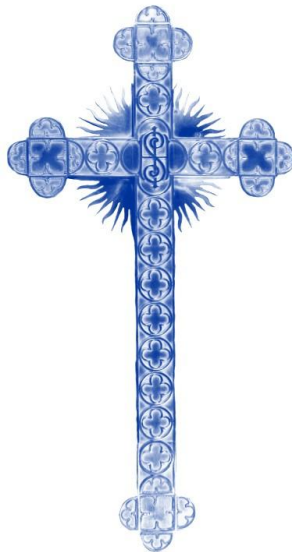


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

December 21, 2025 ✕ 10:30 am



The Word of God

Prelude

Die Hirten (The Shepherds)
Phil Sargent, bass-baritone

Peter Cornelius

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Light all four purple candles.

Reader: Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

People: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Reader: God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

People: **Amen.**

Reader and people: **Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.**

Reader: People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

People: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Reader: God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

People: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Reader: God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

People: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Reader: We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

People: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Hymn # 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Opening Acclamation

BCP, p. 355

S-86*

Kyrie eleison

David Hurd

*(Each is sung three times: 1st by the Cantor, 2nd by the Choir, Congregation joins on the 3rd.)***The Collect of the Day**

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.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn # 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

*Gabriel's Message***The Gospel**

Luke 2:8-20

Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Reader 1:

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.

Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

Reader 2:

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!”

Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

**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 host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

***Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!**

**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)**

Reader 3:

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.

Hymn	Hark! the herald angels sing (v.3)	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
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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!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Anthem **Away in a manger** **Cradle Hymn**
Cherub Choir & Alleluia Singers

(Cherub Choir & Alleluia Singers sing stanza 1; Congregation sings stanza 2)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven to live you there.

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

Hymn **Go tell it on the mountain** *Go tell it on the mountain*

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;

go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, through-out the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

The Sermon	The Rev. Webster Gibson
The Nicene Creed	p. 358
The Prayers of the People (Congregation response: <i>Hear our prayer.</i>)	
The Peace	p. 360

The Holy Communion

The Offertory		
Choir Anthem	The Best of Rooms	Peter Mathews
The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)		p. 361
S-129*	Holy, holy, holy Lord	Robert Powell
The Lord's Prayer		p. 364
S-158*	Fraction Anthem: O Lamb of God	Healey Willan
The Invitation		p. 364
The Communion of the People		

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Baptized Christians are invited to receive bread and wine; all others are encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

Kneel or stand as able.

Following the direction of the ushers, please come to the rail with pulpit side (right) filling rail from right to center, and lectern side (left) filling rail from center to left. As the clergy distributes the bread, hold both hands out and up.

If you need communion brought to you, please alert an usher.

To receive the wine:

- *To sip from the chalice: Gently take the base of the chalice and guide the chalice to your mouth. Do not grab the main part of the chalice.*
- *To intinct: Hold your wafer up to indicate intinction to the chalice. The chalice will take the wafer from you, dip the edge into the wine and return it to your hand.*

Those who wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

During Communion

Anthem

“Thus Saith the Lord/But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming” from Messiah

G. F. Handel

Phil Sargent, bass-baritone

Post Communion Prayer

p. 365

Hymn # 72

Hark! the glad sound!

Richmond

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Voluntary

* “S” Hymns are found in the front section of the hymnal.

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SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher – The Rev. Webster Gibson

Lay Readers – Joseph Wingenbach, Caroline Wingenbach

Prayers of the People – Dan Gloster

Lay Eucharistic Ministers – Sally Megeath, Leslie Harper

Ushers – Joseph Wingenbach, Linda Miles, Chris Francis, Jim Griffin

Acolytes – Lelia Wingenbach, Madison Truong

Altar Guild – Pam McKinley, Katy Schain

Livestreaming Team – Phil Sargent, Jody Wall

Leadership of Christ Church

Church Staff

The Rev. Webster S. Gibson, *Rector (Ext. 1)*

Jean Lin, *Music Director/Organist*

Margery Wingenbach, *Christian Education (Ext. 7)*

Garth Stevens-Jennings, *Family Ministries (Ext. 2)*

Noelle Creamer, *Communications (Ext. 4)*

Theresa Seitz, *Bookkeeper (Ext. 5)*

Steven “Tuffy” Whitacre, *Sexton*

DeLyn Celec, *Director of Alleluia Singers*

Marsha Baden, *Director, Cherub Choir*

Parish Nurse Team: **Rosalie Lewis, Susan Francis,**

Helen Zebarth *(Ext. 3)*

Members of the Vestry

Senior Warden: Barbara Downs

Junior Warden: Philip Sargent

Treasurer: Bob Puttock

Register: Betsy Young

2026 – Linda Miles, Philip Sargent,
Stacy Talbott, Dan Gloster

2027 – Ron Bellows, Barbara Downs,
Leslie Harper, Betsy Young

2028 – Martha Griffin, Eric Kalbaugh,
Robert Wilson, Mary Margaret Wise

Trustees: Wilborn Roberson,
Robert Mitchell, Pem Hutchinson



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
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