

Feast of Lights with Holy Eucharist
A Celebration of the Epiphany



Christ Episcopal Church
Kensington, Maryland
January 4, 2026
5:00 PM

Blessed Sunday & Welcome to All

Whether at home or in-person, we are so glad you have joined us for worship this evening, especially if you are new or visiting!

Children of all ages are welcome in the service. We welcome little voices and exploration. There are child-friendly activities on a table in the back of the sanctuary should you want them.

All are welcome to receive communion. Instructions for communion are in the bulletin just after the invitation. ("The gifts of God for the people of God...") If you would like communion brought to you or a loved one, simply alert an usher.

Offerings

You may make a donation by placing cash or checks in the offering plate, or you may also give online via the link on our website, or simply scan the QR code below. We are grateful for your support!



All-gender restrooms are located at the end of the hallway off the back of the sanctuary.

If you are participating online, please know that you are as much a part of our worship today as those in the church.

If you can, please light your own candle to remind yourself that you too are a light-bearer and that the body of Christ includes you!

If you have the pre-consecrated sacrament at home, join in the communion after the invitation. In the future if you are joining us from home, and cannot come to the church to pick up communion during the week, please let us know, we will deliver some to you.

Welcome to all our visitors!

Please introduce yourself and if you'd like more information, fill out a visitor's card in the pew racks. You can also email Parish Administrator Jen Luna administrator@ccpk.org, or call us at 301-942-4673. We'd be happy to connect with you, and if you wish, add you to our weekly e-newsletter the Christ Church Connection. Visit our website at www.christchurchkensington.org.

**We are better for your presence with us today,
and would love to get to know you.**

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn #109

The First Nowell



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three



1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,



1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
4 and there it did both stop and stay
5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence



1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Opening Sentences

Presider Stay with us, Christ, for it is evening.

People **Make your Church bright with your radiance.**

Collect for Epiphany

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

all are seated – lights are extinguished

The Coming of the Light

The First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Light dwells among us

John 1:1-5

The Christ Candle is lit

The Gospel for Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

Customary responses are omitted

A Litany of Thanksgiving

After each thanksgiving, the people respond, **Thanks be to God!**

The Prayers of the People

After each bidding, the people respond, **Hear our prayer.**

Presider concludes with a collect

The Peace

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Individual candles are extinguished

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn #124, vs. 1-3 *What star is this with beams so bright*

Puer Nobis

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship

Presider 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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing:

The Sanctus *Santo, Santo, Santo*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the body and blood of Christ.

**Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.**

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Joseph and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

The presider breaks the bread.

Presider Alleluia. We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread. Alleluia.**
Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive communion at Christ Church.

At this service, we will distribute communion in front of the altar at the bottom of the chancel steps. Gluten-free wafers are available, simply tell your server. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. You may either drink from a silver chalice or intinct (dip the bread) in the glass chalice. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of receiving Communion, indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

We'd be happy to bring communion to you wherever you are sitting, simply tell an usher.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, you have nourished us at the table of life and hope. Teach us your way of peace, sustain us as we work for justice, and empower us as we proclaim your love to the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Magi by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead us into all the world as bearers of that great Light. **Amen.**

1 We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace bearing God's love and light to the world. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Postlude

*All are invited downstairs to the Parish Hall
for supper and the 12th night party!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS - January 4, 2026

TONIGHT! Feast of Lights Service at 5:00pm. Come experience the light of Christ cascading down the centuries from one generation to another...a truly memorable candlelight service. **...Followed by the Annual Twelfth Night Celebration!** Come downstairs after the service for a potluck supper and fun for all ages.

Love in Action: Reaching Our Neighbors

Monthly Food Packing at San Mateo Episcopal Church Join us **this week Wednesday, January 7** to help pack groceries for distribution to families in PG County, MD. (*note this is the 1st Wed. not the usual 2nd Wed.*) Meet in the Christ Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Hyattsville. Interested? Please let Deacon Sara know if you are coming by *Tuesday* morning so we can arrange carpooling. (sara@ccpk.org)

Do you want to give an enormous gift to your loved ones? Join us for the next gathering of **Prime Timers** (*in the prime of life no matter how you define it!*) at **Noon, Tuesday, January 13** in the Parish Hall. **We will discuss how to plan your memorial service.** Far from morbid, it's a great way to think about how you want to be remembered, favorite hymns, readings, and more! A conversation for people of any age. The Rev. Emily Guthrie will facilitate.

As always, we'll start with lunch. Bring your own, or order a sub (tuna, turkey, ham & cheese, roast beef, cold cuts or veggie sub - \$10). For more info, contact Bob Healy at 202-277-4306, roberthea@gmail.com or Anne Chase 202-277-5266 annechase1951@gmail.com. *If you want lunch, please have your order in by Noon, Monday January 12.*

Food Justice DMV assists our immigrant neighbors with essential food and supplies. Please **donate infant formula and diapers** to help. You can leave them in the hallway across from the Outreach board. Want to know more about Food Justice DMV? Contact volunteer Thea Kayne theakayne@gmail.com or Deacon Sara. (sara@ccpk.org).

Announcing: Second Sunday Carrot Collection at Christ Church

Every second Sunday beginning **February 8th**, we will be collecting carrots. Bring in **TWO POUND BAGS OF CARROTS** for our neighbors who need our support and love, ...and fresh vegetables. We aim to collect at least 200 2-pound bags of carrots to include in the monthly distribution at San Mateo. So... save the dates: **FEB 8, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 10.**

Bethesda Cares Sandwich Brigade Needs Volunteers: One Friday, Once a Year!

The Sandwich Brigade is looking for a few new families (or groups of friends) to volunteer - all it takes is one Friday, once a year! Here's how it works: You make 60 sandwiches and deliver them to Bethesda Cares on your assigned Friday morning. Bethesda Cares distributes them through their street outreach and to those who come to the office. This is a great family activity (all ages) and a valued resource for our neighbors. Full instructions provided. Interested? Please contact Liz Quinn at webethemom@aol.com or 301-775-2545.

Love in Action: Faith & Spiritual Growth

Christ Church: Connect! Begins January 18. In three one-hour sessions, we'll discuss where each may be on your faith journey, your inherent spiritual gifts, and potential next steps for you to take as you follow Jesus's Way of Love at Christ Church. **We will meet on three Sundays (Jan 18, 25 and Feb 1) from 11:30am - 12:30pm in the church library.** While meant specifically for newcomers, this course is open to everyone. It's an opportunity to attend to your individual spiritual path and to build community in a small group. Emily Guthrie and Andrea McGray are excited to lead the course. Childcare will be available in the Nursery. Interested? Reach out to Emily at emily@ccpk.org and/or Andrea at grow@ccpk.org

Faith & Science: A Three-Part Series Come explore the intersection of faith & science this Epiphany season! Led by parishioners Chris Ours, MD, Joan Centrella, PhD, and Ann Hagan, PhD, **the forums will be held Jan 11, Feb 8, and March 1 following the 10am service in the Parish Hall.** Over the course of the series, we will consider what it means to be human, created in the image of God and living in relationship with God and one another, in the context of scientific and technological advancements – and the life of faith.

Faith Formation for Children on Sunday mornings

Lessons and activities for Pre-K through 5th graders begin at 9:30 am on Sundays, downstairs. Junior Youth Group for grades 6 through 9 meets in the youth library upstairs.

Children's Chapel at 10:00 a.m. for ages 4-10. Children return to the sanctuary at the peace.

Nursery Care is available for ages 0-3 from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Want more info? Contact Children's Minister Ann Enkiri, sundayschool@ccpk.org.

Note no Junior Youth Group on 1/4/26. Resumes next week.

Start 2026 with a Bang and Bible study! Join the Sunday 4pm Bible study in the library or via Zoom. We always have informative and entertaining discussions! No prior preparation needed. Questions? Contact Lee Puricelli leepuricelli@yahoo.com

Lectio Divina, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Join us in the contemplative practice of Lectio Divina, combining scripture reading, meditation, and prayer. Lectio is particularly lovely and enriching in a group setting. Questions? contact Lissa Ramsepaul at: lissacr@comcast.net.

Love in Action: Racial & Social Justice

Mercy Team Support the vulnerable in the current political crisis. Join the Mercy Team distribution list by contacting Cynthia Mitchell at justice@ccpk.org or Thea Kayne at theakayne@gmail.com. This is the best way to find out about emerging needs, opportunities to work for justice and equity, and Mercy Team meetings.

Care Pod Ministry The Mercy Team has formed a "Care Pod" - a circle of care and support - for a family of four with urgent needs following the deportation of a loved one.

There are hundreds of families in crisis in our area. If you would like to have a major impact on the well-being of a family in crisis, please consider volunteering to be part of a second Care Pod. Email Thea Kayne for more information.

We raise to God those who are on our hearts and are in need of prayer

Friends and Family of our Community

All who ask for prayers through our website
Anthony
Bob (friend of Nachin Bone)
Bruce Beamer (uncle of Nina Upshaw)
Betty
Charles
Coley Beggy (friend of the Huffeditz Family)
Susan Best (sister-in-law of Jeff Taylor)
Steve Campbell (Uncle of Jackie Campbell Waidmann)
Moises Carera and the Carera family
Susan Catlette
Cecelia
Cindy
Eric Cozzens (son of Peter Cozzens)
Yvonne Dean (friend of Bonnie Douglas)
Kelly Doig (friend of Katie, Jackie & Katherine)
Daniel Epps (father of Cynthia Mitchell)
Gerald & Sandy Giddings (relatives of Liz & Bob Quinn)
John Godfrey (brother of Rena Godfrey)
Sandra Goldman (mother of Brad Christmas)
Gema Guarin (friend of Joan Centrella)
Rob Guzzon (father of a friend of Katherine Chatt)
Laura (friend of Betsy Robbins)
Doug Hanscom (friend of Emily Guthrie)
Lisa Harrison (friend of MaryBeth and Mike Etherton)
Earl Hill (godfather of Sean Quinn)
Terry Hodge (friend of Annie Seale)
Amanda Hoey (daughter of Anne Witt)
Bob Hoffman and his son Cornell
Floris & Rob Houston (friends of Joan Centrella)
John (friend of Mary Ellen Huzzard)
Nelly Jones (mother of Jennifer Jones)
Robert Kellam (cousin of Victoria Thanos)
Neal Klasky (friend of Lori Pujol)
Nancy & Pete Lane (sister & brother in law of Joan Centrella)
Abbi Livay (granddaughter of Ann Hagan)
Chris Lloyd (friend of Kitty Shuler)
Ray Martens (uncle of Roma Hart)
Martha (prayers for healing)
Maureen (friend of Donna Berkowitz)
Chris McCann (cousin of Katie Wallace)
Nick McGray (father of Craig McGray)
Meaghan Morin (Kensington neighbor)
Melanie Moxness (niece of Dwight Allen & Joan Centrella)
Miriam
Nicole
Julianne Paige (mother of Jason Paige)

Cabrini Pak (friend of Dwight Allen)
Dawn Porter (friend of Liz McLeod)
Vivian Puricelli (mother of Lee Puricelli)
Ricky Reeves (grandson of Pat Reeves)
Robbie (friend of Sibbie O'Sullivan)
Andrew Rupli (son of Brenda Rupli)
Lori Richards (sister of Lisa Albright)
Sarah Rosenbaum (friend of Helen Urquhart)
Karen Sechrist (friend of Liz Quinn)
Margarita Serrano
Jerry Sheard (brother of Liz Quinn)
Scott Sherman (brother of Sara Thorne)
Sr. Margaret (friend of Leslie Everheart)
Naneita Smith (daughter of Calvin Smith)
Ben Sudbrink (son of Emily & Bill Sudbrink)
Jim Tavares (brother of Phyllis Knight)
Rick V. (friend of Lori Pujol)
Mia Van Beek (sibling-in-law of Madison & Paige Chase)
Ronald Young (cousin of Patrice Whiting)

Those in our community in need of healing prayers:

Helen Paige Buck, Kevin Conway, Bonnie Douglas, Maggie Elgin, Doug Leavens, Amri Joyner, Jon Martineau, America Perez, Lissa Ramsepaul, Calvin Smith, Ellen Thomas, Helen Urquhart and Patrice Upshaw-Whiting; all caregivers; all federal civil servants and those impacted by funding cuts; and all who grieve the loss of a loved one, a relationship, a job, or a dream.

Those in need of continued prayer: Nora Buckley, Dorothy Clarke, Sara Cowan, Florence Crozier, David Dixon, Stephanie Feller, John Frohman, Ray Gardiner, Liz McLeod, Lee Puricelli, and Betsy Robbins.

We remember those serving our country: Clara Bartram, Alex Cox, Michael Cullinane, Alex Miller and David Hanna.

We remember those who have died: especially Kitty Shuler; Bishop J. Clark Grew II (father of Sarah Haskell); Alison Verdi; Tom Van Beek (brother-in-law of Madison Chase); victims of natural disasters; and those tragically killed as a result of gun violence and war.

We give thanks: for all in our parish who celebrate their birthdays this week, John Ward (1/5), and Leslie Everheart (1/5). Happy Birthday!
Have we missed your birthday? Please let us know!

Send your prayer requests to emily@ccpk.org

Staff

Rector

The Rev. Emily Guthrie
emily@ccpk.org

Parish Administrator

Jennifer Luna
administrator@ccpk.org

Children's Minister

Ann Enkiri
sundayschool@ccpk.org

Deacon

The Rev. Sara Thorne
sara@ccpk.org

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The Rev. Hope Christensen
hope@ccpk.org

Organist-Choirmaster

Dr. Theodore M. Guerrant
guerrant@umd.edu

Childcare

Mary Mutisya
Emmy Kahi

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Sr. Warden

Chris Ours
christopher.ours@gmail.com

Jr. Warden

Katie Wallace
katiwallace818@gmail.com

Treasurer

Peter Gergen

Asst. Treasurer

Ted Seale

Clerk

Alex Thomas

At large Vestry Members

Terri Clausen
Linda Daisley
Claudia Deane
Rena Godfrey
Aime Keith
Jason Paige
Sean Quinn

Property

Bob Quinn

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany Observed

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, spoken, *in person only*
9:30 AM Children's Faith formation
10:00 AM Children's Chapel, *Parish Hall*
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, *In Person & Live Streaming*
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
4:00 PM Bible Study, *In Person (Library) & Live on Zoom*
5:00 PM The Feast of Lights & Holy Eucharist, *In Person & Live streaming*
6:00 PM 12th Night Party in the Parish Hall.

Monday, January 5 – Office Closed

8:30 PM Compline, *Live on Zoom*

Tuesday, January 6

7:30 PM Holy Handcrafters, Library

Wednesday, January 7

8:30 AM San Mateo Volunteers meet at CC
6:30 PM Evening Prayer, *Live on Zoom*

Thursday, January 8

12:15 PM Midday Prayers for Peace, *Live on Zoom*
7:00 PM Lectio Divina, *Live on Zoom*
8:30 PM Compline, *Live on Zoom*

Sunday, January 11

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, spoken, *in person only*
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Children's Faith formation
10:00 AM Children's Chapel, *Parish Hall*
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist & Baptism, *In Person & Live Streaming*
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Faith & Science Forum, *Parish Hall*
4:00 PM Bible Study, *In Person (Library) & Live on Zoom*
5:00 PM Holy Eucharist, *In Person & Live on Zoom*

Worship Leaders

Lectors & Worship Leaders

Claudia Deane, Dwight Allen
John Ward

Ushers

Lee Puricelli, Donna Berkowitz

Musicians

Adam Gonzalez, cello
Justin Fitch, piano

Head Verger

Nora Buckley

Verger

Pam Prindle

Tech Ministers

Tom Tatem & Lissa Ramsepaul

Clergy

The Rev. Emily Guthrie
Rector

The Rev. Hope Christensen
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Sara Thorne
Deacon

Office Information

Tuesday - Friday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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