

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



<https://www.google.com/search?safe=off&hl=en&authuser=0&tbm=isch&source=hp&biw=1745&bih=>

8:00 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 I – 8:00 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.*

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 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 159

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **The Word of God**

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

BCP 702-703

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.

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1:3-9

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

13:24-37

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

The Sermon

Rev. Bob Meyers

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, and the participants in their ministries, 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 Donald our president and Philip 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. 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.

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

**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.**

Almighty God, our heavenly father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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!  
Gluten free hosts 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.

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 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!**

Distribution of Communion

**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

*Our Lay Eucharistic Minister this morning is Pat Dupont.*

*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.*

## **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-five 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 celebrate the more than \$132,000 we have received toward our goal of \$160,000. Would you consider contributing toward helping us reach our goal? Thank you.***

### **Free Thursday Noontime Concerts in Montpelier begin November 30<sup>th</sup>**

The “Music at Noon” series at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier, begins Thursday, November 30, 2017 with “900 Years of Organ Music in 45 Minutes” by organist and choirmaster, Lynnette Combs.

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.

**November 30:** 900 Years of Organ Music in 45 Minutes: Lynnette Combs, organ

**December 7:** Poetry of the Season with community readers and organ improvisations by Arthur Zorn

**December 14:** Far and Away Trio

**December 21:** In dulci jubilo - Festival of Carols

For further information on the series, visit the Christ Church website at: [christchurchvt.org](http://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!

## **Youth & Family News**

**The Angel Tree:** This year we are sponsoring another “Angel Tree” outreach ministry to support children and families 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 have all wrapped gifts under the Angel Tree by Sunday December 17th. For more information or questions please contact Kate McCann @ kmccann@u32.org Thank you!

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsals:** This Christmas, Aldora Chamberlain, Ethan Parke and Mike Ridge will lead our youth in a joyful rendition of The Christmas Story. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM in the Parish Hall. The final rehearsal will be on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30PM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to participate regardless of rehearsal attendance. Our Christmas Pageant will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00AM Service and will be followed by a Community Luncheon. Please contact Denise Womer, Youth & Families Director at 603-545 -9488 or youthandfamilies@christchurchvt.org for more information.

**“Jingle for Jesus” Christmas Community Dinner:** On Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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. All are welcome to this community wide event! Volunteers are needed for food donations, for setup on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @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.

**Christmas Flowers:** Would you like to give Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone you cherish? If so, please fill out a Christmas flower slip, located on the tables next to the bulletins at each entrance, and return it to the office along with your check. Minimum suggested contribution is \$20.00. Thank you.

## **Other Ministry News and Community Events**

### **Montpelier Community Gospel Choir December Concert**

On Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 4:00PM, the ecumenical choir celebrates over 20 years of song with an uplifting and exuberant program. MCGC shares a common desire to celebrate and honor the African-American choral tradition and its power to move us. The choir honors the many thousands of singers who brought this music to us through

unspeakable hardship and faith. John Harrison, artistic director. Reception and silent auction to follow the concert.

*Bethany United Church of Christ, 115 Main Street, Montpelier, VT. 4pm. Suggested donation \$10/\$25 for families. 802-778-0881, [vtgospel.com](http://vtgospel.com) or [facebook.com/vtgospel](https://www.facebook.com/vtgospel). Bring a toothbrush to benefit Bethany Church's new Good Samaritan Haven Winter Warming Shelter!*

**“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.

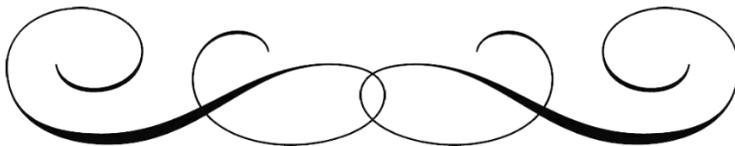
This will be a silent retreat except for meals and worship (and for any who wish to maintain silence during meals, the Library will be set aside as a silent room). Silence begins after Friday dinner and announcements and ends with the closing Eucharist. We look forward to joining you in a reflective,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

## **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 December, if your family or someone you know could use a visit or other help, please contact Kate Montross. Kate may be reached via phone at: 802-272-6434 or via email: [ktandme@gmail.com](mailto:ktandme@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:administrator@christchurchvt.org). Thank you!



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

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Liz Slayton (802-229-0164)
<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>Christ Church Connections</b>	Rev. Beth Ann Maier (802-793-4234)
<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>Social Justice Ministry</b>	Marty Roberts (802-223-5506)
<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>	Bruce Story (802-225-6343)
<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.*