

CHRIST CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ASPEN



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023

Welcome to Christ Church! We're glad you're worshipping with us today.

Hymns and service music are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Text of prayers and lessons are included here.

Please join us for refreshments following the service, outside the front steps or in the Rowland Davis Hall (weather depending).

10:00 AM

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
The Book of Common Prayer, pp. 355-366

PRELUDE

T

he First Noel, arr. Joel Boyd

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the God: Father, son and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 56, O Come, O come Emmanuel, verses 4-8
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THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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**

GLORIA

Hymnal S-280, Glory to God

**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.**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Presider: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Priest says: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen. (Please be seated.)*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Presider: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN

Hymnal 68, Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!

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THE GOSPEL (*Please stand*)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:6-8, 19-28

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer

A period of silence will be kept.

THE NICENE CREED, p. 358 (*Please stand*)

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; we ask your prayers for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Kym, our Bishop, and Bill, our Priest; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We ask your prayers for members of our Christ Church Family, especially this day for Charla, Chip Howe, Lexi, and Betsy Warren. We pray for Jan, Robert, Diana, Brian, and Lynn Murtagh. We pray for the continued development of little Otto.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant says: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:

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.

THE ABSOLUTION

The Priest, stands and says: 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.*

THE PEACE *All stand.*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS / BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS / TRAVEL PRAYERS

GUEST SPEAKER: WYNN VALENT

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming, arr. Richard Walters
Giving QR code located on the back page of the bulletin

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 380 vs. 3, *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*
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**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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The people remain standing)*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Presider proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...etc. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Tune: Land of Rest

**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.

Hosanna in the highest.

(The people stand or kneel.)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...etc. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father...etc. ...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. **AMEN.** [*The great AMEN is said as a loud acclamation*].

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Please stand)*

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then the following is said:

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

After the Invitation, members of the congregation will be invited to come pick up the blessed elements, one per person, at the altar rail. Please come up the center aisle and return to your seat via the outside aisle. After everyone has returned to their seats we will all receive communion together.

COMMUNION MUSIC

What Child is This? arr. Bryan Stanely

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER, *p. 365 (Please stand)*
Presider and People: 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.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN **Hymnal 74**, Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God
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THE DISMISSAL

Presider: Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works,
and give glory to God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, Felix Mendelssohn, arr. B.C. Dockery

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE

***Presider:*** The Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer  
***Guest Speaker:*** Wynn Walent  
***Director of Music:*** Mandy Gessler  
***Organ & Cello:*** Mandy Gessler  
***Piano:*** Jackson Feaster

|                               |            |                |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| <i><b>Acolyte</b></i>         | 8:00 a.m.  | Tom Gorman     |
|                               | 10:00 a.m. | Donna Rowlands |
| <i><b>Reader</b></i>          | 8:00 a.m.  | Neala Young    |
|                               | 10:00 a.m. | Eric Pelander  |
| <i><b>Altar Guild</b></i>     | 8:00 a.m.  | Alison Ford    |
|                               | 10:00 a.m. | Donna Rowlands |
| <i><b>Greeter/Usher</b></i>   | 8:00 a.m.  | Stoney Davis   |
|                               | 10:00 a.m. | Jay Webster    |
| <i><b>Fellowship Host</b></i> |            | Peter Greeney  |

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THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!
In-Person Services are at 9:00A.M.
The Live Broadcast will at 9:00A.M. at ChristChurchAspen.org

GUEST SPEAKER: WYNN VALENT



Wynn first traveled to Haiti after the earthquake of 2010 to assist with relief efforts. He intended to stay for two months before returning to the U.S. for graduate school, but the powerful experiences he collected while supporting Haitian relief and development efforts stirred Wynn so deeply that he decided to defer his graduate studies and remain in Haiti. Over the course of the next two and a half years he lived and worked full time in Haiti, developing a deep appreciation for the importance of Haitian leadership and self-determination. Prior to his time in Haiti, Wynn worked internationally in Peru and Central America as well as for a non-profit based in Harlem and the Bronx in New York. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Government and Psychology from the University of Virginia, and more recently a Master's Degree in International Studies and Global Health Affairs from the University of Denver. Wynn has published writing in the Denver Post, Huffington Post, and Latterly Magazine. He is a proud father of two boys, Belony and Vladimir.

GIVING QR CODE



Open the built-in camera app on your phone. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears, it will connect you to our giving app. Thank you for your faithful stewardship and valued partnership in ministry.

VESTRY

Lindsay Gorman (Sr. Warden), Joel Shannon (Jr. Warden), Eric Pelander (Treasurer), Diana Rumsey (Clerk), Peter Grenney, Tracy Murtagh, Janice James, and Peter Harrigan.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Janice James, Neal Douthant, Wayne Stryker, Diana Rumsey, Tracy Murtagh and Jay Webster.

"Let your Light Shine through the Joy of Giving"

STAY CONNECTED

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The Sunday News Page

December 17, 2023, *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

We are glad you are here. If you are a newcomer, or a visitor, please fill out the *Welcome Card* in the pew or in the Narthex, and give to an usher. We would love to get to know you better.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/ 21 Johnny Stryker

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

4th Sunday of Advent– Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 A.M.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

4:00 P.M.: Candlelight Eucharist for families and children, with a special visit from St. Nicholas

8:00 & 11:00 P.M.: Traditional candlelight Christmas Eve Eucharist.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be closed, **Monday, December 18**, and the week after Christmas: **Tuesday, December 26** through **January 1, 2024** Merry Christmas!

FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us after the service at 10:00 A.M. on **Sunday, January 7**. Donations are appreciated and everyone is welcome! Some say it's the best breakfast in Aspen...come along and decide for yourself.

ON-GOING AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School and the Nursery are available on Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us in making a financial pledge this year. In addition every new pledge will be matched. Your pledge can help us build toward an even brighter future. May you **“Let Your Light Shine through the Joy of Giving.”** If you did not receive a letter in the mail, there are additional pledge cards on the Narthex table.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 8 A.M. at the Mountain Chalet

Wednesday mornings at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast and men's Bible Study. Email Warren Klug for details at warrenklug1@gmail.com.