

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year A
December 21, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Celebrant The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing

Deacon The Rev. Vicki Knipp

Family Minister Lyssa Williford, Director

Verger Scott Cummings

Seminarians Christina Allen and Casey Clough

Music Ann Vail, Director of Music

Michael Davis, Piano John Cotten, Guitar St. Christopher's Choir

Visitors

Welcome! We are so blessed you've joined us for worship today. Please connect by text, email, phone. **Childcare** is available for Formation and Worship.

Restrooms

Church: near the Nursery. Parish Hall: to the right as you enter.

Fellowship

Follow the crowd after the service for conversation and treats.

wifi network | St. Christopher wifi password | StChristophers8724

Prayer Requests Please complete a prayer card and drop it in the offering plate, or contact our office by phone, email, or on our website.





The Connection enewsletter If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the office or scan the QR code with your phone.

Ways to support the ministry of St. Christopher's

Support the life and ministry of St. Christopher's. Contact the office for more information.

St. Christopher's clergy and staff will never ask for an urgent favor, purchase of gift cards, or other financial items, or your personal info via email or text. Please delete these without responding.



In Person

\$

Automatic Giving



Online



Online



Mobile



lext

Please remember to enter **pledge** on the memo line and choose **Operating Pledge** online.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Digital bulletins are on the home page stchristophersaustin.org

Worship Schedule (see also Connection)

Acolyte **Epistoler Flowers** Nursery Christian Athena Cathy C Rosemary Altar Guild **Eucharistic Minister** Godly Play Ushers Chuck and Guy Casey and Kathy Lyssa and Jayne Joyce **Fellowship** Vestry of the Day **Bell Ringer** Lector Debra, Heidi, Tina Gabbi Rob and Steve Cathy C

Sunday | 9a Nursery | 9a Adult Form. | 10a Children's Form. | 10a Holy Eucharist, Rite II | 11a Fellowship Monday | 9a Morning Prayer Wednesday | noon House of Prayer | 7p Online Compline Office | Mon-Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm | 512.288.0128 | office@stchrisatx.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

As the Prelude begins we invite you to you to finish conversations and find a place in the nave to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. [Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind: bid thou our sad divisions cease. and be thyself our King of Peace. [Refrain]

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 355

Hymnal 1982, #56

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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

During the singing of the Kyrie the children will follow the cross and return at the Peace

KYRIE

Hymnal 1982, # S 91

Lord, have mercy upon us. 3X Christ, have mercy upon us. 3X Lord, have mercy upon us. 3X

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BCP, p. 212

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. **Amen**.

(Please be seated for the lessons)

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

RESPONSE Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

The psalm appointed for today is from Psalm 80, please chant in unison.



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a | flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the | cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Ma | nasseh, * stir up your strength and come to | help us.

- 3 Restore us, O God of | hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.
- 4 O Lord God of | hosts, *
 how long will you be angered
 despite the prayers of your | people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of | tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to | drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our | neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to | scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of | hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your | right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for your | self.
- 17 And so will we never turn a | way from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your | Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of | hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.
- Glory to the Father, and to the | Son and to the Holy | Spirit * As it was in the beginning, is | now and will be forever. A | men

EPISTLE: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

SEQUENCE HYMN

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Hymnal 1982, # 265

2 "For know a blessèd Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 265

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing

(Please stand as you are able)

NICENE CREED BCP, p. 358

The Deacon says,

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, let us proclaim our faith in the words of the 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.

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.

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Loving God, you know our needs more deeply than we can ever know them ourselves. Open our eyes to see as you do, that we may know your peace and grace in our own lives. Bend our hearts through our prayer to know you and to love you more perfectly, as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Protect and bless your church in all its diversity and grant wisdom and strength to those who guide and shape its life.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion.

We pray for own church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Brian, and Hector our bishops, and for our whole diocese.

We pray for our parish, for Alyssa our priest; Vicki our deacon, Lyssa, our family minister, our leaders, and ministers.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help those who follow you to see in each other the fullness of Christ, that we might work together in joy to further your vision for our world.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shower your blessings on the leaders of the nations, that they might seek solutions to the world's problems through peaceful cooperation.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help us to be witnesses to your promises in our own communities, that your glory might be reflected through us, that all may know the possibilities of your loving way, and guard and protect all who will be travelling in this time of celebration, be present to those who feel alone or forgotten, and comfort those who are reminded of their griefs.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring wholeness to what is broken, relief to what causes pain, and healing to our illnesses. Lift up all who suffer that they may find peace through you.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer

Assure us of your loving care for those who have died and bolster our faith that we may be reunited with them again someday.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

You have loved us enough to take on human life as your own and to know our hopes and our fears. Hear now our prayers and fulfill them as may be best for us and all of this we ask through your Son, our Lord and advocate, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Deacon

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 352

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

ABSOLUTION

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated for the announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP, p. 376

Hymnal 1982, #72

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure;

and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

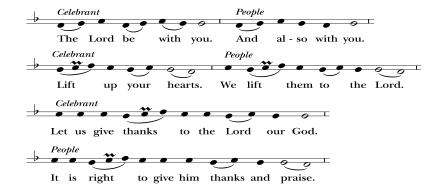
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name

Hymnal 1982, #380

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Please remain standing.)

SURSUM CORDA

Hymnal 1982, # S 120



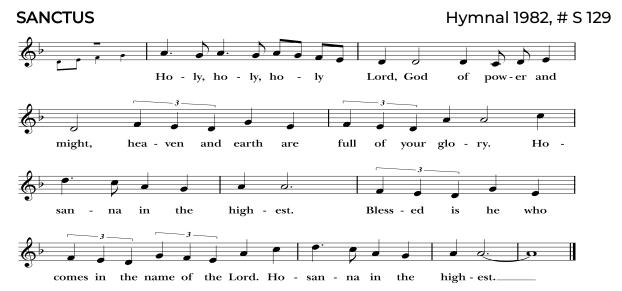
The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)



The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People say together.

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Christopher and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

GREAT AMEN

Hymnal 1982, # S 142



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

LORD'S PRAYER BCP, p. 364

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.

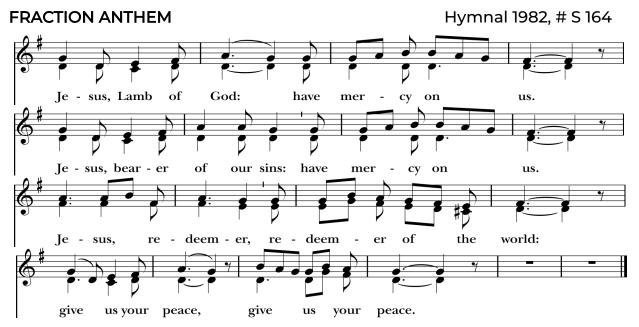
BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast.



Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available. If you would prefer you may receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Please ask an usher if you need communion brought to you.

(Please sit or kneel as you prefer after receiving Holy Communion)

Communion Hymn

Nova, nova. Ave fit ex Eva.

Tidings, Tidings Promise of Salvation

Communion Hymn

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night. Hymnal 1982, #266

Nova, nova. Ave fit ex Eva.

Hymnal 1982, #81

3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Communion Hymn

1 Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.

2 Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Hymnal 1982, #84

Bob McGee

3 Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine, love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Communion Praise Song

Emmanuel
Emmanuel
His name is called
Emmanuel

God with us Revealed in us His name is called Emmanuel

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 438

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age the same; his holy Name—the Lord, the Mighty One. 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by. Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word! Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore. Amen

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Thank you for joining us in worship today.

Please know that your participation
with us has been a blessing.

Prayers of the People are from Hear Our Prayer, Church Pub Inc. Kindle Psalm is from Psalter for the Christian People, Liturgical Press. Kindle The music in today's service was reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-7368, CCLI Copyright #1104703, CCLI Streaming # 21874931

Cover Artwork: Annunciation to Joseph – Sieger Koder

PRAYER REQUESTS

Your help is needed in keeping our Prayer List current. Please send any updates for the Prayer List to the office at office@stchristophersaustin.org

Prayers for Healing, Comfort, and Peace: Sally, Mike, Elizabeth, Bob, George, Finn, Hailey, Judy, Ian, Elena, Paula, Bobby, Mary, Caroline, Alison, Ward, Mary, MJ, Erin, Robert, Pam, Joe, Hank, Cheryl, Ray, Michael, Nick, Samuel, Nicholas, Jean, Nate, Rachel, Khloe, Emily, Jorge, Julie, Vanessa, Aly, Shannon

Prayers for God's Protection: Kenyon, Daniel, Cale, Joshua, Joyce

Prayers for Expectant Mothers: Pam

Prayers for the Deceased: Reynard, Robert



ANNOUNCEMENTS

See the Connection for more information or scan the QR.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal | Today @ 11:30a Mandatory rehearsal for all taking part in the Christmas Eve Pageant. Grab something from the Parish Hall and come back to the nave.



Longest Night Service | Today @ 6p

Many people find it hard to feel and be festive during the holidays. Whatever the reason, this service will give you a safe place to be genuine with yourself and others. There will be an offering of the sacrament of Holy Unction, the rite of healing by laying on of hands and anointing with oil for spirit, mind, and body.

Tuftons on Stage | Nutcracker | 21 @ 2p

We're pleased to invite you and your families to see the Tuftons in their performances in The Nutcracker.

Holiday Service Schedule

24th Family Service @ 5p

24th Candlelight Service @ 7p

25th Christmas Day Service @ 10a

28th Christmas Lessons and Carols @ 10a

Holiday Office Hours

Mon 22nd - Tue 23rd | 9:30a - 2:30p

Wed 24th - Fri 26th | closed

Mon 29th - Tue 30th | 9:30a - 2:30p

Wed 31st - Fri 2nd | closed

Upcoming Events in 2026

Women's Lunch | Jan 4th

Feast of the Epiphany | Jan 6th

Community Meal | Jan 8th

Vestry Installation | Jan 18th

Bishop's Visit | Feb 1st

Annual Parish Meeting | Feb 8th

Vestry Retreat | Feb 21st

Diocesan Council | Feb 27th - 28th