



# **St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

## **SEEK SERVE SHARE**

### **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year A**

<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
<b>Deacon</b>	The Rev. Vicki Knipp
<b>Family Minister</b>	Lyssa Williford, Director
<b>Verger</b>	Scott Cummings
<b>Seminarians</b>	Christina Allen and Casey Clough
<b>Music</b>	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



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Text

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](http://stchristophersaustin.org)

## Worship Schedule (see also Connection)

**Acolyte**  
Renee

**Altar Guild**  
Carol

**Bell Ringer**  
Gabbi

**Epistoler**  
Avery

**Eucharistic Minister**  
Renee

**Fellowship**  
Alicia, Lauren

**Flowers**  
Poinsettia

**Godly Play**  
Lyssa

**Lector**  
Roberta

**Nursery**  
Athena

**Ushers**  
Chris and Steve

**Vestry of the Day**  
Joe

**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](mailto:office@stchrisatx.org)

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, 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

## 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, # 102

1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable,  
and His cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, and scorned, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 We like Mary rest confounded  
that a stable should display  
Heaven's Word, the world's creator  
cradled there on Christmas Day  
yet this child, our Lord and brother  
brought us love for one another

4 For He is our lifelong pattern;  
daily, when on earth He grew;  
He was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us He knew;  
thus He feels for all our sadness  
and He shares in all our gladness.

5 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
through His own redeeming love;  
for that Child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above,  
and He leads His children on  
to the place where He is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars His children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant leads the bidding prayer*

## BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger.

Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth, he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

## **BLESSING**

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated for the lessons)*

## **FIRST LESSON**

**Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25**

*God creates man and woman to live in obedience to God in the Garden of Eden.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

## **Hymnal 1982, # 60**

1 Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

2 In sorrow that the ancient curse  
should doom to death a universe,  
you came, O Savior, to set free  
your own in glorious liberty.

3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child  
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

4 At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

5 Come in your holy might, we pray,  
redeem us for eternal day;  
defend us while we dwell below  
from all assaults of our dread foe.

6 To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally.

## **SECOND LESSON**

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

**Hymnal 1982, # 53**

1 Once he came in blessing,  
all our ills redressing;  
came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
bore the cross to save us,  
hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still he comes within us,  
still his voice would win us  
from the sins that hurt us,  
would to Truth convert us:  
not in torment hold us,  
but in love enfold us.

3 Thus, if thou canst name him,  
not ashamed to claim him,  
but wilt trust him boldly  
nor dost love him coldly,  
he will then receive thee,  
heal thee, and forgive thee.

4 One who thus endureth  
bright reward secureth.  
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
from our sins release us;  
let us here confess thee  
till in heaven we bless thee.

## THIRD LESSON

**Luke 1:26-58**

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I

am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.  
Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.  
Here ends the reading.

## Thanks be to God.

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!

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

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!

## HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 265

## FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

*Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about



this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

Refrain

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

[Refrain]

3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
odors of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

[Refrain]

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favor secure,  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

[Refrain]

5 Brightest and best of the stars  
of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness,  
and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

## HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 118

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

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.

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.

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 100

## GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

*The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.*

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 100

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.

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon*

Heavenly Father, we are your children, formed and created for love. Give us hearts that see our neighbors as our true brothers and sisters, that we might care for one another as you care for us and hear our prayers as we say Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

We pray for all those who worship you in the church universal, that the good news might be proclaimed, lives enriched, and hands put into service for those in need, all that your name might be known and glorified.

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.**

We pray for our nation and its leaders, and for all nations, that you will be the guiding force that directs all decisions and actions for the benefit of all the world.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our planet, that your peace might prevail, that your love might win over all hearts. We pray that the abundance of this life might be shared with those who have little and that the plight of the persecuted might become untenable for those who live in plenty.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own personal needs and concerns, for those we love, for those we mourn, for the success of our labor and the needs of our own families, asking you to be present to us and to those we love this day and every day.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are afraid, who hunger, who are imprisoned in cells or by illness or addiction. We pray for certainty, shelter, food, liberation, and healing and for the peace of those whose needs are known to you alone.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer**

We pray for the sick and the dying. We pray also for those who mourn and those who offer comfort, for the release of fear and the increase of faith, and for our hope of life eternal lived in your presence.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

*The Deacon concludes with Intercessions*

*Celebrant*

Abba, Father, hear our prayers offered in the security of your love and grant them not as we desire but as may be best for us. **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

And the  
**Word**  
became  
**flesh**  
and lived among us

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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

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

*(Please stand or kneel as you are able)*

## DOXOLOGY

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

*(Please remain standing.)*

## SURSUM CORDA

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Hymnal 1982, # 109

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Refrain

5 Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and  
earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Refrain

Hymnal 1982, # 380

BCP, p. 367

Hymnal 1982, # S 120

## *The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 and join in singing)*

## SANCTUS

Hymnal 1982, # S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*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, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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, # S142



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.**

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # S164

*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

Hymnal 1982, # 112

1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

3 Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.



## Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982, # 324

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
in the Body and the Blood  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*(Please kneel or stand as you are able)*

## 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.

## BLESSING

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

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 107

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! 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.*

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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](mailto: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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

See the Connection for more information or scan the QR.

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

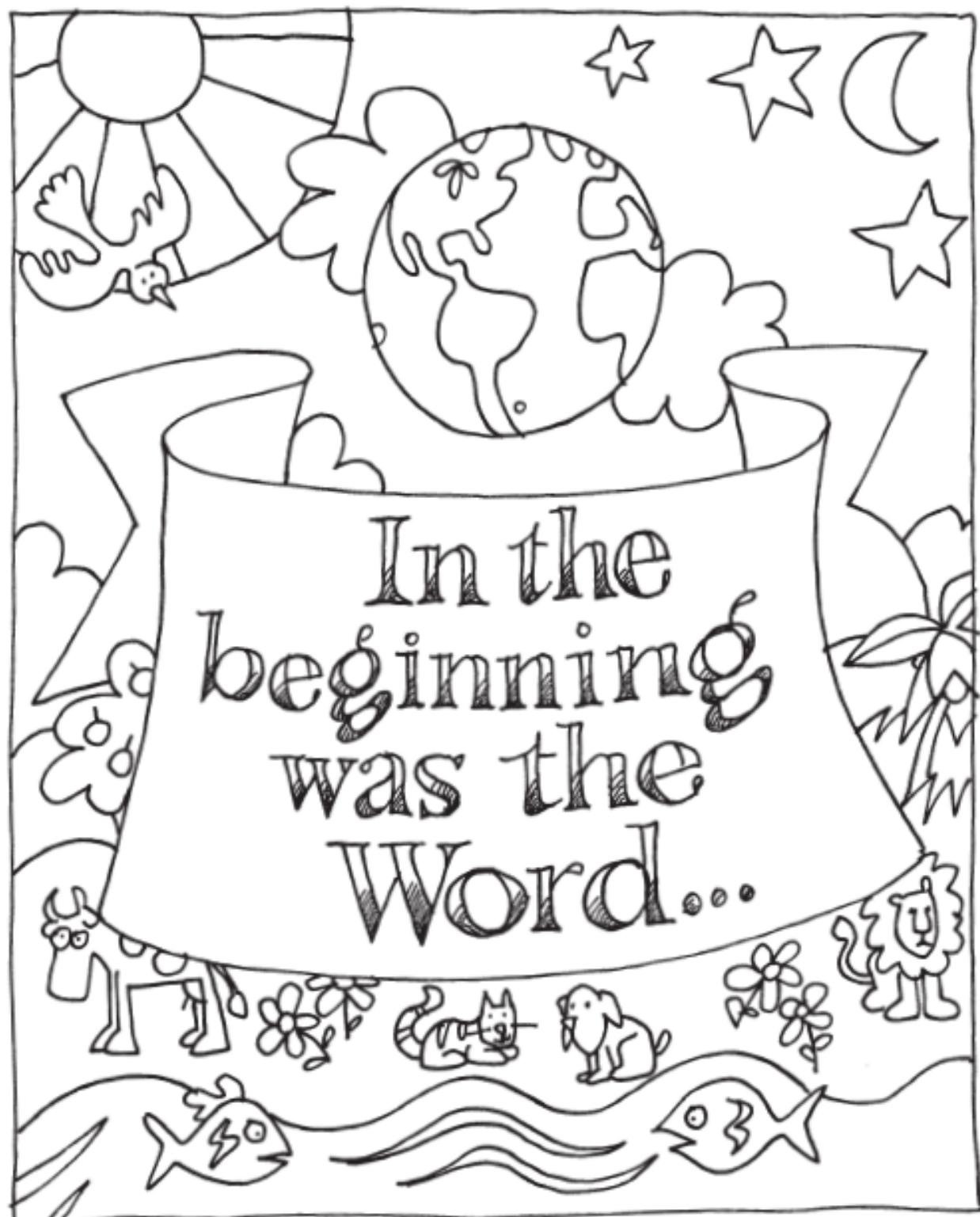
Bishop's Visit | Feb 1st

Annual Parish Meeting | Feb 8th

Vestry Retreat | Feb 21st

Diocesan Council | Feb 27th - 28th





In the  
beginning  
was the  
Word...