



### PARISH VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer

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

### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer**, *Priest*

**Mandy Gessler**, *Minister of Music*

**Siri Mytty**, *Parish Administrator*

**Leslie Boyer**, *Assistant Administrator*

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CHRIST CHURCH OF ASPEN

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## CHRIST CHURCH ASPEN



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2023**  
**8:00 & 11:00 P.M.**



## THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2023

### A Blessed and Joyful Christmas to You!

May the Lord fill you with joy in this holy season. We are glad you have joined us for the celebration of Christmas Eve. Our regular Sunday services are at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Visitor/newcomer cards are in the pew racks. Please complete a card and drop it in the collection plate, or give it to one of the ushers or clergy at the door.

**8:00 & 11:00 P.M.**

**Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

#### Prelude

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*, arr. Victor Labenske

*Priest:* Alleluia. Unto us a Child is born.

*People:* **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.**

#### Processional Hymn

**Hymnal 83, vs. 1, 2, 3, O Come, all ye faithful**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the Kind of angels;

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only begotten Son of the Father; **(Refrain)**

#### **(Refrain)**

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; **(Refrain)**

#### 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.**

#### Hymn at the Gloria

**Hymnal 96, vs 1, 2 Angels we have heard on high**

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

**(Refrain)** *Glo—ria in excelsis Deo, Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? **(Refrain)**



## Christmas Flowers and Music are Given To The Glory Of God

*Flowers are given in loving memory of*

*Nini and Bill Geary*

by Bonnie and Paul Grenney

*Music is given in the loving memory of my parents and*

*Flowers given in the thanksgiving for my family.*

by Linda Ho

*Flowers and Music are given in grateful thanksgiving for Christ Church*

by Eric Pelander and Evalyn Gates

*Music is given in memory of loved ones passed*

by Diana Rumsey

*Flowers and Music are given in loving memory of*

*Amy Malone Davis and William Guthrie Russell*

by Lynn Russell and Stoney Davis

*Flowers and Music in grateful thanksgiving for*

*our family and our Christ Church Community. Blessing to all.*

by Joy and Wayne Stryker

*Music is in loving memory of*

*Geraldine Dellenback and Campbell Lincicome.*

by Patti and Jay Webster





## ***Serving this Christmas Eve Celebration***

The Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer, *Presiding*

Amanda Gessler, *Piano and Organ*

### **8:00 P.M.**

Alison Ford, *Acolyte*

Tracy Murtagh, *Reader*

Alison Ford, *Altar Guild*

Jay Webster, *Greeter/Usher*

### **11:00 P.M.**

Warren Klug, *Acolyte*

Warren Klug, *Reader*

Alison Ford, *Altar Guild*

Kathy Klug, *Greeter/Usher*



## ***Altar Flowers Are Given To The Glory Of God***

*In loving memory of my Parents and Family*

by Diana Rumsey

*In grateful Thanksgiving for our Marriage and home in the valley.*

by Patti and Jay Webster



*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **First Lesson, *Isaiah 52:7-10***

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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

#### **Psalm 98**

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Truth shall spring up from the earth, \***  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before him, \***  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**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.**

### **Second Lesson, *Titus 2:11-14***

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Hymn**

**Hymnal 128 verses 1-3, *We three kings***

**1. We three kings of Orient are,**  
**bearing gifts we traverse afar,**  
**field and fountain, moor and mountain,**  
**following yonder star.**

#### **(Refrain)**

**O star of wonder, star of night,**  
**star with royal beauty bright;**  
**westward leading, still proceeding,**  
**guide us to thy perfect light**

**2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,**  
**gold I bring to crown him again,**  
**King for ever, ceasing never**  
**over us all to reign. (Refrain)**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I:**  
**incense owns a Deity nigh;**  
**prayer and praising, gladly raising,**  
**worship him, God Most High. (Refrain)**

*(Please Stand)*

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

### **Recessional Hymn**

**Hymnal 100, vs. 1,2,4, *Joy to the world!***

**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, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

### **Dismissal**

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

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

### **Postlude**

*Hark the herald angels sing, Arr. Victor Labenske*  
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**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. Silence is kept.*  
*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**The Invitation**, “The gifts of God for the People of God...*etc.*

**The Distribution of Holy Communion**

*All people who hunger for God are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Please indicate a blessing by crossing your arms across your chest when you come to the altar.*

**Communion Music** *Away in a Manger*, arr. Victor Labenkse

**Post Communion Prayer**

*The Presider says:* Let us pray.

*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.**

**Candlelight Hymn** **Hymnal 111, *Silent Night***

*Sing as directed, while holding candles.*

- 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!**
- 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.**

**A Solemn Blessing by the Priest**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**The Gospel, *Luke 2:1-20***

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.

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** The Rev. Dr. Bill Lupfer

**The Prayers of the People**

*Intercessor:* On this holy night as we come to give thanks to God for loving us so deeply that he made himself known to us in his son Jesus.

Loving God, as we celebrate the birth of your son Jesus, help us remember that in his birth you have given us the gift of yourself; and let your Spirit arouse in our hearts a joy so great that we know the wonders of your love and be filled with comfort, hope, joy and peace.  
-May we see in Christ’s birth your Divine light  
**-and rejoice with the heavens on this holy night.**

Gracious God, as we ponder the mystery and miracle of Jesus’ birth, give us the humility to offer to others the same compassion, forgiveness, mercy, love and grace you give to us.  
-May we follow your star and reflect its light  
**-and rejoice in your love on this holy night.**

Merciful God, comfort, heal, and give your peace to all who are suffering, especially those for whom this season is a time of grief. We lift up to you now those we hold in our hearts *[names may be offered aloud]*. We also ask that you guide and protect our nation and leaders, your Church in this place and throughout the world, our families, and all of us who are seeking to glorify you, not only with our words but with our lives.

-May we be transformed by your love and your light  
**-and rejoice in the peace of this holy night.**

*Presider:* Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of your son Jesus. May all who hear our words share our wonder and joy and set forth on a journey that leads them to you.

-In the name of your son Jesus we pray to you, O Lord.  
**-AMEN.**

**The Peace**  
*(Please Stand)*

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

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

**Welcome / Announcements**

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Offertory Music**

*O holy night*, Arr. Victor Labenske  
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**Doxology**

**Hymnal 380 vs. 4, 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 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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us, who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother, so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

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:

**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.**

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

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

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

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

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

*Presider:* And now, 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.**