

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2017**



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10:00 AM

**Christ Episcopal Church
Montpelier, VT**

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 II – 10:00 am

Worship in the Episcopal Church involves body mind and spirit. We stand to praise and pray. We sit to listen and learn. We sometimes kneel in silent meditation. No matter which prayer posture you choose, we want you to feel comfortable in your own style of worship here at Christ Episcopal Church.

Prelude: “*Sleepers, Wake*”

J.S. Bach

Processional Hymn: #61 “*Sleepers wake*”

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Loving God, as we enter this advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection
For the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry,

We will go forth from this place in hope.

Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Salutation and response

BCP 355

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

And Blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

Trisagion S102

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is G minor (two flats). The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

BCP 211

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

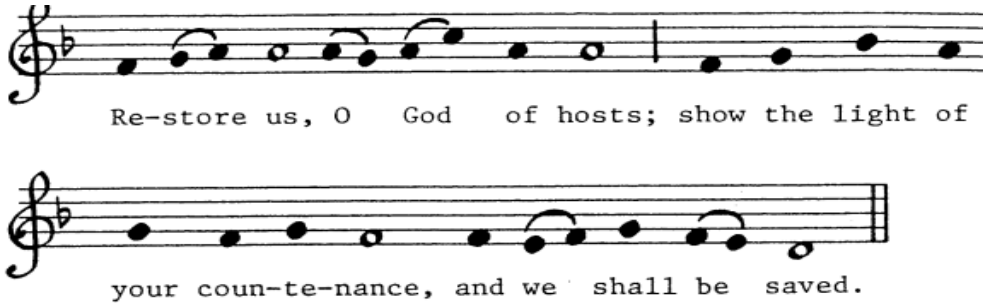
Please be seated.

The Word of God

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

64:1-9

Antiphon



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Antiphon

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
Behold and tend this vine
Preserve what your right hand has planted. Antiphon

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Antiphon

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1:3-9

Sequence Hymn: #64, "O heavenly Word"

verses 1&2

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

13:24-37

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Bob Meyers

South African Affirmation of Faith

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;
This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction;
This is true; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever;
This is true; For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given in whom authority will rest and whose name will be Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world;
This is true: To Me is given all authority in Heaven and on Earth, and lo, I am with you always to the end of the world. (Matthew 28:18)

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything;
This is true: I will pour out My Spirit on all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old folk shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:17)

It is not true that our dreams for the liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and this history;
This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23)

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit: give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Today we pray for: Ida, Ernest, Charlotte, Mary Helen, Bob, Sally, Evan, Maria, Ellen and for those whom you wish to name either silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in Christ, for all the dead, and for those persons you wish to remember either silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

And in conclusion, let us together pray the prayer to end homelessness.

An open door,

A roof above,

Safe homes for all,

In the power of love.

The Concluding Collect

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

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

Offertory Anthem: "Isaiah the Prophet" traditional, arr. Parker/Shaw

Doxology : Hymn: #397 Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
Eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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: S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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 Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem: S164



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Anthem: *“E’en Now Quickly Come”*

Paul Manz

Communion Hymn: #678, *“Surely it is God who saves me”*

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 365

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 #601, *“O day of God draw nigh”*

Postlude: *“Come, Savior of the Nations”*

Johann Pachelbel

The Dismissal

*Our Lay Eucharistic Minister this morning is Chad Wohlers.
Our Lectors this morning are the Sarah Hofmann and Willem Lange.
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.*



Christ Church Staff and Leadership

Paul Habersang, *Priest-in-Partnership*

Beth Ann Maier, *Regional Deacon*

Lynnette Combs, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Bruce Story, *Senior Warden*

Ted Long, *Junior Warden*

Denise Womer, *Youth and Families Director*

Kathy Preis, *Administrator*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

“Celebrating 150 Years of Doing God’s Work in the Neighborhood!”

UPDATE! Thanks to the fifty-two pledgers who have returned their completed pledge cards and a special thanks to those who have increased their pledges from last year! At this point in our drive, we have received over \$131,000K in pledges, but we have a long way to go. We are truly grateful for your support. Our stewardship season officially closed on November 19th, but we will gratefully accept your pledge. Thank you.

Free Thursday Noontime Concerts in Montpelier begin November 30th

The “Music at Noon” series at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier, continues Thursday, December 7, 2017 with: Poetry of the Season with community readers and organ improvisations by Arthur Zorn.

The series serves as a short respite in the historic sanctuary with local musical offerings. The public is invited to bring a bag lunch; coffee, tea, and cookies are provided. Each of the weekly programs are free, and a basket will be provided for non-perishable donations to the local food shelf.

December 14: Far and Away Trio

December 21: In dulci júbilo - Festival of Carols

For further information on the series, visit the Christ Church website at: christchurchvt.org or call 802 223-3631.

Advent Dinner Discussion: Thursday evening, December 7, 2017, 6:00-7:00PM. Rev Paul will be hosting and leading a light Advent dinner and small group discussion. The topic will be on the subject of holiness in everyday life. “Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around you. Every tree is full of angels. Hidden beauty is waiting in every crumb.” –

Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB. Where do you see holiness? How can we become more aware of the presence of holiness in our lives? Come, join us!

Other Ministry News and Events

“Take a Deep Breath” a 2017 Advent Retreat, will take place on Friday, December 8th and Saturday, December 9th. The Rev. Janet Brown will be our leader and Rose Bacon our chaplain and music leader.

This will be a silent retreat except for meals and worship (and for any who wish to maintain silence during meals, the Library will be set aside as a silent room). Silence begins after Friday dinner and announcements and ends with the closing Eucharist.

We look forward to joining you in a reflective, peaceful and rejuvenating time at the beginning of this Advent season. Please send in your registration (watch the deadline of November 24th). If you need financial assistance, be sure to see if your parish offers such help for spiritual retreats.

Please visit: <https://is.gd/rockpointadvent> to register. Thank you!

Community Dinner – December 9th

Christ Church will be hosting a Community Dinner next Saturday, December 9th, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. All are welcome. This is being hosted by Boro and Marija Popovic for their many blessings.

Christ Church Connections (CCC)

Christ Church Connections is a new ministry of mutual caring within this faith community. We promote connections by helping members in health or other personal crises (e.g., visits, meals, cards, prayers, home Eucharist). For the month of October, if your family or someone you know could use a visit or other help, please contact Ginny Catone. Ginny may be reached via phone at: 802-229-9898 or via email: vcatone@comcast.net

Bee Moulton Flower Fund: Would you like to dedicate fresh altar flowers to celebrate a milestone or remember a loved one? If so, just contact the office and we can help you select a date that’s best for you.

Estate Planning? Is God in your will? If you are thinking about drawing up a will or planning for your future estate settlement, please consider including

Christ Church in your will. This is way in which your lasting legacy will help us continue doing God's work in the neighborhood. Thank you.

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

Office Hours: Kathy Preis, our Administrator is in the office on Monday's, Tuesday's, and Thursday's from 9:00AM-1:00PM. If you would like to make an appointment with Kathy or with Rev. Paul, please contact the office by phone or via email: administrator@christchurchvt.org. Thank you.



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The Missions & Ministries of Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier

Altar Guild	Liz Slayton (802-229-0164)
Choir/Music	Lynnette Combs (802-371-5066)
Christ Church Tours	Joan Sabens (802-476-2040)
Communications Team	Kathy Preis (802-522-8219)
Diocesan Representatives	Virginia Catone (802-229-9898) Dave Simpson (802-859-9060)
Discretionary Fund for Community Outreach	Virginia Catone, (802-229-9898)
Finance Committee	John Jaworski (802-476-4942)
Food Shelf	Bill Beard (802-223-2137)
Full Ladle Soup Kitchen	Sharon Wilson (802-244-8037)
Hospitality Committee	Aldora Chamberlin (802-461-5527)
Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Chalice Bearers/Lectors	Steamer Walke (802-223-3632)
Christ Church Connections	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234)
Prayer Chain	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234)
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Maggie Thompson (802-454-4635) Rilla Murray (802-272-2663)
Social Justice Ministry	Marty Roberts (802-223-5506)
Stewardship Committee	Bruce Story (802-225-6343)
Sudan Communion	Deb Jerard (802-223-0531) Martha Holden 802-229-9036)
Youth and Families Ministry	Denise Womer (603-545-9488)
Vestry (elected leadership team)	Bruce Story (802-225-6343)
Usher/Greeter Ministry	Jody Pettersen (802-522-6171)
Worship Committee	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.