

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church

6320 Hanover Ave.
Springfield, VA 22150
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Second Sunday in Advent

Our Vision:
To Know Christ
To Love Christ
To Serve Christ in Others

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The Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2019

**Hymn
Number*

**Prayer Book
Page Number**

{7:30 a.m. Service words and responses begin on Page 323}

** Indicates that the people stand*

Prelude: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Chant

**73 The King shall come when morning dawns*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle(s)

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

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People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

**S280 Gloria*

***The Collect of the Day**

(see insert)

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

(see insert)

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

(see insert)

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

(see insert)

**75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying*

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

(see insert)

The Children's Sermon – Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra	
Children may go to Children's Church	
The Sermon – The Rev. David M. Crosby, Guest Celebrant	
The Nicene Creed	358
The Prayers of the People	
The Confession & Absolution	360
The Peace & Announcements	

The Holy Communion

<i>Offertory Anthem:</i>	<i>Every Valley</i>	<i>John Ness Beck</i>
*398	<i>I sing the mighty power of God (verse 1)</i>	
	The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharist Prayer A	361
*S129	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord (Sanctus)</i>	
	The Prayer Continues (kneel)	368
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	The Breaking of the Bread	364
	<i>Children return from Children's Chapel and Nursery</i>	
*S163	<i>Jesus, Lamb of God (Fraction)</i>	
	The Communion of the People	
*60	<i>Creator of the stars and night</i>	
	<i>Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	
	When there is a Lay Eucharistic Minister going out following the service we will send them by saying together: "We who are many are one body, because we share one bread and one cup. Amen."	
	The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Blessing	365
*76	<i>On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry</i>	
	The Dismissal (Response: Thanks be to God.)	

Postlude: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming *M. Praetorius*

Search Committee Prayer

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

WELCOME TO ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

Visitors and New Members: Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to fill out a welcome card found on the back of each pew. We welcome all input, such as a request for a prayer, particular hymn, or more information about St. Christopher's. Please - let us know what you think!

Nursery Care: is available for infants and toddlers at the later service. Ask an usher or greeter for directions to the infant room.

We invite all baptized persons of Christian faith to receive communion. If you are not baptized you are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail, while crossing your arms over your chest. You will receive a blessing instead of bread, and the wine person will pass you by.

For Those Who Need Assistance: Communion can be brought to in your seat – just let an usher know during the service; large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are also available (see an usher or greeter for the service for assistance).

This Week We Are Praying For:

The Church: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Susan, Robert and Jennifer, our Bishops. For David our Guest Celebrant, Joe our Music Minister, for our Vestry, Joe, our Bookkeeper and for Lynn, our Pastoral Assistant this week.

Our Government: Donald our President, and Ralph our Governor.

For those celebrating birthdays this month (but not read in church):

Robert Hall, Katie Alleman, Debbie Frear, Maisie Adams, Beth Lytle, John Quinn, Avery Hall, Peggy Bradshaw, Sarah Belisle, Noella Bond, Tim Johnson, Elaine Sevy, Jim Foster, Thalia Grant-Wisdom, Dawn Cannaday, Malcolm Andrews, Beverly Guernsey, Dale Guernsey, Ava Sanders, Evan Flowe, Christina Manning, Nick Farrar, Cody Thurmond, Shelby Clardy, Brent Guernsey, Michael Snyder, and Chipppo Kinnee.

The Sick, Suffering, and in Need John Willauer, Virginia Clark, Ruth York, Elaine Sevy, Marion Evans, Ginny and Fred Berg, Marguerite Wagner, Ralph Tomita, Jim Foster, Priscilla Greene, Virginia Cole, Ted Woodcock, Elaine Apostles, John Wells, and L. B. Berg as well as those on our **December Parish Family Prayer List (names not read in the service):** Lieping Guan, Eleanor Alleman, Chris Crockett, , Barbara Carballal, Jason, Faith, Jack, Pat Pung, Anne Bustion, Jonah Havert, Sharon Wilson, Joe Hughes and Joan Snyder.

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God by Malcolm and Eileen Mark in loving memory of William Mark, Grandfather of Malcolm Mark.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God the Altar Guild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Welcome The Rev. David M. Crosby as our Guest Celebrant today.

St. Nicholas will join us at the 10:00 a.m. service today. Bring an unwrapped toy to donate for our toy drive through ECHO. If you want to make a monetary gift for the purchase of toys, please see Mike Snyder. All checks should be made out to St. Christopher's, with Toy Drive written on the memo line. Thank you for your annual support of this charitable ministry.

Bishop Nicholas of Myra has arrived at VTS. If you've not visited yet, do stop by the Welcome Center to see this amazing display that illustrates St. Nicholas' life, his relationship to Christian tradition, and various St. Nicholas-related customs from around the world. There is a very cool video to watch as well. Owned and curated by the St. Nicholas Center Executive Director, Carol Myers, the display will be available for viewing from now through December 20, 2019, and then again from January 2 – 6, 2020. Please check www.vts.edu regarding hours the Welcome Center is open.

About the Chrismon Tree Each Chrismon is a symbol of Jesus Christ, made in the colors of gold and white and hung on a green tree during Advent and Christmas. The term Chrismon comes from the words "Christ monogram". Each one tells part of the story of Christ, from his birth and baptism, to his teachings and miracles, through his death and resurrection. Together, they remind us of the entire life of the One who was born at Christmas, the One in whom we have life and live forever. **Chrismon Tree Set-up and Decorating this Sunday, December 8th!** We will prepare our church for Advent and the Men's Group will be assembling the Chrismon Tree in between service, come and help if you like to join in the fun. After the 10:00 a.m. service, we invite you to join us during the Fellowship and Refreshment hour decorating the tree and enjoy a few snacks.



Christmas Flower/ Poinsettia Plant Remembrance Honor a loved one this Christmas by giving a contribution for a poinsettia plant or flowers. They may be given in Thanksgiving for / or in memory of the loved one. Starting this Sunday, you will find a Christmas Flower Remembrance form in the bulletin. The Flower Guild Thanks You for sharing in the joy of decorating our church for Christmas.

The Flower Guild is meeting at the church on Monday, December 9th at 7 p.m., to decorate the wreaths that will go in the windows. If anyone would like to join them, they'd welcome the help!

The Vestry is accepting contributions for a "Staff Purse" for this Christmas season. As part of your gift giving this season, please consider showing your appreciation for the work our church staff has done throughout the year by contributing to our collective staff gift. You may do so by either writing a check with "Staff Purse" in the memo line or by providing your gift directly to one of the members of the Vestry. The staff includes the Nina Miller (Parish Administrator), Joe Bush (Bookkeeper), Joe Gabalski (Minister of Music) and Liz Dlima (Nursery Attendant for Sunday services). The last day to donate is Sunday, December 15th. Thank you for your generosity.

Vestry Nominations are Open! The current elected leadership of our parish encourage you to consider Vestry service. The Vestry assists the congregation in fulfilling our vision to know Christ, love Christ and serve Christ in others. The Vestry is also responsible for ensuring the business of the parish is accomplished. This is especially important during this time of transition. You may nominate yourself or other congregants who are Confirmed (or Received) into the Episcopal Church to commit to three years of service to our community. For more information on expectations for Vestry members please refer to the double sided laminates that are in the Fellowship Hall. Do not be shy about stepping up to serve God in this important manner, and/or encouraging others to do the same. The election of new Vestry members will take place at our **Annual Meeting on February 1st**. Please submit nominations to Senior Warden Bob Hall or any current Vestry member.

The Live Nativity is on **Saturday, December 14th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.** Join us while we re-create Jesus's birth, complete with live animals! We will have warm drinks and lots of good cheer! If you can volunteer to help build a manger, advertise, spread word of the event to neighbors or volunteer at the event, please contact Cathy Branch, cmkbranch@gmail.com.

Preschool News: Here we are in December! The children are practicing their Christmas Carols and getting ready for our Christmas Program on December

16th. Classes are busy working on secret "projects" for family and loved ones and the halls of the Education building are looking more and more like Christmas. We are having a great year here at SCP and want to thank everyone for their support of our program. Sincere thanks to those who have done some Yankee Candle shopping in support of the school! The funds will go toward classroom improvements. We are grateful for God's Blessings - especially our loving community. Thank you and Merry Christmas! Polly Colwell

Please Donate Food for Holiday Backpacks. The Outreach Committee is asking you to donate pre-packaged, easy-to-open food to provide for weekend/holiday food backpacks for our neighborhood school, Crestwood Elementary. Many of these kids don't have dinners most evenings and have limited food on the weekend/holidays. We ask that you donate a number of different items from a list we have provided on the bags found in the fellowship hall. Items needed are individual breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, and drink. Each bag gets two of each of these items. We'll be collecting the items through on Dec. 15, with delivery to Crestwood, Dec. 16. We'll continue collecting over the Christmas holidays and deliver additional bags after Christmas **Donations can be placed in the "laundry cart"** by the St. Christopher banner near the food backpack sign. When we receive sufficient donations, we'll assemble a group to bag the products and deliver them to the school before the Christmas Holidays. Following that, we'll assemble and deliver additional bags to use after the holidays. . Please contact Marifran Bustion, bustionsellers@msn.com, if you have any questions.

St Christopher's 2020 Hypothermia Prevention Program

St. Christopher's will host between 30-40 homeless guests overnight at our church from **Sunday, 5 January through Sunday, 12 January 2020**. Each night we will provide our guests a nourishing dinner, and a warm, safe place to rest. Each morning, our guests will receive a hot breakfast before departing for the day. In order to make this ministry a success, we need volunteers to support a range of activities. Please take a look at the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054aaeaf2baa8-stchristophers> , and consider when and how you may be able to contribute. Descriptions are brief, so please ask me any questions you may have about volunteer options. Thank you in advance, Katy Dunlap

Total pledge amount as of Nov. 24: \$282, 510. (75 pledges received - 32 are up, 25 are the same, 10 are down, 8 are new) At the same time last year, we had received 77 pledges for \$291,576. The final pledge figure on Dec. 16, 2018 was \$349,096 from 91 pledgers. That means about 16% of our pledges last year were submitted between Thanksgiving and the December vestry meeting. With your help we can do it again! The Search Committee is formed and ready to go, which means our pledge campaign is more important than ever. The 2020 budget not only provides for our staff salaries and utility bills, but will set up the negotiation range for what we can pay our future Priest-in-Charge. If you have not submitted a pledge yet or have never pledged before, please consider doing so before the vestry's annual budget meeting on Dec. 16. Thank you for all you do in support of the St. Christopher's faith community!

Service Participants For Sunday December 8, 2019

7:30am

Acolyte: Alton Kirk

Lector: Mike Brandt

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Carroll Hill

10:00am

Acolyte(s): Isaac Hall, Avery Hall, and Ellie Hall

Lectors: Steve McClaugherty (L1), Gail Ritchie (L2)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mark Ingrebretsen (PB), Lynn Knox (CB1), Chris Erbe (CB2)

Altar Guild: Katie Dunlap and Chris Lane

Flower Guild: Mary Andrews, Indra Corea, and Beth Lytle

Vestry Person of the Week: Katy Dunlap

Prayer Intercessor: Brent Guernsey

Chapel Prayer Team: Janet and John Quinn

Communion Bread Baker: Mary Rietman

Greeters: Marifran Bustion

P.A.T. Minister (taking Eucharist to our parish's shut-ins): Lynn Knox

Refreshment & Fellowship:

Tellers: Lynn Knox and Kevin Frear

Ushers: Team Bush

**if you are unable to serve, or a trade did not get posted, please let your Lead Minister, VPOW or Sub-Clergy know by Sunday morning.*

The Vestry of St. Christopher's: Senior Warden, Bob Hall, Jr. Warden, Katy Dunlap, Register, Liz Zubritsky, Parish Life Team Lead, Marifran Bustion, Education Team Lead, Cathy Branch, Evangelism Team Lead, Brent Guernsey, Building Lead, John Olsen, Financial Stewardship, Chris Erbe, Grounds Lead, Logan Foley, Worship, Bob Hall

The Staff of St. Christopher's Nina Miller, Parish Administrator; Joe Bush, Bookkeeper; Joe Gabalski, Organist/Choir Director; Polly Colwell, Preschool Director

This Week at St. Christopher's

Monday, December 9

9:45 a.m. Preschool Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Flower Guild decorating wreaths on windows

Tuesday, December 10

Wednesday, December 11

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12 Preschool Christmas Pageant Decorating in the Auditorium

10:00 a.m. Women's Discussion Group

7:00 p.m. S. Anonymous Meeting

Friday, December 13 Preschool Christmas Pageant Decorating in the Auditorium

5:00 p.m. S. Anonymous Meeting

Saturday, December 14

8:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

12:30-2:30 p.m. **Live Nativity**, Corner of Monticello and Hanover Avenue

1:00-4:00 p.m. **Association for the Blind** Annual Christmas Gathering, in the Fellowship Hall of the Church (Led by Virginia Clark)

Sunday, December 15 – The Third Sunday in Advent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Children's Sermon, and Children's Church (Nursery is provided)

11:30 a.m. Fellowship & Refreshments