The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love



The **9:30am** Service begins on **page 6**

Parish Notes begins on **page 18**

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 *– The Anglican Church of Burundi*

Diocesan Cycle *– St. Thomas' Church in Alexandria, Glassboro, and Red Bank; The Revs: Russell A. Griffin, Canon Karin R. Mitchell, C. Thomas Myers, Jonathan B. Percival, Jacquelyn Rowe*

Christ Church Ministry *– Christ Church Choirs*

Birthdays this week *– Yazmyne Abbott, Kendall Beckles, Elizabeth Clark, Tanner Fenn, Joanna Kuldinow, Raritan Long, Ruth Macdonald, Mia Pangasnan-Ruddock, Madelyn Windle*

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.

THE VESTRY:

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Worshipping God Serving God's People
Christ Church New Brunswick

December 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM
Presider: The Rev. Stephen J. Connor



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

PRELUDE *Greensleeves* arr. R Vaughan Williams

ENTRANCE HYMN "Savior of the Nation, Come" **The Blue *Hymnal 1982 #54***

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Readers & Candle Lighters: Karen, Chris, Cecilia & Matilda Colabaugh

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

All: **And blessed be his 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.)*
We light this candle with love. *(Fourth candle is lit.)*
Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:
The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.
Let us pray together:

All: **God of hope,**
Prince of peace,
Jubilee Judge,
and Lord of love,
your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility
in the union of flesh and spirit.
Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. God of promise, God of hope,
into our darkness come. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY *BCP, p. 355*

THE KYRIE Blue *Hymnal 1982*, S-96



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

This lesson was read during the lighting of the Advent wreath.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for

the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GRADUAL HYMN "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" **The Blue *Hymnal 1982 #265***

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

SERMON The Rev. Stephen J. Connor

NICENE CREED *BCP, p. 358*

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 As we reflect upon the meaning of God's real presence in our lives this Advent, let us pray for the Church and the world.

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION *BCP, p. 360*

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

Silence may be kept.

ALL: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "O Come Little Children" J.A.P Schulz
Joyful Noise Choir

"Oh, come, little children, oh come one and all! Come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall, and see what the Father in heaven has made for us all on this holy night with His joy."

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

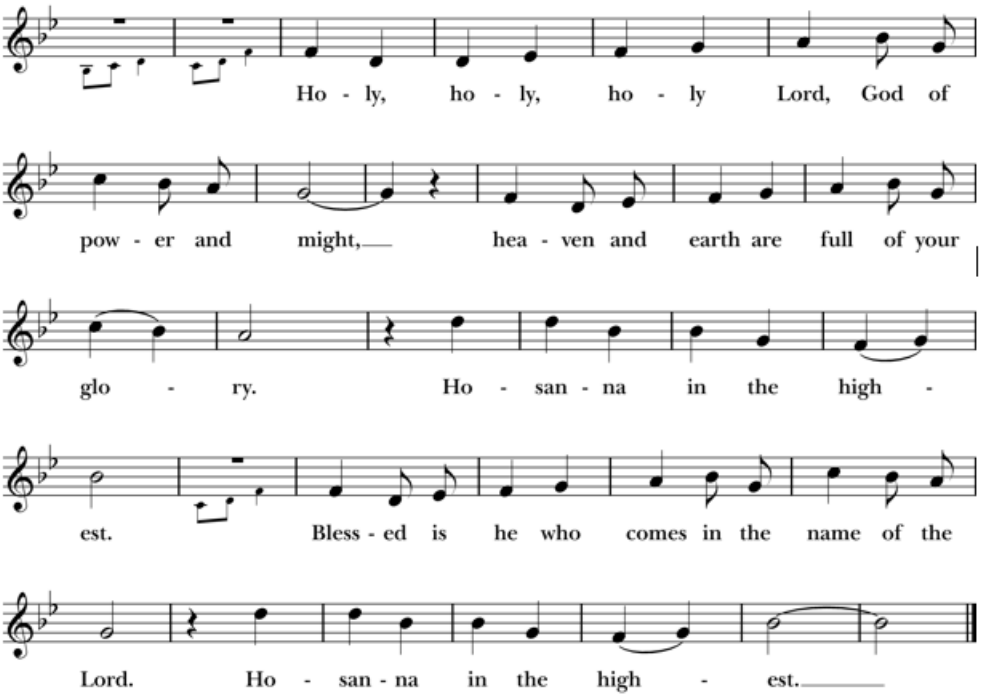
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP, p. 367*

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:

SANCTUS Blue *Hymnal 1982,* S-127



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

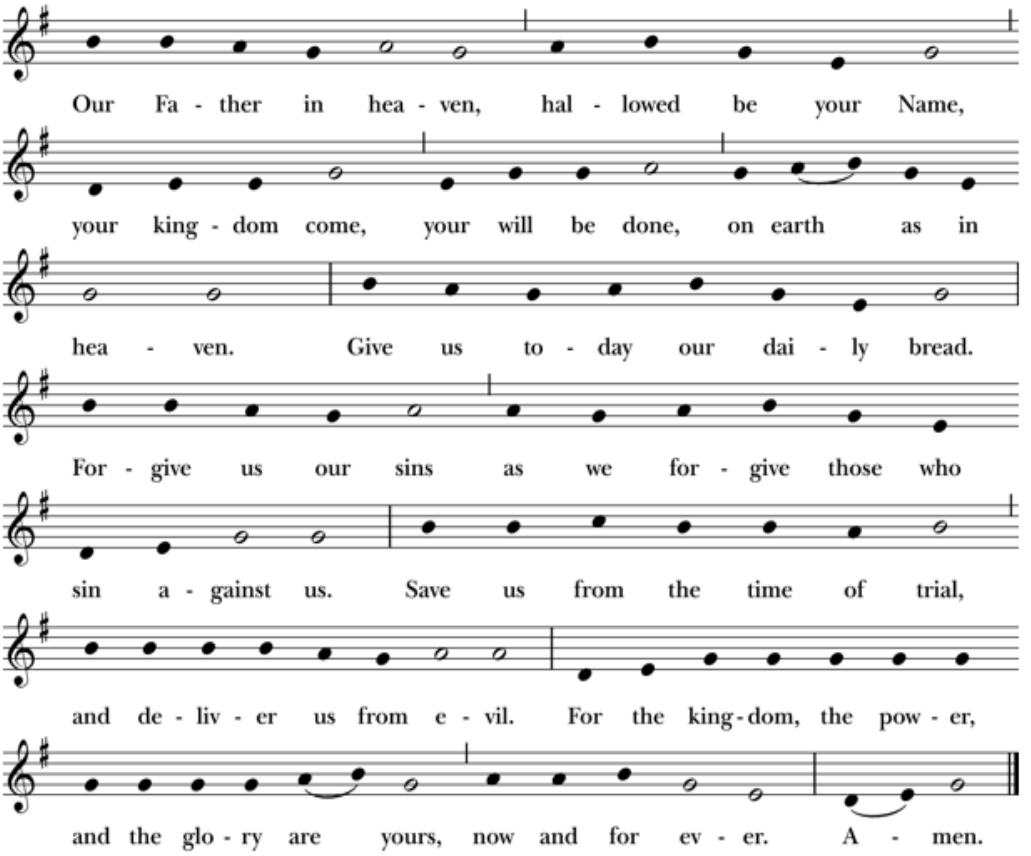
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite 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.

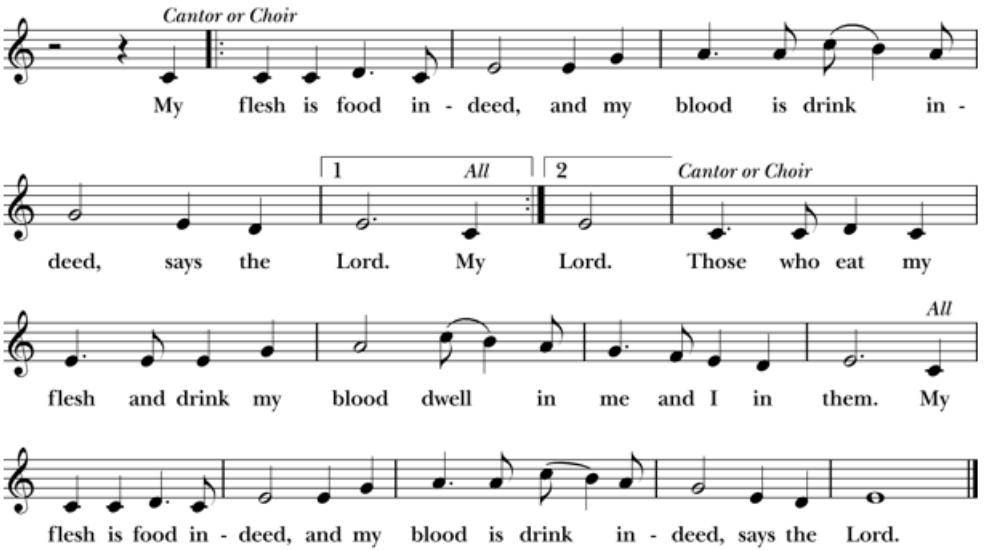
People **Amen**

THE LORDS'S PRAYER

Blue *Hymnal 1982, S149*



FRACTION ANTHEM Blue *Hymnal 1982, S169*



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 ANTHEM "Magnificat" D. Haas



Refrain (see music above)
All that I am, sings of god who brings new life to birth in me.
My spirit soars on the wings of my Lord (repeat)

Verses choir

My soul gives glory to the Lord, rejoicing in my saving God;
Who looks upon me in my state, and all the world will call me blest;
For God works marvels in my sight, and holy, holy is God's name.

Refrain

God's mercy is from age to age, on those who follow in fear; whose arm is power and strength, and scatters all the proud of heart; who cast the mighty from their thrones, and raises upon the lowly ones.

Refrain

God fills the starving with good things, the rich are left with empty hands; Protecting all the faithful ones, remembering Israel with mercy the promise known to those before, and to their children forever.

Refrain

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 "How bright appears the morning star" **The Blue *Hymnal* 1982, # 497**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Presider blesses the people.

People **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Advent Meditation* C. Callahan
Flute and organ Flautist Karen Colabaugh



PARISH NOTES FOR DECEMBER 21, 2025

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 21– DECEMBER 27, 2025

Parish Office Hours This Week:
Tuesday – 9:30am to 3:00pm
Wednesday – 9:30am to 12:15pm

Sunday	**9:30 a.m.**	**Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary**
Wednesday	**12:00p.m.**	**Noonday Prayer, Zoom**
	7:00 p.m.	Special Christmas Music
	7:30 p.m.	**Celebratory Choral Eucharist**
Thursday	10:00a.m.	**Holy Eucharist, Sanctuary**

* JOIN US AFTER THE 9:30 AM SERVICE FOR COFFEE HOUR IN THE NICHOLAS ROOM



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.

Christ Church 2026 Pledge Certificates

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 $251,968 to date.

Meegan & Samuel Adames
Beth Binde
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
Raven Jackson
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

Our work TOGETHER depends on your support.

Vestry Key Topics

1. The vestry approved a budget for 2026 that reduces our drawdown from our investment account by about a third. Full budget will be shared with the parish at our annual meeting on February 1st.
2. We received a full slate of candidates for open vestry positions, diocesan convention, and northern convocation from the Annual Meeting Committee which comprised Isha Davies, chair, Pat Buckendahl, Jim Nichols, and Gordon Arsenoff. We extend heartfelt appreciation to the committee for their hard work and to all who have agreed to serve in the coming year.
3. We discussed upcoming events including the Christmas Concert benefiting the music program, our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services, and the Men's Shelter which will be held at Christ Church from December 28th - January 4th. Please consider volunteering to support the Men's Shelter!
4. Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to continue with one 9:30 service until further notice. First Sunday of the month will continue to be Rite 1.



Volunteers Wanted!
Window Sealing Schedule
Auditorium and Choir Room

John Ager will be sealing the auditorium and choir room windows on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30.

Each room typically takes approximately four to six hours to complete. He is usually on site by 10:00 a.m. both days.

RaiseRight
Formerly ShopWithScrip

It is time for the Christ Church January RaiseRight Order!

Paul Ambos, will be placing a new card order on the morning of **Monday, January 5.** Please place your orders accordingly. If you plan to mail him an order with a check, mail it by **Wednesday, December 31.** Please advise him by email when you mail it of what your order is so he can place it on time.

If you place your own order directly on the RaiseRight website **https://www.raiseright.com/shop** or app, he will be able to see it there when he orders the monthly batch.



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
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.

DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Advent is a season of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Matthew 1:18-25**	**God is with us**
Monday	**Isaiah 7:10-16**	**A son named Immanuel**
Tuesday	**Romans 1:1-7**	**A salutation**
Wednesday	**Luke 2:1-20**	**The birth of Jesus**
Thursday	**John 1:1-14**	**The Word became flesh**
Friday	**Isaiah 9:2-7**	**A child is born**
Saturday	**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**	**Israel's restoration**
Sunday	**Matthew 2:13-23**	**The escape to Egypt**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." **Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty and everlasting God, may the birth of Jesus remind us of your promise of salvation and lead us to trust in you and to serve and love others with thankful hearts. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord Jesus Christ, may this food give strength to our bodies and faith, hope, and love to our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the love of God bless you with peace.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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DECEMBER 21, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Light One Candle to

Watch for Messiah

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 do you do to show love for someone?
- How does the birth of Jesus show the love of God for all the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 1:1-7.

The birth of Jesus is not about the sweet presence of a smiling baby. It is about the work of God to save the world by entering our experience and being with us (Matthew 1:23). Ours is the God who promised this beforehand through the prophets, who has come in the flesh in the line of King David, who rose from the dead and is recognized as the Son of God. We are the beloved of God and named holy. With the birth of Jesus comes the fulfillment of God's action to change the world of darkness and despair to the dwelling place of God's loving and saving presence for all the world. It includes a divine assignment to love all people with the good news of Jesus Christ. This is what Advent, Christmas, and the Christian faith are all about.

Discuss: How is this kind of love more of an action than a feeling?

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for entering our world and our lives with hope and love. Help us to love the world you love in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. 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 share God's love with someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light four candles on the Advent wreath: the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, the Candle of Joy, and the Candle of Love. The Candle of Love reflects how God showed love for us by sending Jesus to be with us. During this Advent season we pray for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through Jesus Christ.

Leader: **This is the fourth week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.** [Light four candles]

All: ***"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."*** (Matthew 1:23)

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

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



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 **TODAY** **Sunday, December 21** 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 4:00PM

A Benefit Concert featuring Sonya Headlam, Soprano, and Suzanne McDonald, Organ & Piano" – Donation $35.00, Children Students Free

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 **TODAY Sunday, December 21**

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

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

	December 21	December 28
Presider	Rev. Canon Steve Connor	Rev. Canon Steve Connor
Preacher	Rev. Canon Steve Connor	Rev. Daphne P. Roberts
Deacon		Daphne P. Roberts
Organist	Suzanne McDonald	Suzanne McDonald
	9:30 A.M.	**9:30 A.M.**
Lector & Intercessor	Sheila Cooper	Shannon Pullaro
LEM	Kevin Stansbury	Debra Lowe
Candle Reader & Lighter	Colabaugh Family	N/A
Acolyte / Server		
Vestry Announcements	Meegan Adames	
Usher	Peggy Smith	Peggy Smith
Production Minister	Steve Caruso	Steve Caruso
Altar Guild	Mervis Johnson Shannon Pullaro	Nancy Walworth Sheila Cooper
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*

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

www.ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org

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