



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • www.christchurchmvl.org
We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

*Please silence your electronic devices.
Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

The Opening Voluntary *Savior of the Nations, Come* Dieterich Buxtehude
Processional Hymn *"Savior of the nations, come!"* Hymn 54

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie eleison *Sung, standing*

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reader A reading from the Book of Baruch (5:1-9)

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader Here endeth the Reading

Canticle 4 *The Song of Zechariah* **Benedictus Dominus Deus** **Hymnal S 190**
Luke 1: 68-79

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Philippi (1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn *"Comfort, comfort ye my people"* **Hymn 67**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (3:1-6)

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Nicene Creed

Standing

BCP 327

I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all
 worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of
 the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under
 Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried;
 and the third day he rose again
 according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of the
 Father;
 and he shall come again, with glory, to
 judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord,
 and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father and
 the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son
 together is worshiped
 and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets.
 And I believe one holy Catholic and
 Apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the
 remission of sins;
 and I look for the resurrection of the
 dead,
 and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Standing or kneeling

BCP 328

Reader 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 men: 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 Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Bishop Mark, and all bishops and other ministers, that they may by their life 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 Joe, our President, Donald, our President-elect, and all those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, 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 *Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Linda, Betsy, Mary Ruth, Nancy, Mark, Morgan, Jennifer, Lucia, Will, Pete, Peg, and Dennis* and 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 of Sin

Kneeling or standing

BCP 330

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our
manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most
grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy
divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and
indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our

misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous
unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful
Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant

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

Standing

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may sit for announcements.

Offertory Anthem

Lo., He Comes With Clouds Descending

arr. Carl Schalk

All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer II *Standing Sung* BCP 340
Hymnal S 112

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant
It is very meet, right... evermore praising thee and saying, BCP 341

Sanctus Sung
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.

The people kneel or stand.
All glory be to thee... through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

The Great Amen *Hymnal S 118*
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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and people
Our Father, who art in heaven, as we forgive those
hallowed be thy Name, who trespass against us.
thy kingdom come, And lead us not into temptation,
thy will be done, but deliver us from evil.
on earth as it is in heaven. For thine is the kingdom,
Give us this day our daily bread. and the power, and the glory,
And forgive us our trespasses, for ever and ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei Sung
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*The Advent wreaths on the front doors are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Virginia S. & William R. Windle and Margaret W. & Thomas C. Webster, MD,
by Tom, Stuart, Win, Jessica, Evans, and Clay Webster*

*The Nativity Scene is given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
R. B. McCutcheon, Finley S. McCutcheon, and R. B. "Cutch" McCutcheon, Jr.
By the Family*

Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to St. Paul's, Salem. Pray for the people of St. Paul's, Salem, and their rector, The Rev. Ned Morris. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds, and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Upcoming Deadlines – details listed below.

- Angel Tree gifts in the Church office or Narthex by or before Friday, December 13
- Christmas poinsettia orders in the office by or before Monday, December 16
- ALL stock pledge payments for 2024 or 2025 are due by or before Monday, December 16
- If you have children or grandchildren who would like to sing during the Christmas service, please let Will Zimmer know (wilzim61@yahoo.com) by or before Monday, December 18
- Reading a part for Lessons & Carols, names to John by or before Thursday, December 19
- 2024 pledge payments or donations turned in by or before Monday, December 30
- 2025 pledge cards, turned in as soon as possible for budgeting purposes

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

If you wish to give Christmas flowers for the decoration of the Church as a memorial or in thanksgiving, please complete the red form in the Narthex and mail it to the church office, put it through the Church office mail slot or place it in the collection plate along with your check.

Checks should be made payable to Christ Episcopal Church, clearly noted "Christmas Flowers," and the cost is \$13.00 for EACH person or couple honored or memorialized.

ALL orders are due in the Church office no later than Monday, December 16th.

Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who removed an angel card from the tree the past two Sundays. Two-thirds of the angels on the tree are now in the hands of generous sponsors. Hopefully most if not all of the remaining angels will find sponsors this Sunday.

Christ Church is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club to provide Christmas gifts for local children in need. If you wish to participate, please take one (or more) angel cards from the tree in the Narthex and record that you have done so using the form on the podium next to the tree. **ALL gifts, with the angel card attached, are due to either the Church office OR the Narthex no later than Friday, December 13.** Instructions were emailed to you, but feel free to pick up a copy when you sign out an angel card from the tree. The Church office is not accepting money for this ministry this year. Thank you in advance for supporting this partnership ministry between CEC and BGC.

End of the Year - 2024 or 2025 Pledge Payments or Donations

Please have all pledge payments or donations into the Church office **no later than Monday, December 30th**. All stock transfers for 2024 or 2025 need to be made by **Monday, December 16th**. **NOTE:** Charles Schwab is our broker. Contact the Church office for trading information. Please email the office with all info for stock transfers at office@christchurchmvl.org.

Monday Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House. On December 9, we will continue in the fourteenth chapter of Luke, as Jesus offers a couple of different teachings relating to feasts. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is necessary.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, December 11**, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). Our program will feature live Christmas music, including sharing the history behind some of our favorite carols. We begin with socializing (and a food truck will be available) around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Blue Christmas - December 22

In a season often marked by joyous anticipation, Blue Christmas is a service recognizing that many of us experience grief around the holidays as we remember lost loved ones and mourn other differences between Christmases past and present reality. Fr. John will be joining Vicar Andy Taminger and Pastors Ryan Ware, Faith Weedling, and Steve Weedling in a Blue Christmas service at **4:00 pm on December 22** hosted at Christ Church, and all are welcome to attend.

Christmas Service

Our Christmas service will be at **5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24**. During the service, Will Zimmer will lead an anthem during the offertory, and he invites any children who will be present to join him. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to sing, please let Will know (wilzim61@yahoo.com) **by December 18**.

Christmas and New Year Church Office Closures

The Church office will be closed from **Monday, December 23 through Friday, December 27**. We will reopen on Monday, December 30, and then be closed on **Wednesday, January 1** for New Year.

Father John's Vacation

Fr. John will be on vacation from **December 25 through January 3**; there will be no Wednesday Eucharist on December 25 or January 1.

Christmas Lessons & Carols - December 29

Our 10:30 service on **Sunday, December 29**, will be the Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols. This is an opportunity to hear the fullness of the Christmas story from the Holy Scripture and to sing more Christmas carols than we can on Christmas Eve. If you expect to attend and are willing to read a lesson (even and especially if you are not part of the regular reading rotation), please contact Fr. John (johndavidadams85@gmail.com or 571-232-1294) **by December 19**.

2025 Pledges

To this point, we have received 44 pledges totaling \$207,630 for 2025, compared to 56 totaling \$221,220 for 2024. If you've not yet done so, we ask that you take some time to pray about your giving to Christ Church next year and submit your pledge as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the narthex or from the office.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for December: **Jiffy cornbread mix**. For the month of **December: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. *Grace has been experiencing a large increase in clients needing food, household, and hygiene items.* As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

St. Nicholas Appeal

A Message from Bishop Mark A Bourlakas: Our St. Nicholas Appeal will be directed toward the ongoing relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Helene, specifically relieving the food insecurity that is still affecting so many in southwestern Virginia and western North Carolina. Please consider faithfully how you might support this effort, either by donating online at www.dioswva.org or by mailing a check payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "St. Nicholas Day Appeal" marked in the memo to PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams

Reader: Jay Dickens

Chalicers: Hank Long, Natalie Coleman

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Michael Hodges, Ben Beeler

Camera Operator: Andy Williams

Counters: Beverly Lyle, Rives Coleman

Altar Guild: Team #2 - Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Ruth Foley, Rita Hodges, Michael Hodges, Valerie Payne, Linda O'Dell

Nursery Attendant: Emily Williams

2024 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Ben Beeler; Jay Dickens, Senior Warden; Beverly Lyle, Treasurer; Andy Williams, Junior Warden

Year 2: Betty Budde; Natalie Coleman, Secretary; Pat Russell; Will Zimmer

Year 1: Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman, LaRue Powers, Bob Weatherall