



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year A
December 25, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

Celebrant	The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
Deacon	The Rev. Vicki Knipp
Family Minister	Lyssa Williford, Director
Music	Ann Vail, Director of Music
	John Cotten, Guitarist
	St. Christopher's Choir

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are so blessed you've joined us for worship today. We hope to see you again.

Connect by text, email, phone, or guest card.

Childcare is available for Worship.

Restrooms

Church: near the Nursery.

Bulletins

Large print are available from an usher.

Digital are available online at stchristophersaustin.org

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 newsletter

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 Banking



Online



Mobile



Text

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

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

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 100

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 355

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please remain standing.)

GLORIA

BCP, p 356

The Celebrant and People say together.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD BCP, p. 212

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ:
Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence
behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for the readings)

THE FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

Psalm 98

The response is from Psalm 98, please read responsively by whole verse.

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

**2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

EPISTLE:

Hebrews 1:1-12

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 115

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
[Refrain]

Refrain
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

GOSPEL:

John 1:1-14

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Christ

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 115

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing

(Please stand as you are able)

NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

Deacon

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

All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in His light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

For the churches, which united they may be faithful in witness to your Son come among us.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion.

We pray for our 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, Casey and Christina, our seminarians, and all our leaders and ministers.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the leaders of nations, that they may turn from ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the poor of the earth, for victims of violence and tyranny, that their suffering be ended, and that they may come to know joy.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all families, that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this congregation, that we may be renewed by the light and grace of your incarnate word.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who have died, that their efforts continue to inspire our action and that they may rest in your care until that day when all shall rise again in your new Creation.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP, p. 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # 109

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

[Refrain]

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
[Refrain]

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 1982, # 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP, p. 367

(Please remain standing.)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

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)

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: ...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Celebrant and People say together.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, ...

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 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

Hymnal 1982, # 111

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 87

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King! Amen

DISMISSAL

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

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
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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

Christmas Lessons and Carols | Sun, Dec 28, 10a

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



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



In Celebration of Our Six Grandchildren
by Sally and Bill Corbett

In Celebration of Family and in Thanksgiving for all of God's Blessings
by The Knapp Family

In Celebration and Thanksgiving for Family and Friends
by Ann Vail

For My Grandkids, Charlotte, Sunny, and Parker
by Cathy Shuler Collins

In Memory of Roy Lee and Mae Beth Bishop
by Steve Bishop

In Memory of Larry Jenkins and Mark Jenkins
by Roberta Jenkins

In Memory of Robert Osborn
by Althea Osborn

In Celebration of Family and Friends
by Mary Lois and Michael Davis

In Memory of Francis, Gilbert, Charles, Marie, Gary, and Donna
by Mike and Kathy Berry

In Memory of David Brown and Sylvia Brown
by Joseph Brown

In Honor of those devoted to saving preborn babies
by John and Helen Green

In Memory of Thomas A Kirwan, Jr
by Nancy Kirwan

In Memory of David Williford
by Lyssa Williford

In Memory of Arion and Mary Nibbelink
by Mark Nibbelink

In Memory of Kenneth and Virginia Greenlee
by Vicki, Erin, and Kyle Knipp

In Honor of the Rappaport Family
by the Rappaport Family

In Memory of Joy Kelly
by Christian and Mateo Moore

In Memory of Ann Samuels
by Christian and Mateo Moore

In Memory of Maria Carmen Chan
by Annie Tufton

In Celebration of Liv and Lucy Emr, Granddaughters
by Tom Emr and Pat McDermott

In Memory of David Owens
by Colin and Alyssa Stebbing, Virginia Owens

For Derek and Joan Stebbing
by Colin and Alyssa Stebbing

For the Guillen/Velasquez family
by Linda Velasquez and Estella Guillen

In Memory of Connor A Smith
by Lynne Blaker

