

# CHRIST CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ASPEN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 24, 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

*Away in a Manger*, arr. Victor Labenkse

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 7-8**  
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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:* 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.)*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and

have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Presider:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 98:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**‘I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*

“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.

**No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.**

I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.

**My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

**He will say to me, ‘You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’”**

**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 LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL HYMN

**Hymnal 66, Come, thou long expected Jesus**  
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## THE GOSPEL (*Please stand*)

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1:26-38

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

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.

*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

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*The Little Drummer Boy*, arr. Todd Lowry  
*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

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming, arr. Victor Labenske*

## 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 57, Lo! he comes, with clouds descending**  
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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*, Arr. Victor Labenske

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PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

***Presider:*** The Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer

***Director of Music:*** Mandy Gessler

***Piano & Organ:*** Mandy Gessler

***Acolyte:*** Warren Klug

***Reader:*** Lynn Russell

***Altar Guild:*** Katrina Gallant

***Greeters/Ushers:*** Lynn Russell & Stoney Davis

***Fellowship Host:*** Leslie Boyer

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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](http://ChristChurchAspen.org)

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 24, 2023, *FOURTH 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/ 25 Joy Stryker

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

### **Christmas Eve Tonight!**

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 the week after Christmas: **Tuesday, December 26** through **January 1, 2024** Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

## **CHURCH SKI DAY COORDINATOR**

We are looking for a special someone to coordinate church ski days this winter. If you are interested please reach out to Joy Stryker at [joy@strykerbrown.com](mailto:joy@strykerbrown.com).

## **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.

## **CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING**

Save the date!: The Christ Church Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** between services at 9:00 A.M.

## **ON-GOING AT CHRIST CHURCH**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The sign up for Altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The florist fee is \$250 and comes with an inscription in the Sunday News page. You are welcome to make a homemade arrangement or share a day with someone. For more information please contact Siri Mytty, Parish Administrator at [siri@christchurchaspen.org](mailto:siri@christchurchaspen.org).

## **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](mailto:warrenklug1@gmail.com).