

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church

6320 Hanover Ave.
Springfield, VA 22150
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Our Vision:
To Know Christ
To Love Christ
To Serve Christ in Others

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018

***Hymn
Number**

**Prayer Book
Page Number**

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

** Indicates that the people stand*

Choral Introit: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

David Willcocks. arr

***59** *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

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

Page 355

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

***S278** *Gloria*

***The Collect of the Day**

(see insert)

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

(see insert)

Canticle 9

(see insert)

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

(see insert)

***56** *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

(see insert)

The Children's Sermon – Ms. Meredith Maple, Youth Minister for Teens	
Children may go to Children's Church	
The Sermon – The Rev. Peter K. Ackerman, Rector	
The Nicene Creed	358
The Prayers of the People	
The Confession & Absolution	360
The Peace & Announcements	

The Holy Communion

<i>Offertory Anthem: Wade in the water</i>	<i>Moses Hogan</i>
*380 <i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow (verse 3)</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	
*61 <i>Sleepers, wake!</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
*66 <i>Come thou long expected Jesus</i>	
The Dismissal (Response: Thanks be to God.)	

Postlude: Bagatelle on "Il est ne" *John S. Dixon*

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 chalice will pass you by.

For Those Who Need Assistance: Communion can be brought to you at 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 assistance).

This Week We Are Praying For:

The Church: Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Susan and Robert, our Bishops, for Peter our Rector, Brooks our Seminarian, Cathy our Preschool Bookkeeper and Helen 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, 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, Colin Lee Johnson, Michael Snyder, Chipppo Kinnee, Joshua Wolfe, and Stan Spence

The Sick, Suffering, and in Need, Elaine Sevy, Janice Hagan, Barbara Milton, Marion Evans, Ginny and Fred Berg, Marguerite Wagner, Ralph Tomita, Jim Foster, Priscilla Greene, Virginia Cole, Molly Gray, 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):** Anne Bustion, Robin Alexander, Jonah Havert, Sharon Wilson, Joe Hughes, Lynn Erbe, Joan Snyder,

Catherine Cabot, Helen Yi, Bob Riley, Golden Warfield, Ken Warfield, Hayden Shah, Kathy Little, Becky Calzada, Esther Bergum, Mae, Jack, June Shaw, Susan Ackerman-Peterson, Daniel Carr, Fritz Baldwin, Brad Penney, David and Stephen Penny, Helen Wagner, Cook Family, Alleman Family, Dawn, Brendan Scriber, Bev Gilman, Matt Zeller, and Robin Courts.

Thanksgiving for the birth of Maisie Louise Adams, daughter of Colin and Melani and sister to Declan.

The Altar Greens are given to the glory of God by Niki Purkoski in memory of Nicholas Mandragos and Michael Ward.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After Services Advent Class Continues On Advent Sundays, December 16th through the 24th at 12:15pm, Father Peter is offering an opportunity for those interested to gather in the Library to pray, look at that day's Gospel reading, reflect on it and discuss how it informs us to enter into the week to come. He hopes that participants will try to gather for all sessions, but welcomes all for whichever they can attend. If you have any questions, please contact our priest either on his cell phone (as printed in the parish directory) or via email at rector@saintchristophers.net.

TODAY, is the last Sunday 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.



Help Us Pack Food Backpacks for Students Today. After the 10:30 Worship Service and Fellowship Hour, join us in the Fellowship Hall to pack these food products into plastic bags containing two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, two drinks and two snacks and then adding a twist tie. Anyone can help! Thanks and thanks for bringing food. Because Crestwood provides food security backpacks each weekend, any leftover food will be packed and donated after the holidays. We'll continue collecting food until Sunday, December 30, 2018. Thank you, Richard Sellers

2018 Christmas Pageant: St. Christopher's will once again be hosting a Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve! We would love to get as many children to participate as possible. Costumes will be provided, and there is still time for children to sign up for a part! There will be practice on Saturday, December 22nd at 9:00 a.m. If you have a special talent you'd like to contribute like sewing, crafting, or just want to help please contact Tamara O'Neil, tamara_oneil@yahoo.com or Lauren Rhodes at rhoadeskids@gmail.com.

Feeding of the Homeless, December 27, 2018 Two days after Christmas we will be preparing a hot meal to deliver to the homeless in Fairfax County. Many of these people have moved into the Hypothermia Prevention Shelters, but many are still on the street. You can help in two ways:

(1) Food Preparation. We invite you to sign up to prepare food ahead of time, come on the 27th and assist with cooking packing bags, dishing up, loading coolers, or to ride along and help distribute the meals you can sign up to help on SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949aaa62ba4fb6-facets1>. Please have all your food contributions at the main kitchen by 2:00 pm on the 27th so we will know if we need to make more.

(2) HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES. In addition to the meal, we would also like to hand out new or freshly washed scarves, gloves and hats for those who might need an extra layer. Go through your closets and pull out extras, or pick something up when you're shopping. We will have a collection box in the Fellowship Hall marked HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES FOR HOMELESS. Thanks for helping to make the season a little brighter for those who have very little. Janet Bush, 703-371-2465, jbush@nvcc.edu.

Vestry Nominations are Open! The current elected leadership of our parish and Father Peter 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. 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 3rd. Please submit nominations to Fr. Peter, or to any current Vestry member.

Service Participants For Sunday December 16, 2018

7:30am

Acolyte: David Kirk

Lector: Jim Hertsch

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Pam Branstetter

10:30am

Acolyte(s): Laura Kirk

Lectors: Richard Sellers (L1), Trish Taylor (L2)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: The Rev. Brooks Boylan (PB), Lee Johnson (CB1), Deb Kim (CB2)

Altar Guild: Judy Lawson and Katy Dunlap

Flower Guild: TBA

Vestry Person of the Week: John Olsen

Prayer Intercessor: Helen Spence

Chapel Prayer Team: Jennifer Guernsey and Sue Fitzgerald

Communion Bread Baker: Caroline Foster

Greeters: TBA

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

Refreshment & Fellowship: Helen Spence

Tellers: Lynn Knox and Joe Bush

Ushers: Team Medding

**if you are unable to serve, or a trade did not get posted, please let Fr. Peter know by Sunday morning (email/voicemail) and he will let the appropriate ministers know.*

The Vestry of St. Christopher's

Christina Manning, Katy Dunlap, Richard Sellers, Robert Hall, Danny Gorham, Logan Foley, Liz Zubritsky, Darren Branch, John Olsen, and Chris Erbe.

The Staff of St. Christopher's The Rev. Peter K. Ackerman, Rector; Meredith Maple, Youth Minister for Teens; Nina Miller, Parish Administrator; Joe Bush, Bookkeeper; Joe Gabalski, Organist/Choir Director; Polly Colwell, Preschool Director

Everyone is invited to join St. Christopher's Church as we celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child.



Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th

*** 5:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist, This service will feature a Christmas pageant presented by St. Christopher's youth, and is geared toward families.

*** 10:00 p.m.** Music of the Season

Our adult choir and instrumentalists will share the wonder of the holy season through the gift of music, as a prelude to our late evening Christmas Eve service.

*** 10:30 p.m.** Festive, Late Night, Holy Eucharist with candle lighting. A traditional late night Christmas Eve Eucharist with glorious music, worship, prayer and singing by candlelight as we welcome the birth of the Christ child.



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Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist, Tuesday, December 25

*** 10:00 a.m.** A reverential service where we gather together to prayerfully celebrate Christ's Holy birth.

This Week at St. Christopher's

Monday, December 17

11:30 a.m. Preschool Christmas Pageant
12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Christmas Luncheon
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 18

Church Pre Christmas Cleaning

Wednesday, December 19

Church Pre Christmas Cleaning
1:00 p.m. Organ Tuning
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 20

Church Pre Christmas Cleaning
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Women's Discussion Group
7:00 p.m. S. Anonymous Meeting

Friday, December 21

Church Pre Christmas Cleaning
Christmas Flower Conditioning & Delivery
5:00 p.m. S. Anonymous Meeting

Saturday, December 22

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Christmas Flower Decoration
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Nativity Practice
3:00 p.m. – Pre-Christmas Cleaning by Ely's Cleaning Svc. LLC.
8:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, December 23 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Children's Sermon, and Children's Church (Nursery is provided)
12:15 p.m. After Service Advent Class in the Library
12:20 p.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal in the Auditorium

Mark it on your calendars:

- Sunday, December 30, 2018– The First Sunday after Christmas Day;
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols & Holy Baptism
- Sunday, January 6, 2019 – The Epiphany Sunday of our Lord Jesus,
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- Hypothermia Program – January 27 – February 2, 2019
Annual Parish Meeting – February 3, 2019 at 9:15 a.m.