

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

9:30AM MORNING PRAYER

THE REV. JOANNA HOLLIS,
OFFICIANT AND PREACHER
THE REV. DAPHNE ROBERTS
CO-OFFICIANT



Officiant Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8, NRSV*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader By the light of this fourth candle, we receive your peace now. May it be a peace which surpasses our understanding because it makes no sense at all. Despite our circumstances, may your love illuminate our pathways. May Jesus walk with us in the hills and valleys of our lives. And when we find our way, may we send up a light for others to follow. You have called us favored ones and so we are. In the Name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit,

People: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, pg. 79

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

Officiant and People together

**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 Priest says

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.

All **Amen.**

THE OPENING VERSICLE AND DOXOLOGY

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

BCP, p. 82

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

CANTICLE 15

Read responsively by the half verse

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as

it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE E A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother

EOW, p. 32

Isaiah 66:10-14

Read responsively by the half verse

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her *

all you who love her,

Rejoice, rejoice with her, *

all you who mourn over her,

That you may drink deeply with delight *

from her comforting breast.

For thus says our God, *

“I will extend peace to her like a river,

the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.

“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm,

and you shall nestle in her lap.

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; *

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *

you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 20

Glory to God

BCP, p. 94

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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.

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

***People* Thanks be to God.**

THE REFLECTION

Rev. Joanna Hollis

THE APOSTLES' CREED BCP, p. 96

Officiant and People together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP, p. 97*

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (A) *BCP, p. 97*

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant

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.

People

Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Intercessor As we continue with the Prayers of the People, we invite you to put your prayers in the chat box to be read at the end..

Intercessor 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.

We pray for the church; for the worldwide Anglican Communion; for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Sally, our Bishop; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, The Rev. Canon Martin Gutwein; for Christ Church Ministries, especially Christ Church Choir; and for our people, staff, and clergy

... [Silence]...

We pray for Joe, our President; for Phil, our governor and for all in authority in this nation and all nations.

... [Silence]...

We pray for the city of New Brunswick, for the communities in which we live; for every city and community and for all who live in them.

... [Silence]...

We pray for peace in our world, especially in all the war-torn and war threatened regions of our earth, and for those working for peace and justice wherever people live in fear, or feel isolated, abandoned, or oppressed.

... [Silence]...

We pray for the sick and the suffering especially Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Arnold, Christine, Dale, Danielle, Doreen, Dorothy, Eleanor, Isobel, Jacqueline, Jim, Joy, Karl, Lenora, Larry, Mary, Matthew, Sarah, Shawn, Timothy, Tabby, Vivian, and Winston; for those who suffer as a result of famine, floods, fire, or winter storms; for the homeless in our community; the clients of our Choice Food and Resource Center at Unity Square and Laundry Love; for refugees and immigrants; for all who are affected by war, poverty, injustice, hatred, violence, torture, or intolerance

... [Silence]...

We pray for those traveling this holiday season and for all who will visit us and share in our Advent and Christmas celebrations.

... [Silence]...

We pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings of our lives; for those who have pledged their time, talent, and treasure to the ministry of our Parish; for our friends, families, and community; for those whom we love and those who love us; Nicolas, Elizabeth, Tanner, Charlotte, Joanna, Effie, Mia, Eric, Ryan, Emily, Randy, and Madelyn who are celebrating birthdays this week.

... [Silence]...

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn.

... [Silence]...

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP, p. 101

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The officiant reads the prayers in the chat.

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday **Christmas Eve Service & Pageant at 4:00PM**
 Musical Prelude at 8:45PM
 Festive Holy Eucharist begins at 9:00PM

Monday **Christmas Day Service, 9:30AM**

Wednesday Noonday Prayer via Zoom *Take a mid-week 20 minute break*
 WomenSpirit, 7:30PM via Zoom



Christmas at Christ Church

Christmas Eve

Family Eucharist & Christmas

Pageant, 4:00p.m.

Special Christmas Music, 8:45p.m.

Festive Holy Eucharist, 9:00p.m.

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 9:30a.m.



The Parish Office will be CLOSED December 25-December 28
(re-opening December 29) Contact Rev. Joanna for pastoral emergencies 732.307.7244

ADVENT ADULT FORUM: Advent – Why Wait?

Adult Forum following today's service at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom only.

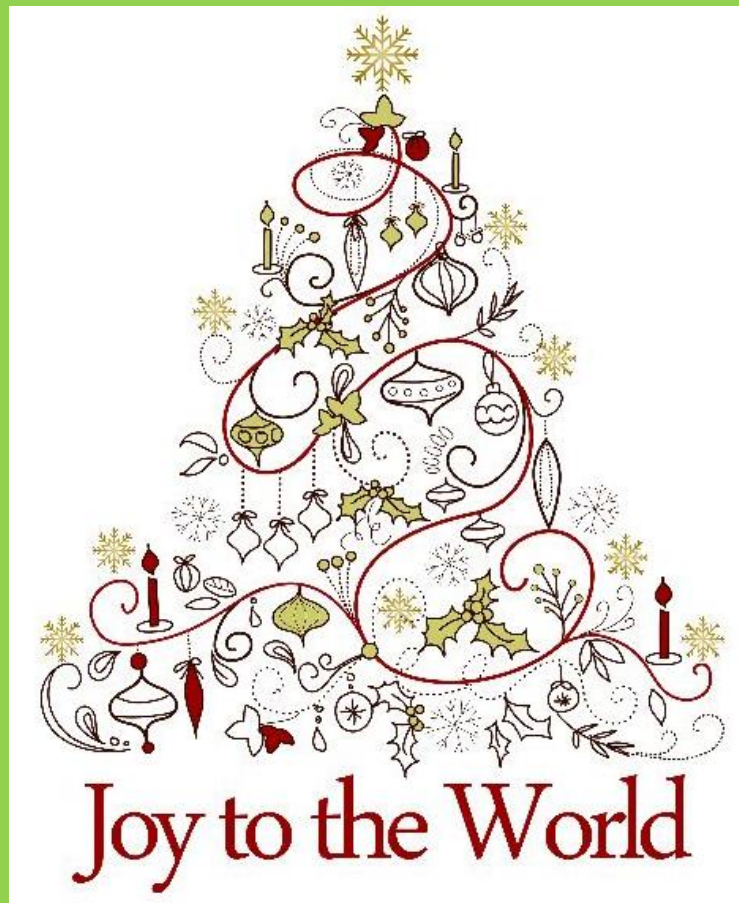
Let us prepare for Christ with a meaningful exploration of Advent!

Today's Theme:

- Peace Now

Reflection materials available in your weekly email.
(even if you don't attend the forum)





Christ Church Annual Giving Tree

This year the Angel Gift Tree will focus on three ministries: The Rector's Discretionary Fund; Laundry Love; and the Men's Rotating Shelter.

We are seeking donations of cash/check or gift cards to support these specific ministries. The Rector's Discretionary Fund can use cash or gift cards; Laundry Love- cash, and the Men's Shelter- cash or gift cards (Visa/ etc).

Starting Dec. 3, through Dec. 31, you will find different colored angels on the tree in the back of the sanctuary; one for each ministry

THANK YOU!

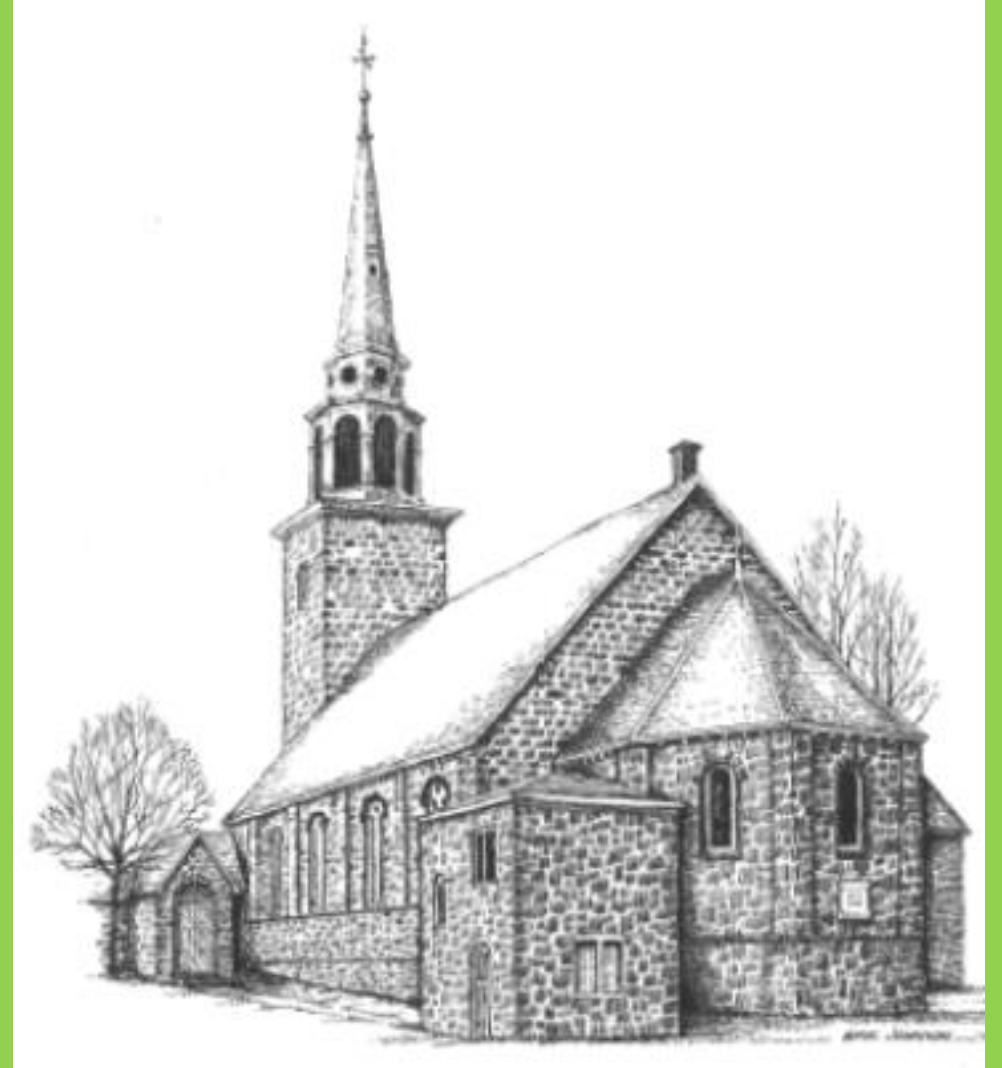
Calling all Volunteers!

For the past many years, the Parish House and Choir Building windows have been sealed with plastic sheets to make the spaces more comfortable and reduce our energy consumption.

This year, the Auditorium is the first priority for our tenants and the men's shelter, followed by the choir room. If time permits, the kitchen, Ross, and Nicholas Rooms will be completed as well.

John Ager is generally available the week after Christmas. It would be great to have help to expedite the process.

Please reach out to John at jager@optonline.net if you have interest and have availability.





MEN'S INTERFAITH ROTATING SHELTER

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

The shelter will visit Christ Church December 31st through January 14th but volunteers are welcome any week throughout the winter, starting December 22nd until March 10th.

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

For menu: <https://www.tavernongeorge.com/>

Phone number: (732) 545-6205



Dine to Donate

In support of
Christ Church
New Brunswick
at



When?

Wednesday, January 10

4 – 9pm

Dine-in or take-out orders.

Place orders in person or by phone (not online) and
show this flyer for Christ Church's fundraiser.

Break through after-holiday gloom over dinner with family and friends.

Proceeds will benefit the CCNB general fund.

ADVENT BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

From Feasting on the Word

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Rev. Joanna Hollis, *Officiant*

Rev. Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*

Dr. Katia Kravitz, *Interim Music Minister and Organist*

Mervis Johnson/ Raven Jackson, *Lector and Intercessor*

Mervis Johnson/ Raven Jackson, *Advent Wreath Readers*

Rev. Joanna Hollis, *Advent Wreath Candle Lighter*

Steve Caruso, *Production Minister*

