

# **The Third Sunday of Advent**

## **December 11, 2016**



<http://www.sacristies-of-the-world.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Advent-Wreath-week-2.jpg>

8:00AM

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Montpelier, Vermont

**Christ Church is a Christian faith community that welcomes all, worships together, transforms lives, and engages in God's work in greater Montpelier and beyond.**

## **The Holy Eucharist – Rite I – 8:00 am**

*We invite you to observe silence before the service begins.*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.**

**Show us the creative power of hope.**

**Teach us the peace that comes from justice.**

**Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.**

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice  
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**We will find what makes us joyful,  
And make that our gift to the world.**

Trust in God's good will for all of creation  
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.**

**We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.**

**We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

Salutation and response

BCP 323

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

Trisagion "*Holy God*"

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

BCP 160

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## **The Word of God**

A reading from the book of Isaiah

35:1-10

Canticle 15, *The song of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

A reading from the letter Epistle of James 5:7-10  
The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-11

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

Diane Holland

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

**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.**

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to the leaders of your church, that they may, both by their lives and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Barack our president and Peter our governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

BCP 331

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

*We encourage you to offer your neighbor a sign of peace!*

# The Holy Communion

*All are welcome to receive communion at our Lord's table!  
In addition to traditional consecrated bread and wine,  
consecrated gluten free hosts and grape juice are available upon request.*

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 340

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing,

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

**Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.**

**And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.**

**And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;**

**By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Fraction

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Alleluia!**

The Distribution of Communion

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 339

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost**

**assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

***Thank you for worshipping with us today!***



**Welcome!**

*Kathy Preis is our Lay Eucharistic Minister this morning.*

*Christ Episcopal Church's team of preachers reflects a variety of styles by bringing the Word of God to life in unique and relevant ways.*

*Your direct feedback is always welcomed and appreciated.*





## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**New! Generosity Abounds!** This past summer, we at Christ Church received a surprise financial gift from the estate of our beloved friend, Pat Carruth. We could almost hear her laugh in delight! ☺ In response to this generous gift, we decided we wanted to give back! The Finance Committee & Vestry (elected leadership teams) have voted to set aside a portion of these proceeds along with some other proceeds from the Susan Howland Bequest, to create a matching fund opportunity in support of the Rock Point Capital Campaign. We are pleased to report that this matching gift totals \$5,000.00! Anyone who would like to contribute to the Rock Point Capital Campaign can make checks payable to Christ Church with "Rock Point" in the memo section. When we have received the second \$5,000 in donations from our community, we will then send a check to Rock Point that will total \$10,000.00 as a total gift from Christ Church! Indeed, generosity begets generosity and we want to pay it forward! God is good.

**Worship Committee Meeting:** The Christ Church Worship Committee will meet at 6:30PM on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 in the administrative offices.

**Vestry Meeting:** A meeting of the Christ Church Vestry (elected leadership team) will take place in Monday, December 19, 2016 at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall.

### **Youth and Family News & Community Events:**

**The Angel Tree:** This year we are sponsoring another "Angel Tree" outreach ministry to support children and families in need in the Montpelier area. You are invited to take an angel and buy a gift for a child this Christmas. If you do take an angel, please wrap your gift and place the angel tag on the outside of the gift so we will know how to distribute your contribution. **Please return your wrapped packages by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> so they can be distributed to families in time for Christmas.** For more information or questions please contact Kate McCann @ kmccann@u32.org Thank you!

**Annual Montpelier Community Carol Sing,** Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 7:00PM, Trinity Church, Main St. Montpelier. Now more than ever, it's time to come together and sing! Please join us for this annual event in the sanctuary at Trinity United Methodist Church, 137 Main Street in Montpelier. We will provide refreshments and song books! Please bring your friends, family, your voices, and a non-perishable food item for the Montpelier Food Pantry.

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsals:** This Christmas, Naomi Flanders will lead our youth in a joyful rendition of The Christmas Story. The final rehearsal will be on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30PM in the Sanctuary. Our Christmas Pageant will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00AM Service and will be followed by a pot luck dinner. Please contact Denise Womer, Youth & Families Director at 603-545- 9488 or youthandfamilies@christchurchvt.org for more information.

**“Jingle for Jesus” Christmas Potluck:** On Sunday December 18th, following our 10:00AM service, we will have a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall. The Youth and Family Team will provide ham and a sheet cake. Please bring along your favorite dish and join us in celebrating this Advent Season. We will have a visit from Saint Nicolas and a craft table will be set for kids of all ages! All are welcome to attend this community-wide event! Volunteers are needed for setup on Saturday, December 17th @1:30PM and for clean up on Sunday. Please contact Denise Womer, Youth & Families Director at 603-545-9488 or youthandfamilies@christchurchvt.org for more information.

**Echo Valley Community Arts** will be presenting their annual dramatized reading of Dylan Thomas' famous poem, "A Child's Christmas in Wales." It is on Saturday December 17th at 4:00PM at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier. Take time out of your hectic Christmas shopping and come listen to this funny and beautiful rendition of a Christmas day. Suggested donation:\$10. Joining our cast this year is Bill Pelton, Cynthia Seckler, Elizabeth Wilcox, Miranda Scott, and Naomi Flanders. Tea and goodies will be served afterward in the front lobby of the Parish House.

### **Worship and Liturgy News & Events:**

**Christmas Poinsettias:** If you would like to remember a loved one or to give thanks for something special in your life, consider making a donation to purchase Christmas Pointsettias for the altar. Christmas flower slips are available at all entrances to the church. Fill out your slip and return it with your check to the office by December 18, 2016. Thank you!

**New! Advent Thursday Concerts:** Beginning on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing on subsequent Thursday's in Advent, there will be noon music concerts held in the Christ Church nave. The following is a schedule of these hour-long events:

December 8 Andrea Brightenback, oboe and Lynnette Combs, organ

December 15 Elisabeth von Trapp

December 22 "My soul praises the Lord": choral settings of the Magnificat

These concerts are open to the public and admission is free. Coffee/tea will be provided and guests are invited to bring a lunch. Any donations received will benefit the Christ Church Food Shelf.

**Prayers for Peace:** On Fridays, from 12:30PM to 1:30PM, the sanctuary at Christ Church will be open for prayer and meditation. All persons are invited into this holy and safe space, to offer prayers for ourselves and others, to receive grace and healing.

**Book Discussion: March by John Lewis** Continuing on Sunday mornings at 9:00am, the Sunday morning book study group continues to read and study the March trilogy by Rep. John R Lewis. These books are a history of the American Civil Rights movement. We will discuss civil rights yesterday's, today and tomorrow using other sources including Bible study and current American civil rights activists. Join us at 9:00AM on Sundays mornings in the Parish Hall. See Rev. Bob Meyers for more information.

**Social Justice Events and Ministry Opportunities:**

**Weather Emergency!** While VIA (Vermont Interfaith Action) works to “End Homelessness by 2020”, interviews with people in the Central VT community inform us that between 24 and 50 people are sleeping out in the raw weather locally right now. Apartment rentals are so scarce that even people with rental subsidy vouchers in hand, cannot obtain space, and the shelter is full. Can you contribute any of the supplies listed below? Please leave them in the labelled boxes at the church and they will be distributed by Another Way, Montpelier. For pick-up, call Rev. Beth Ann Maier 802-793-4234.

*Items needed: Camping Supplies, Warm Clothing, Personal Care Supplies, Communications and Connectivity. See our web page or our FaceBook page for a full description of the above items. Thanks.*

**Social Justice & Peace Group:** The newly formed Christ Church Social Justice and Peace Group will meet on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 in the administrative office. This group would welcome any friends interested in working together around issues affecting our community and the greater Montpelier area. Come join us!

**Sudan Communion** – The Sudan Communion is currently holding a fund raising opportunity during Advent. We will be hosting a raffle to raise funds for our ongoing support of the church of St. John's in Akobo, South Sudan. They are still struggling to meet the demands to become a diocese in the midst of continued political strife. The items we are raffling are: 1) King size duvet cover made from a panel stitched by the Mother's Union of St. John's 2) Gift certificate for 3 foot rubs offered by Martha Holden, and 3) Computer Repair service (Windows only) by Jamie Brooks. In addition, there are 3 pieces of artwork donated by Liz and Tom Slayton that we will be raffling off.

Tickets will be \$5 apiece or 5 tickets for \$20. Also, we still have packets of note cards for sale made from pictures of the time Martha and Deb spent in Akobo at \$15/packet. Tickets will be on sale after services during Advent.

**Email Distribution List:** If you would like to be added to our weekly email distribution list, please contact Dierdre Allen in our office to add your address to the weekly communications. Thank you.

## The Missions & Ministries of Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jackie Mills-Brown (802-223-2243)
<b>Choir/Music</b>	Lynnette Combs (802-371-5066)
<b>Christ Church Tours</b>	Joan Sabens (802-476-2040)
<b>Communications Team</b>	Kathy Preis (802-522-8219)
<b>Diocesan Representatives</b>	Virginia Catone (802-229-9898) Dave Simpson (802-859-9060)
<b>Discretionary Fund for Community Outreach</b>	Virginia Catone, (802-229-9898)
<b>Finance Committee</b>	John Jaworski (802-476-4942)
<b>Food Shelf</b>	Bill Beard (802-223-2137)
<b>Full Ladle Soup Kitchen</b>	Sharon Wilson (802-244-8037)
<b>Hospitality Committee</b>	Aldora Chamberlin (802-461-5527)
<b>Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Chalice Bearers/Lectors</b>	Steamer Walke (802-223-3632)
<b>Lay Eucharistic Visitor/Home Communion</b>	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234)
<b>Pastoral Care Committee</b>	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234) Kathy Preis (802-522-8219)
<b>Prayer Chain</b>	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234)
<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>	Maggie Thompson (802-454-4635) Rilla Murray (802-272-2663)
<b>Stewardship Committee</b>	Bruce Story (802-225-6343)
<b>Sudan Communion</b>	Deb Jerard (802-223-0531) Martha Holden 802-229-9036)
<b>Youth and Families Ministry</b>	Denise Womer (603-545-9488)
<b>Vestry (elected leadership team)</b>	Rilla Murray (802-272-2663)
<b>Usher/Greeter Ministry</b>	Jody Pettersen (802-522-6171)
<b>Worship Committee</b>	Rev. Paul Habersang (802- 223-3631)

*Would you like to get involved or learn more about these ministries? If so, please contact the persons listed so you can become active in our ministries.*