



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024  
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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

The Opening Voluntary                      *A Virgin Pure*                      Nicolas LeBegue  
Processional Hymn                      “O come, O come, Emmanuel”                      v 1, 2, 3, 4                      Hymn 56

*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.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reader A reading from the Book of Micah (5:2-5a)

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord  
People *Thanks be to God*

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) *sung in unison, standing* Hymnal S 185  
(omitting the Antiphon)

Reader A reading from Hebrews (10:5-10)

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord  
People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn *"The angel Gabriel"* Hymn 265

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (1:39-45)

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord  
People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon The Rev. John Adams

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, Peg, Dennis, Carleigh**, 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, **especially Patty Ann Trent** 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.**

*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

*Maria Walks Amid the Thorn*

*Medieval German Carol*

The Doxology:

*"Hymn 380 v. 3"*

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

Hymnal S 112

*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,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
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.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Breaking of Bread

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalice will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalice. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.*

Communion Chant

*The Lord shall give you a sign*

Isaiah 7, Psalm 19

Communion Hymn

*"Creator of the stars of night"*

Hymn 60

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

**Celebrant and people**                      *Kneeling or standing*                      **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 celebrant blesses the people.*

**Recessional Hymn**                      *“O come, O come, Emmanuel”*                      **v 5, 6, 7, 8**                      **Hymn 56**

*Celebrant*    Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

**The Closing Voluntary**                      *Magnificat*                      Jean Francois D’Andrieu

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Jody and Tom Lansinger  
by Lloyd and Gus Barber*

*The Advent wreath is Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Rives S. Brown, Jr., Lucy Brown Coleman,  
Betty Meade Cullinane and Richard A. Walmsley  
By Mr. and Mrs. James Coleman, Jr.*

*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 Christ Church, Pearisburg. Pray for the people of Christ Church, Pearisburg. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds, and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

### **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.

### **Monday Bible Study**

The Monday night Bible study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House. On **December 23**, we will read the parable often called the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) before taking December 30 off. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is necessary.

### **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](mailto:wilzim61@yahoo.com)).

### **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.

### **Food Lion Gift Cards**

Gift cards from Food Lion would make a wonderful Christmas gift or for the New Year's get togethers. We have the sleeves to put the card in. You can purchase these gift cards from Trippi Penn at the Sunday service or the Church office.

### **Upcoming Deadlines – details listed below.**

- **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**

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

Please have all pledge payments or donations in the church office **by Monday, December 30th**, to be included in your 2024 year-end contribution statement.

### **Stock transfers**

**NOTE:** Charles Schwab is our broker. Contact the Church office for trading information. Please email the office with all stock transfer information at [office@christchurchmvl.org](mailto:office@christchurchmvl.org).

### **2025 Pledges**

To this point, we have received 47 pledges totaling \$218,430 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.

## Angel Tree

Thank you from the Boys and Girls Club, the children, and CEC to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree this year. All 74 children will be receiving gifts for Christmas.

## 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](http://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:** Will Zimmer

**Chalicers:** Bob Bushnell, Tom Webster

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Cantor:** Raul West

**Christ Church Choir:** St. Christopher's Choir

**Ushers:** John Swezey, Ben Lewis

**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