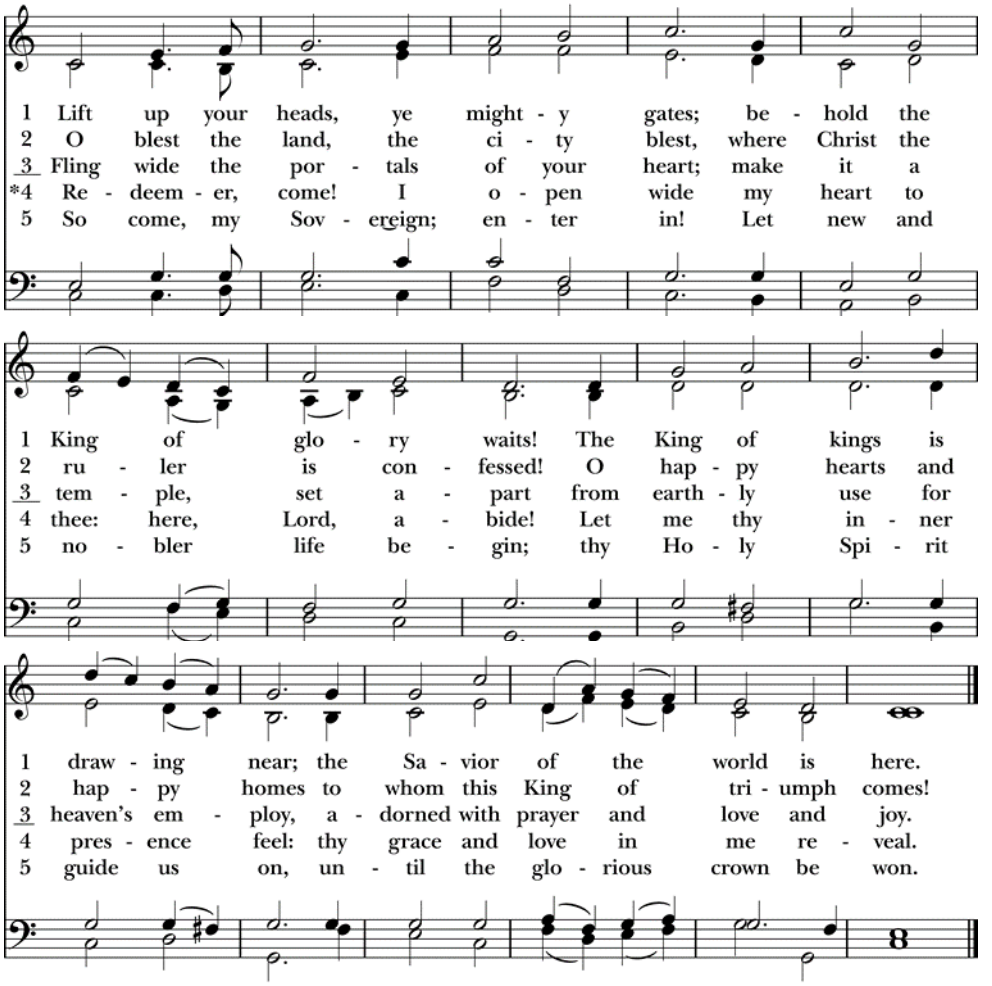
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE *Intermezzo* J. Brahms

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

ENTRANCE HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" **Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #436**
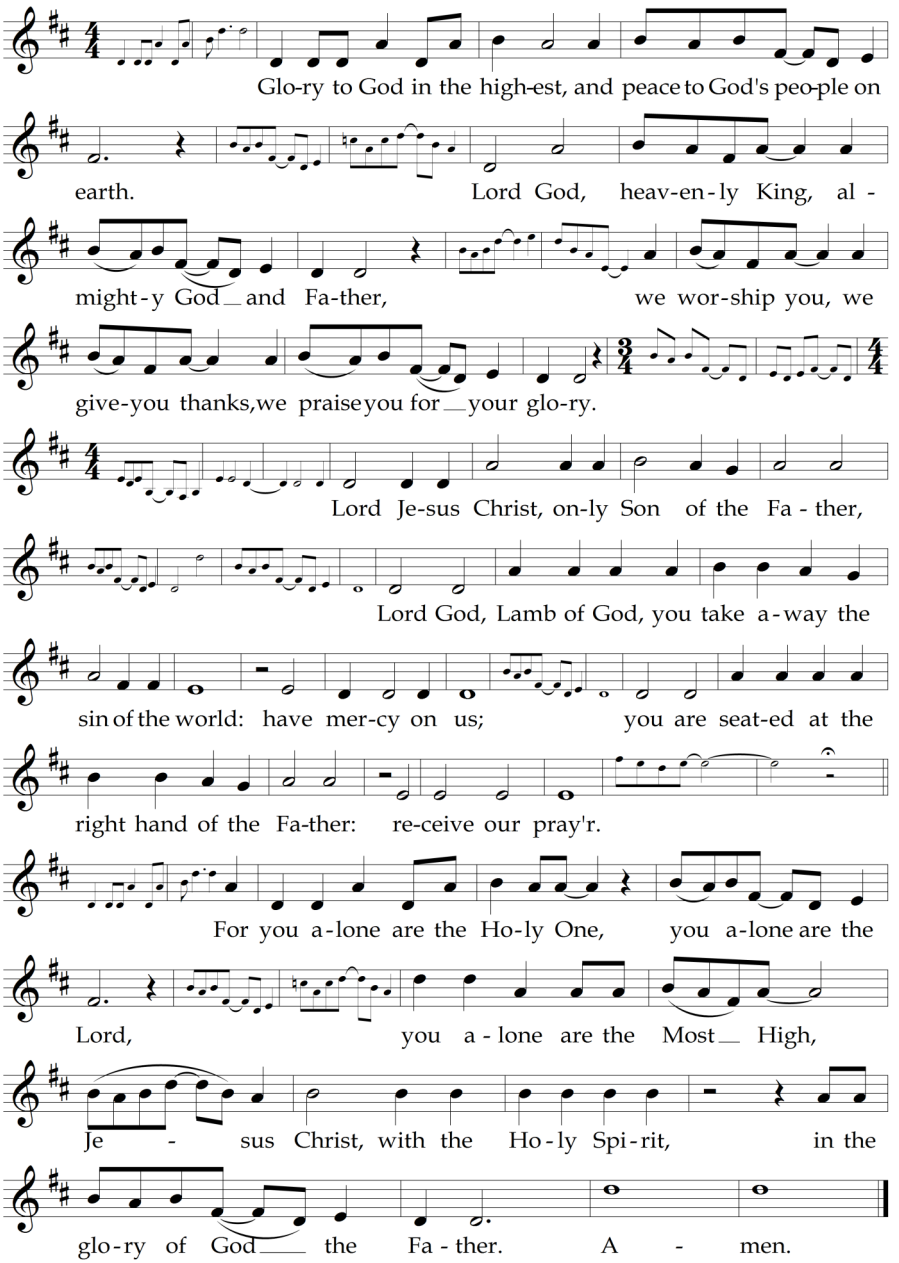


Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, *Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

The Presider welcomes the congregation, and then says

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

GLORIA **Red LEVAS *Hymnal*, #241**



The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Scripture Lesson — Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Psalm 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!
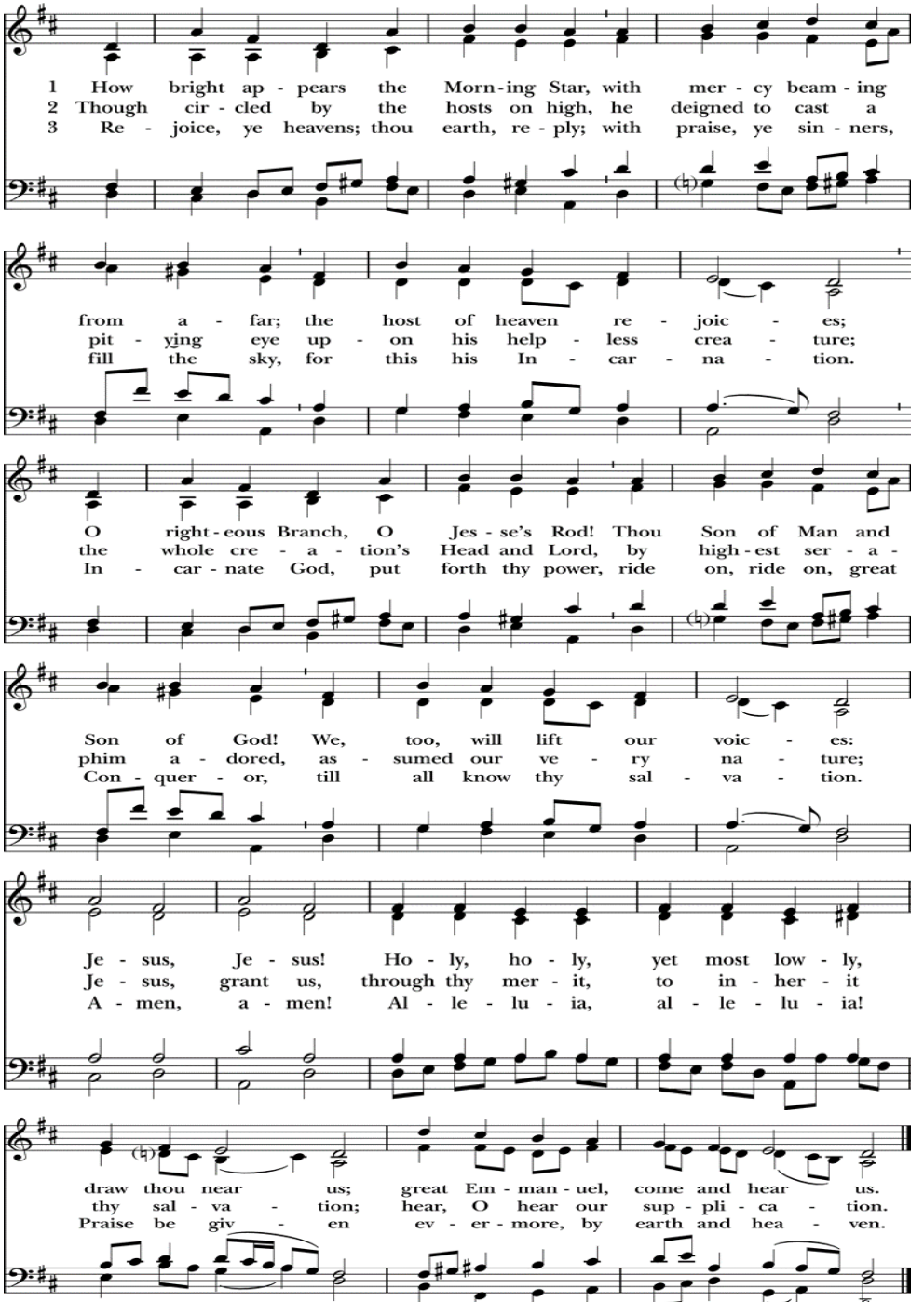
THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 2:14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

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

GRADUAL HYMN "How Bright Appears the Morning Star" **Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #497**



Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-40

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON Rev. Joanna Hollis

All who are able please stand

THE NICENE CREED *BCP, p. 326*

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 our own needs and the needs of others, 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.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION EOW

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able please kneel or stand. Silence is kept for a space.

ALL **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**
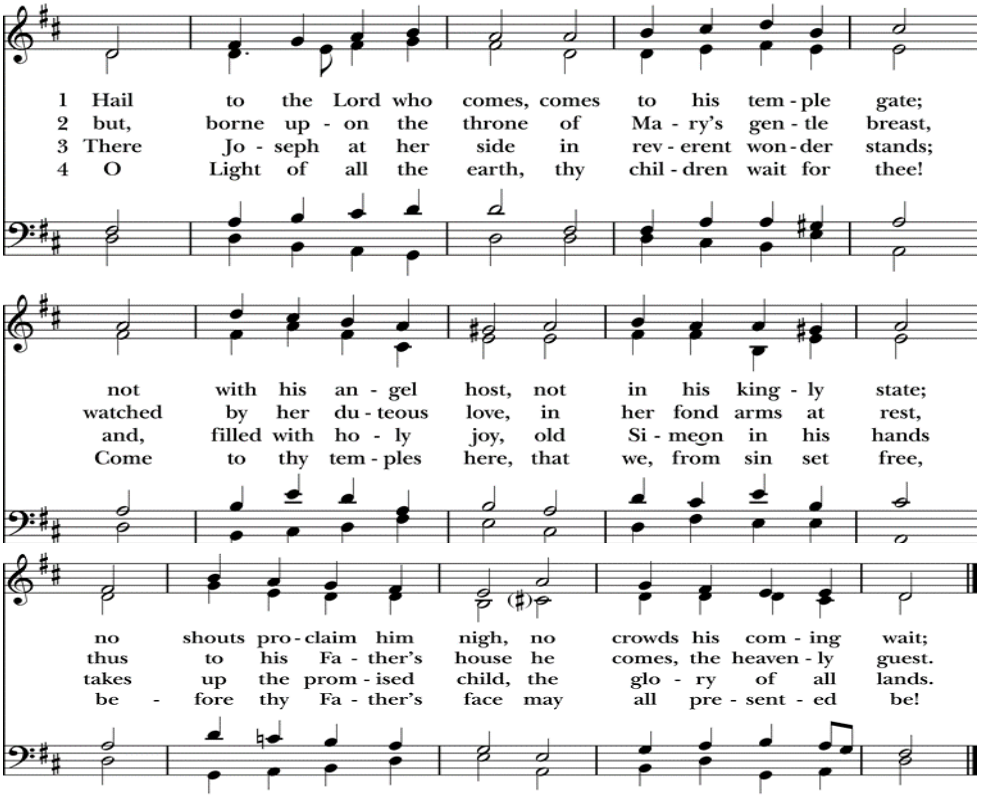
The People and Ministers greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

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

Offertory Hymn "Hail to the Lord Who Comes" **Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #259**

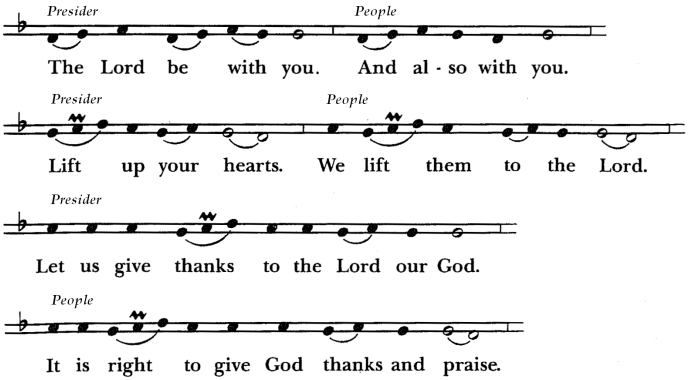


Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Old 120th*, melody from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1570; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1592?-1635?), after Richard Allison (16th cent.); adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Scan this code to support Christ Church's ministries and outreach to the community.
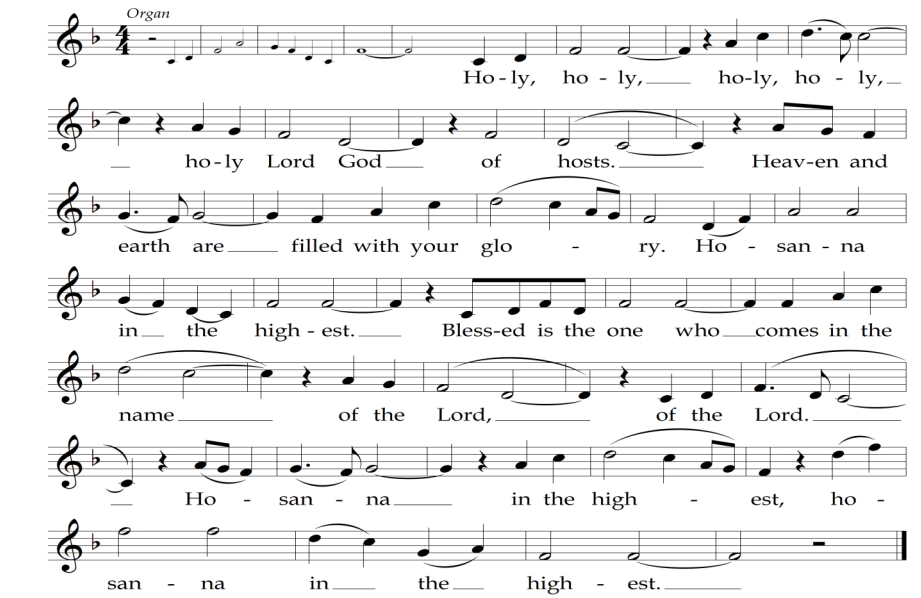
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:

ALL

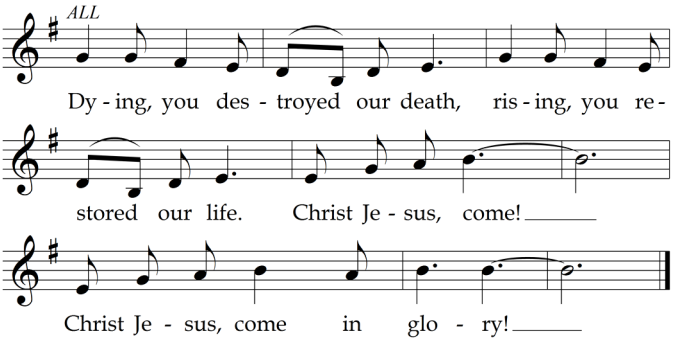


Presider Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your 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."

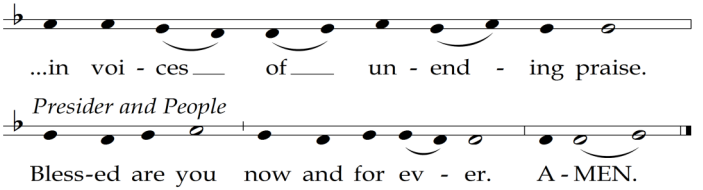
And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

ALL DAVID HAAS

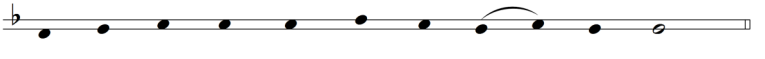


Presider Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness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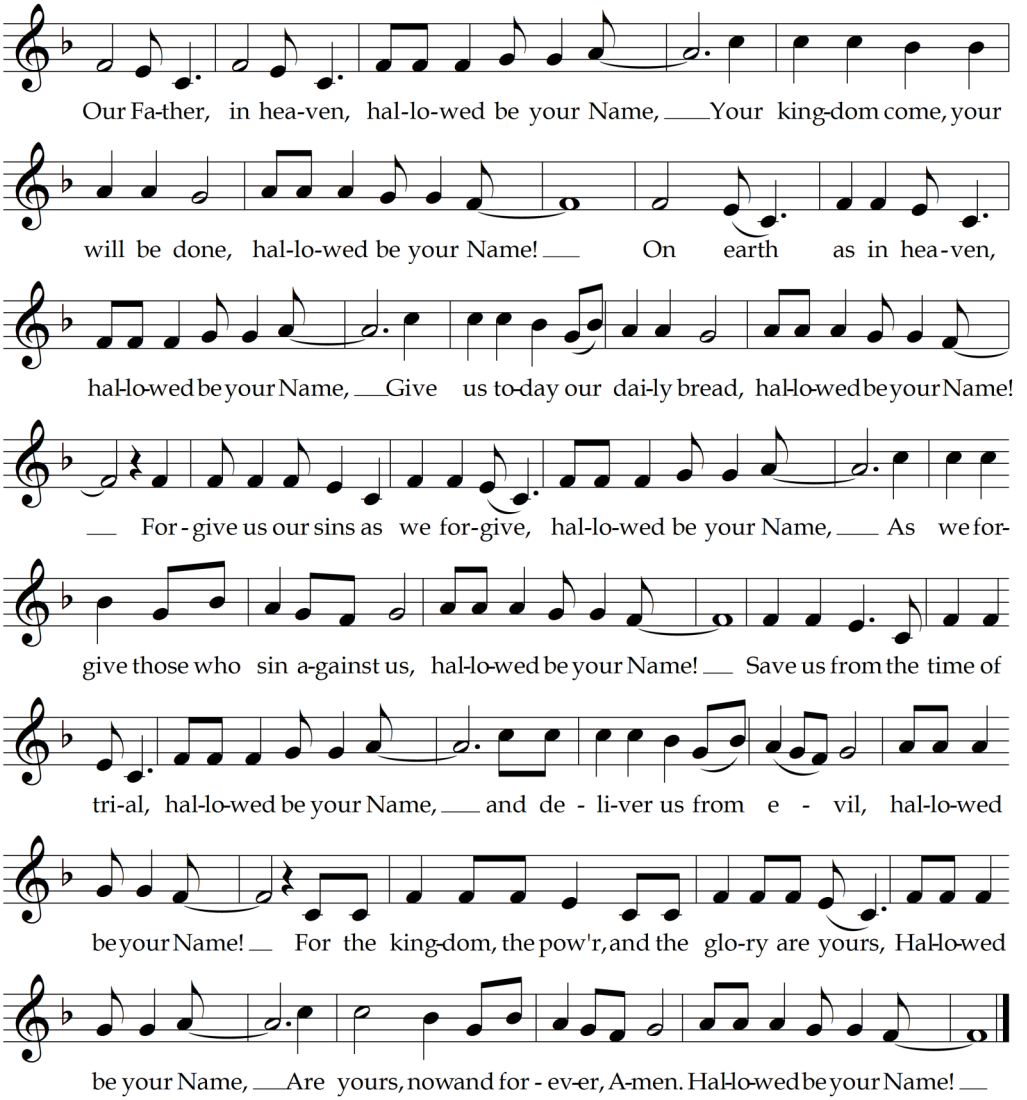


Presider

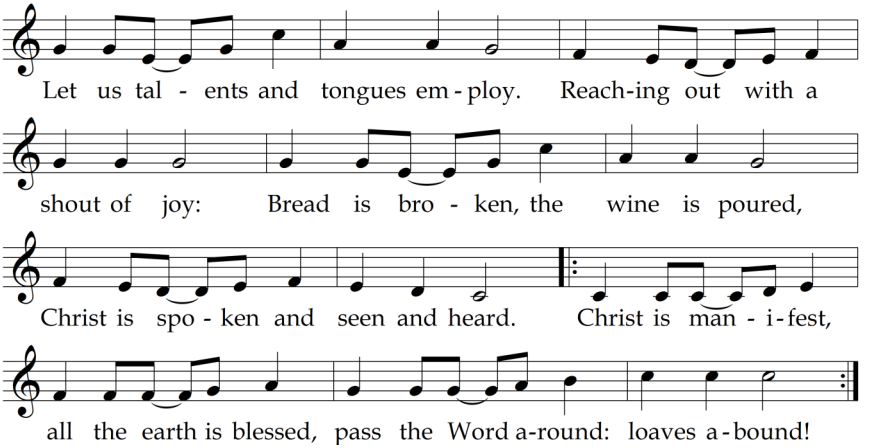


ALL

WEST INDIAN



ALL



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.

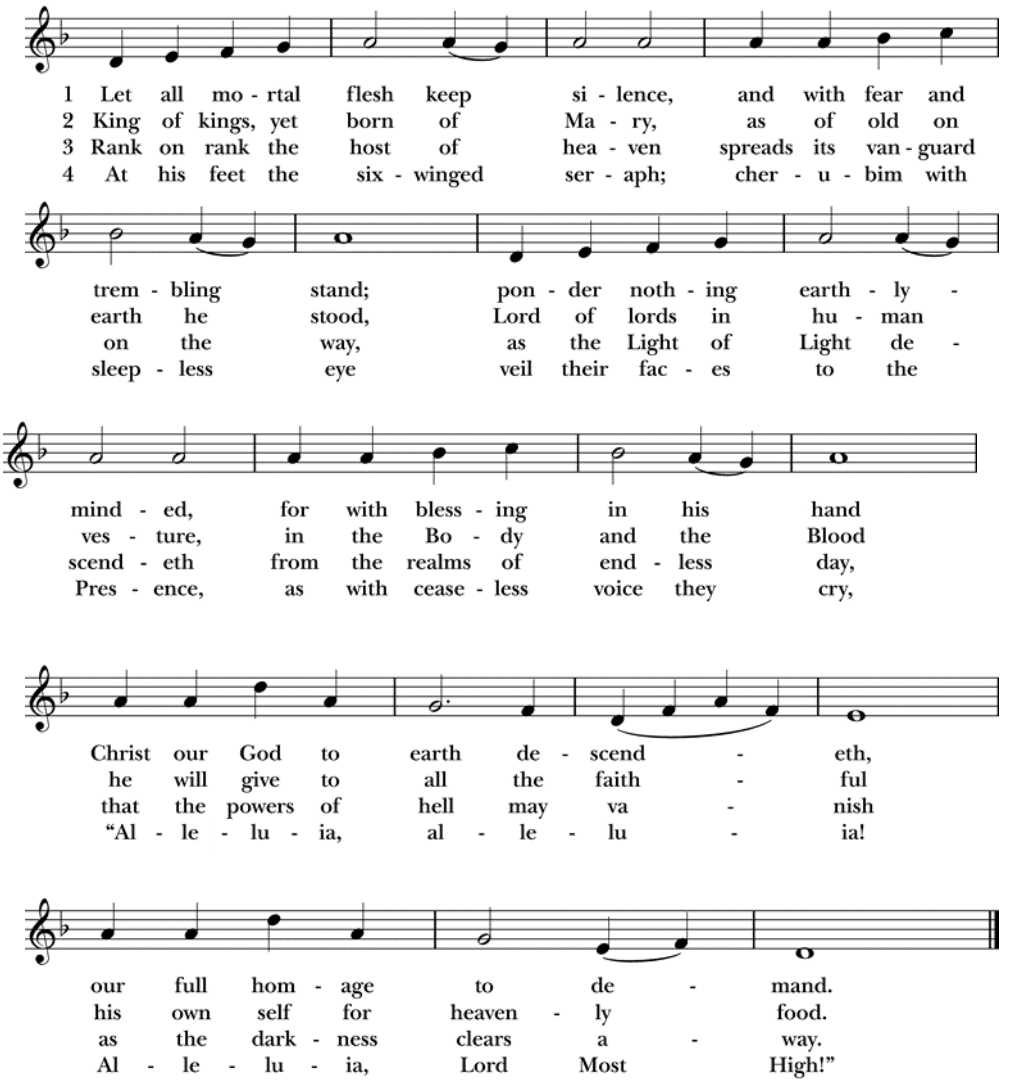
The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

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.

COMMUNION HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" **Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #324**



Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

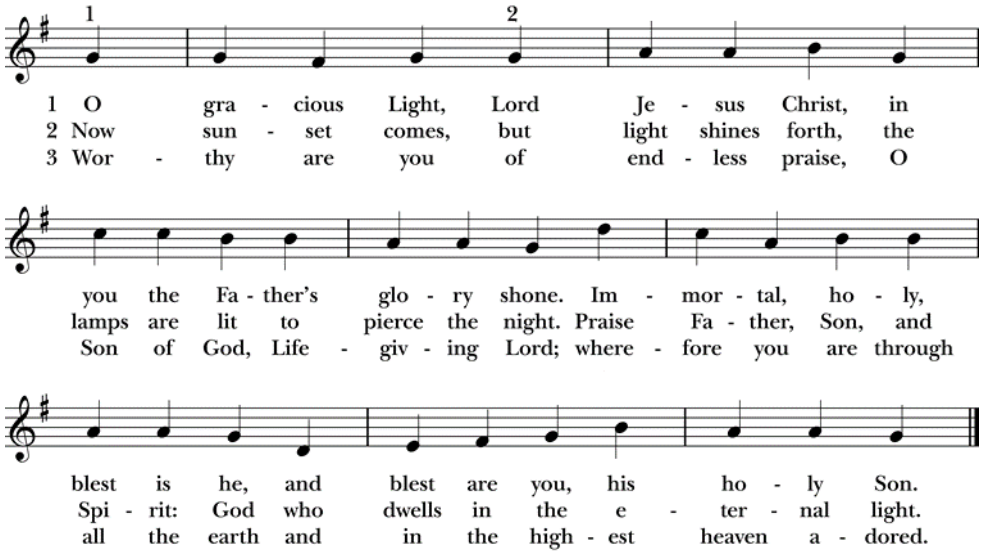
AFTER COMMUNION

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 "O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ" **Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #25**



This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Presider gives the blessing.

People **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Praeludium in C* J.S. Bach

"Permission is given to print and stream music via onelicense.net #A-700522.

PARISH NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2025

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 8, 2025

Parish Office Hours This Week:
Tuesday and Wednesday – 9:00am to 2:30pm
Friday – 9:00am to 12:30pm

Sunday	**9:30 a.m.**	**Holy Eucharist, First Reformed Church, Hall**
		Annual Meeting, First Reformed Church, Hall
Tuesday	**7:00 p.m.**	**Tuesdayers, Zoom**
Wednesday	**12:00p.m.**	**Noonday Prayer, Zoom**
	7:30 p.m.	WomenSpirit, Zoom
Thursday	4:00p.m.	Children's Pre- Choir Rehearsal, Games and Homework Time
	5:00p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	7:00p.m.	St. Alban's Bible Study, Zoom

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



THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD
TODAY IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE ONE, COMBINED SERVICE
AT 9:30 A.M.

RaiseRight™
Formerly ShopWithScrip

Paul Ambos, will be placing a new card order on the morning of **Monday, February 10**. Please place your orders accordingly. If you plan to mail him an order with a check, please (a) mail it by **Wednesday, February 5**, or, better, (b) advise him by email when you mail it of what your order is so he can place it on time despite possible Post Office delays. Or, if you place your own order directly on the RaiseRight website or app, Paul will be able to see it there when he orders the monthly batch.



Register now for the Anti-Racism Training offered by the Anti Racism Commission of the Diocese of New Jersey

The Anti-Racism Training consists of five consecutive two-hour Zoom classes from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on **January 31, February 4, February 14, February 21, and a follow-up four weeks later on March 21**. Click here to register.

The fee for the training is $100 per person. For financial assistance or for more information about the training, please contact Canon Karen Moore, Chair, Anti-Racism Commission, at kfomoore@comcast.net.



Open Choir is Next Sunday, February 16!

All are Welcome to Sing!

Meet up at 9:30am in the Sanctuary.



Join members of Christ Church February 16 after the 10:30am service for a "Packing Party"!

Supplies will be packed for the Choice Food and Resource Center during Coffee Hour. Goodies will be supplied by the Ambos Family. We hope to see you there!

Can't make it to the packing party, but want to help? Donations of diapers in sizes 4, 5, 6, and 7 as well as adult incontinence products in all sizes are in constant demand.

Donations can be made via Zelle or check please note "diaper donation" or "Choice Food and Resource Center in the subject line.



The Tuesdayers' Next Book: "14 Fresh Ways to Enjoy the Bible"

Do you feel like you get stuck in a rut when it comes to reading the Bible? Or rather than feeling inspired and energized, do you feel confused, disenchanted, or removed? In "14 Fresh Ways to Enjoy the Bible," James F. Coakley shares strategies that will bring your Scripture study to life. Among other things the Bible is great literature. The same riveting techniques that modern authors use in their books were also used by Biblical authors long ago. Coakley opens our eyes to the dramatic and poetical ways God communicates to us. The Tuesdayers invite you to join our discussion, we meet over Zoom on Tuesdays (except the second of the month), 7:00-8:30 pm. For more information contact Jonathan Clark at im4canoes@yahoo.com.

Friends of the New Brunswick Free Public Library

Black History Month presentation

ALBERT EINSTEIN: CHAMPION OF RACIAL JUSTICE

Guest Speakers:



Elizabeth Romanaux



Shirley Satterfield

Saturday, February 8, 2025
2pm
New Brunswick Free Public Library
60 Livingston Ave.
NB, NJ

Learn more about Albert Einstein's advocacy for and friendships with African-Americans in Princeton and across the country. This is one aspect of the great man's life that will be found in the introductory gallery of the Princeton Einstein Museum of Science before guests explore his world-changing scientific discoveries.

For more information and to register please contact Deborah Celey at friendsnbfpl@gmail.com

Refreshments will be provided

Supported by:

New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee, Inc.



A Service of Witness to Black Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

Sunday, February 16, 2025

3:00 P.M.
Trinity Cathedral
801 W. State St. Trenton, NJ 08618

Sponsored by:
Black Clergy Caucus
Union of Black Episcopalians
Commission on Black Ministries

Celebrant:
The Right Reverend Sally French
Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey



Black Clergy Caucus

Preaching:
The Rev. Terrence Lee
Priest-in-Charge
Holy Trinity, South River

Contact:
Ven. Lynn H. Johnson
revlhj2000@comcast.net

Rev. Canon Clive Sang
clivesang81@verizon.net

Canon Wendy Blackman, *President EBS-UBE*
vickibaj.12@aol.com

Union of Black Episcopalians

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 22 December to 10 March, when the temperatures are below freezing. Christ Church will be hosting **16 February to 23 February.**

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, February 16th
- 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 for February 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!

A blessed Epiphany from the Diocesan Formation Team.

The Formation Team has exciting new offerings:

The diocesan Scripture Study class is held every Wednesday at 7 pm on Zoom. Here's the registration link: https://dioceseofnj.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuceCqrzkrG9N9kTgSn_HUkRXoasHImbcp

The Acolyte Festival is coming up on **Saturday, February 8th**, at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, from 9:30 until 3. There will be many different workshops and activities for folks new to acolyting and for seasoned pros. Activities include games, team-building, a choir workshop, a meditation workshop for adults, an adult round-table discussion on lay ministry and leadership, a Cathedral scavenger hunt, basic acolyte and advanced acolyte workshops, lunch, Eucharist, and much more.
The registration link is here: https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0015-0007-B4EFA763242B4C06834D01F90693B748

FEBRUARY 2, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking faith home

Love is at the heart of the Christian faith.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Luke 4:21-30**	**The prophet Jesus is rejected**
Monday	**Jeremiah 1:4-10**	**The Lord chooses Jeremiah**
Tuesday	**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**	**The gift of love**
Wednesday	**Luke 2:25-32**	**Simeon praises the Lord**
Thursday	**1 John 3:16-21**	**God is love**
Friday	**Amos 5:14-15**	**Choose good, not evil**
Saturday	**Psalm 71:1-6**	**A prayer for God's protection**
Sunday	**Luke 5:1-11**	**Jesus calls the first disciples**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. **1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Holy God, give us confidence to live as a follower of Jesus, that others may see in us our love and faith in you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, you care for the needs of all people; we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have enough to eat through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with faith, hope, and love in Christ Jesus.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

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:

- What makes you feel loved?
- Can you be a person of Christian faith without love? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

This scripture reading responds to some misguided understandings about the Christian faith. Some think their knowledge and their understanding of God is better than others. Their faith is driven by the power of knowledge and a feeling of superiority. The Apostle Paul says that love is at the heart of the message and ministry of the followers of Jesus Christ. The love Paul lifts up *"does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth"* (v. 6). While some might boast of having spiritual powers that can move mountains or grasp deep mysteries, Paul states that love is the real measure of the Christian faith. Christian love lasts forever and shows compassion because it *"believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"* (v. 7). The love Paul preaches is not *"boastful or arrogant"* (v. 4b), but humbly seeks the good of others, recognizing that our knowledge, even our speaking on behalf of God is imperfect. Faith, hope, and love are all important, and because of our imperfect faith and hope, the greatest of the three is love.

Discuss: How has someone shown you God's love?

Pray: **Merciful God, thank you for loving us beyond anything we deserve. Guide us to love others as we have been loved through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you show compassion and love to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On February 2nd each year the Christian church remembers Jesus' presentation at the temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38). This festival is called *Candlemas*. It involves candlelight processions and the blessing and distribution of candles. Simeon's words referring to Jesus as *"a light to reveal God to the nations"* (v. 32) provide the biblical inspiration for this. The candles symbolize the purity of Christ. Light the candles that you will use in your home.

Say: **Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, who is the light of the world. May the light of these candles remind us to shine for you so that others may see your love and grace through our actions and words. 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**

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

		February 2 Annual Meeting	February 9
	Presider	Rev. Joanna Hollis	Rev. Allen Wakabayashi
	Preacher	Rev. Joanna Hollis	Rev. Allen Wakabayashi
	Deacon	Rev. Daphne Roberts	Rev. Daphne Roberts
	Organist	Suzanne McDonald	Suzanne McDonald
8:00 a.m.			**8:00 A.M.**
	Lector & Intercessor		Meegan Adames
	LEM *LEM will read the Epistle*		Elizabeth Clark
	Vestry Announcements		Mark McMahon
	Ushers		
	Altar Guild		Nancy Walworth, Sheila Cooper
10:30 a.m.		**9:30 A.M.**	**9:30 A.M.**
	Lector & Intercessor	Mel Garber	
	LEM *LEM will read the Epistle*	Sheila Cooper	Jonathan Gloster
	Acolyte / Server		
	Vestry Announcements	Wendy Benjamin	
	Usher		Mel Garber
	Production Minister	Steve Caruso	Steve Caruso
	Altar Guild	Mervis Johnson, Margaret Brown-Stansbury	Nancy Walworth, Sheila Cooper
	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.

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



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

Scan this code to support Christ Church's ministries and outreach to the community.

www.ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org

https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchNB/