

Christ Episcopal Church

A Parish of the Anglican Communion

December 1, 2024, 8:00 AM

Empowered by Jesus to love, serve, and lead.

(Christ Church's Mission Statement)



**First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite I**

The First Sunday of Advent
Celebrant: The Reverend Ernest Galaz
Deacon: The Reverend Joseph German

Service begins at the Advent Candle

Deacon The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

Deacon We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

People **Today, we light the candle of Hope.**

The Deacon lights the candle.

Deacon Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved!

People **Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope.**

Said by all

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Shine in your church gathered today.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People **His mercy endureth for ever.**

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Summary of Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray ...Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke 21:25-36

People **Glory be to thee, O Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that

you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

The Sermon

Rev. Ernest Galaz

Nicene Creed

**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 (truly human).**

**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

At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: That we may come to recognize in our holy assembly gathered for prayer that Jesus the Christ is with us here to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: That God's coming into the days and years of our human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

The people may add their petitions and thanksgiving aloud or silently.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Confession

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

The Celebrant says

The Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace (All Stand)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Greetings and Announcements

Prayers for Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving, (Eucharistic Prayer I)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world;; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son, Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. The Body of Christ for the Body of Christ. Be what you see. Receive what you are.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

*The Altar Wine, Bread, and Candles are given to the Glory of God by
Mary Ellen Maatman in loving memory of her father, Gerald L. Maatman.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST – (friends, family and acquaintances of parishioners)

Pat, Barbara, Doug, Debbie, Judith, Kurt, Connor, Bruce, Bonnie, Cynthia, Robert, Mark, Linda, Greg, Cecelia, Chris, Rose, Kris, Jo, Dolores, Jean, Terry, Jimmy, Jeannine, Paula, John, Joanne, Bobbi, Dan, Bette, Beth

WE CELEBRATE THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Harry Conlin, Mary Fran Moeller

ANNIVERSARY: Katelyn & Steve Starkey

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I and 10am Holy Eucharist Rite II, the 10am service is live-streamed.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER, BIBLE STUDY, and SERVICE Every Wednesday, all are invited to join in a spiritually uplifting morning. **Intercessory Prayer at 10am; Bible Study at 11am** in the Rector's Office. Following Bible Study, the **midday service** is offered in the Chapel. All are welcome!

NURSERY CARE Nursery care is available today from 9:30am—12:30pm for infants to 3 years of age in the Acorn Classroom located on the lower level. De Anna Hickson, Nursery care giver. In an effort to continue to offer Nursery Care on Sunday mornings we need another care giver to work with De Anna. Anyone interested in helping please call the parish office or email rita@christchurchmedia.org

ADULT FORUM All adults are invited to participate in Adult Forum that follows our 10am worship service each Sunday and meet in St. Joseph's Hall. Upcoming topics...

Dec. 1 - Church Finances, Kurt Brunner and Geoff Kitson, presenters

Dec. 8 - Donna Liu, Center for Pastoral Counseling

If you'd like to present a topic at an upcoming Adult Forum, or if you have an idea for a topic, please contact Beth Termini 978-239-3937

CHURCH SCHOOL Church school is held immediately following the 10am Sunday worship service. All children 3 years of age through 5th grade meet in St. Mary's Hall. Church School ends promptly at 12:15pm.

YOUTH GROUP All youth grades 6 – 12 are invited to join us immediately following the 10am Sunday worship service. This Group meet in the new Meeting Room located on the lower level adjacent to the Butterfly class, from 11:30-12:15pm. For more information please contact Frank Mathews at kanefrank86@yahoo.com.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS - Parishioners have contributed to a devotional of daily reflections on selected "Advent Words," connected to the readings from the Daily Office. Each day's devotional reflection will be shared in the Friday eblast and copies are available at the church entrances.

THANK YOU

Celebrating 170 Years – As we reflect on our recent glorious celebrations, offer thanks to those that came before, passing on the faith and discipleship of our Saviour Jesus Christ. And so rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we rededicate and commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. With special thanks to the *Celebrating 170 Years* fund and planned giving donors, committee volunteers and all participants. If you did not receive a *Holy Moments* book, they are available at the Church entrances. Everyone, feel free to take a book(s) to share with a friend or family member. Keep God's good work going now and forever.

GALA FLOWER VASES – Thank you to those who returned the vases. Two are still outstanding. Please return to Christ Church office or kitchen. Thank you, Barbara Wilson

HOLIDAY OUTREACH This year we are partnering once again with Family & Community Service of Delaware County and Children and Youth Services of Delaware County in support of families in need of assistance with their Christmas holiday. Christ Church has agreed to provide gifts for 4 families with a total of 14 children. A little ambitious goal but our church family has always been so supportive in these efforts! I hope you can help us!

Program UPDATE: Christ Church's generosity is overwhelming!! All of the gift "trees" were taken and more requests to donate were expressed. As a result, we will expand the program to include a "family bag". The intent of the family bag is to include items to be shared including board games, and gift cards to various places including food stores, fast food and Target. All donations for the "family bags" should be placed in the box on the stage of St Joseph's Hall. Please mark them as "**family bag**". All donations will be sorted evenly amongst the 4 families.

All donations, both tree gift donations and family bag donations should be placed in the box on the stage by **Sunday, December 15** for delivery on Monday.

Any questions, please reach out to Laurie McLeod Weber at 610-496-6956 or TeamWeberL@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE All are invited to attend a Holiday Cookie Exchange on **Tuesday, December 10th 7-8:30pm** in St. Joseph's Hall. Our plan is to enjoy one another over a few light snacks, play a game of Christmas Trivial Pursuit and then exchange cookies around 7:30pm. For the cookie exchange, please bring a minimum of **3 dozen** of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies, the recipe, and a container to take your cookies home in. Please see sign up on the bulletin board and let us know of your attendance by Dec. 8th to help us plan accordingly. Hope to see you then for a deliciously good time! If you have questions, please contact Janet Riddle by email (janetriddle10@hotmail.com).

STEWARDSHIP – PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2025 Our thanks go out to everyone who has responded so generously to our 2025 Stewardship Campaign. If you have not returned your stewardship pledge as yet, there is still time. Pledge cards are available at both entrances to the church, in the parish office, or you can simply email rita@christchurchmedia.org with your pledge.

BLESSING BAG MINISTRY – ST. STEPHEN'S, NORWOOD Volunteers needed for food distribution every Friday night from 5-7 pm. We are there to assist patrons who come in for free food and essentials. We distribute pre-made meal's, produce, baked goods, Wawa breakfast sandwiches, and blessing bags. Blessing bags are for kids and contain meals for the weekend, breakfast and lunch. We also need volunteers on Thursday to assemble blessing bags. We distribute 100 + bags each week!! This is a great volunteer opportunity for all adults and teens. Any questions, please contact Deacon Joe via email josephagermann425@gmail.com

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES Offering envelopes are available for pick up in St. Joseph's Hall. Envelopes are in alphabetical order so please look for your name. You can save the church postage of mailing them by picking them up on or before January 1st.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

1 Advent, December 1

8AM

Altar – Rob Miller
OT, Psalm – Holly Cunningham
PP – Leslie Bullitt
NT, CB – Kate Zurick

10AM

Crucifer
1st Server – Ivy Comerford
2nd Server – Maya Scranton
Gospeler – Robert Miller
OT – Patti Davis
Psalm – Cantor and Choir
NT – Dave Klassen
PP – Marylee Bunting
CB1 – Caroline Lenderman
CB2 – Scott Scranton

Ushers

8AM

Leslie & Randy Bullitt

10AM

Ron Mecklin, Mayer

2 Advent, December 8

8AM

Altar – Peter Falcone
OT, Psalm – Ginny Davis
PP – Sandy McKeown
NT, CB – Steve Falcone

10AM

Crucifer – Frank Mathews
Torch 1 – Abraham Mathews
Torch 2 – Caleb McCarthy
1st Server – Ivy Comerford
2nd Server – Caroline Lenderman
Gospeler – Robert Miller
OT – Ann Haslanger
NT – Ron Mecklin
PP – Jo Trout
Psalm – Cantor and Choir
CB1 – Patti Davis
CB 2- Sue Welfley

Ushers

8AM

Sandy & Jim McKeown

10AM

Ron Mecklin, Jim Mayer

Weekly Calendar

1 Advent, December 1

8am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30am Nursery care
10am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:30am Church School

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3

Wednesday, December 4

10am Music Preschool, SJH
10am Intercessory Prayer
11am Bible Study
12:15pm Midday Service
7pm Choir Rehearsal
8pm AA Meeting, SJH

Thursday, December 5

1:30pm Sterling Holy Communion Service

Friday, December 6

Saturday, December 7

9am Altar Guild

2 Advent, December 8

8am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30am Nursery care
10am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:30am Church School

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Rector: The Reverend Ernest Galaz, frernie@christchurchmedia.org

Organist/Choir Director: Mr. Joel Lenderman, joel@christchurchmedia.org

Treasurer: Mr. Geoff Kitson, gkitson@christchurchmedia.org

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Rita Caserta, rita@christchurchmedia.org

Preschool Director: Mrs. Lori Crussard, lori@christchurchmedia.org

Vestry

2025

Heather Comerford, Preschool

Karen Mason, Parish Life

Robert Miller, Liturgical

Kate Zurick, Secretary & Communications

2026

Kurt Brunner, Rector's Warden

Rob Miller, Outreach

Patti Davis, Operations Warden

Stephanie Untz, Operations Back up

2027

Jo Trout, Hospitality

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

8AM Holy Eucharist Rite I

10AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

311 S. ORANGE STREET, MEDIA, PA 19063

www.christchurchmedia.org

CHURCH OFFICE 610-566-7525

CHRIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"Empowered by Jesus to love, serve, and lead."

