



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 Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 4, 2026

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

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*Please silence your electronic devices. The blue Hymnal 1982 contains the music and lyrics of hymns, and the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) contains the full text of prayers.*

The Opening Voluntary     *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*     Dieterich Buxtehude

Introit     *His domain shall not pass away*     Daniel 7, Psalm 72

Processional Hymn     *"What star is this"*     Hymn 124

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

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

*The Celebrant says*

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.*

Gloria in excelsis     *Glory to God*     Hymnal S 280

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Reader**      A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (37:1-14)

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

**Psalm 84:1-8**      *Quam dilecta!*

- 1    How dear to me is your dwelling, O /Lord of /hosts! \*  
     My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of  
     the Lord;  
     my heart and my flesh rejoice /in the living /God.
- 2    The sparrow has found her a house  
     and the swallow a nest where she may /lay her  
     /young; \*  
     by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
     /my King and my /God.
- 3    Happy are they who dwell /in your /house! \*  
     they will /always be praising /you.
- 4    Happy are the people whose strength /is in /you! \*  
     whose hearts are set /on the pilgrims' /way.
- 5    Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a /place of /springs, \*  
     for the early rains have covered /it with pools of /water.
- 6    They will climb from /height to /height, \*  
     and the God of gods will re/veal himself in /Zion.
- 7    Lord God of hosts, /hear my /prayer; \*  
     hearken, /O God of /Jacob.



8 Behold our de/fender, O /God; \*  
and look upon the /face of you're a/nointed.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (1:3-6,15-19a)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

Sequence Hymn "We three Kings of Orient are" Hymn 128

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (2:1-12)  
People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord  
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon "Star of Wonder" The Rev. John Adams

*Ideas to ponder:*

- How do you imagine the star leading the wise men?
- What star(s) do you follow on your journey to Christ?

The Nicene Creed      *standing*

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.

A Litany of Healing      *Standing or kneeling*

<i>Reader</i>	God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;
<i>People</i>	<i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i>
<i>Reader</i>	God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
<i>People</i>	<i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i>
<i>Reader</i>	God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
<i>People</i>	<i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i>
<i>Reader</i>	Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
<i>People</i>	<i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i>
<i>Reader</i>	Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, especially <i>Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, Leon, Joe, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Eliza, Margaret, Ashley F.</i> ; that they may be made whole;
<i>People</i>	<i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i>
<i>Reader</i>	Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;
<i>People</i>	<i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i>

*Reader* Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;  
*People* *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

*Reader* Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;  
*People* *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

*Reader* Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;  
*People* *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

*Reader* Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;  
*People* *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

*Reader* You are the Lord who does wonders:  
*People* *You have declared your power among the peoples.*

*Reader* With you, O Lord, is the well of life:  
*People* *And in your light we see light.*

*Reader* Hear us, O Lord of life:  
*People* *Heal us, and make us whole.*

*All may offer their prayers at this time, aloud or in the silence of their hearts, after which the Celebrant offers a concluding collect.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

*Celebrant and people*

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses in body, mind, and spirit, and our need for your strengthening touch. We confess that some of what ails us stems from our own fault, while some is beyond our control. We turn to you, source of life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in you. Amen.

*Celebrant* May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Those desiring laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing of themselves or others may come to the altar rail at this time, or those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, who will tell the Celebrant to come to you. Please whisper to the Celebrant your name or the name of the person for whom you are praying so he may pray for the appropriate people.*

*The Peace* *Standing*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*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. During the announcements, the Celebrant will invite those who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this week (or whose recent birthday or anniversary has not yet been prayed for in church) to come forward so we may pray for them.*

Offertory Anthem

*"The Kings"*

Peter Cornelius

The Doxology:

v. 3, Hymn 380

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 D

*Standing*

BCP 372

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

*Celebrant*

It is truly right... glorify your Name, as we sing,

BCP 373 - 376

*Celebrant and people*

*Hymnal S 125*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

*Celebrant* *Standing or Kneeling*

We acclaim you, holy Lord... this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and people* *spoken*

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Celebrant*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

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

## The Lord's Prayer (People and Celebrant)

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.

## Breaking of Bread

Fraction Anthem

*Christ Our Passover*

Hymnal S 154

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*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.

*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

*"We have seen his star"*

Matthew 2, Psalm 72

Communion Music

*"In the bleak mid-winter"*

Hymn 112

*Once all have received, the celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people, standing or kneeling*

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 celebrant blesses the people.*

Recessional Hymn

*"As with gladness"*

Hymn 119

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*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*

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
Julia Hundley Potter  
from Becky Farrar*

**Discretionary Fund** – Today is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and the loose offering is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. All checks should include the notation, "For RDF".

### **Monday Bible Study**

Our Monday evening study meets in the Parish House from 7:00 to 8:00. On January 5, we will begin the Song of Songs, a collection of Hebrew love poetry. All are welcome and encouraged to join at any time; no reading ahead of time is necessary.

### **Twelfth Night**

At **4:30 pm on Sunday, January 4**, Lynn and Phil Gardner invite us to their farm (4064 Barrows Mill Road) for a celebration of Twelfth Night. Following brief prayers for the burning of the Christmas greens and the blessing of the house for Epiphany, we will enjoy a time of fellowship. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share; the Gardners will provide chili and beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks). You are welcome to bring your Christmas tree or any other greens you wish to burn. If you are planning to come, and haven't already registered, please let Phil or Lynn know.

### **Kings Grant Eucharist**

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **January 8** (changed to avoid New Years Day) and February 5.

### **Church History Class**

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the Reformation on **January 14 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**. This month, we will consider King Charles I, the English Civil War, and the Interregnum, during which religion and politics were increasingly inseparable. All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

### **Public Theology**

Public Theology meets on **January 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**. Stay tuned for details about location and topic of conversation.

### **Women's Group Meeting**

You are invited to join us in the Parish House on Tuesday, January 13, at 5:30. Beverages and paper products will be provided. You are encouraged to bring snack items for all to enjoy. If you plan to attend, **sign up on the church's website under volunteers or contact the Church office at 276-632-2896**. We are looking forward to our evening of fellowship!



### Altar Guild Available Date

We have the following open date for altar flowers if anyone would like to do a memorial in loving memory of... or in thanksgiving for... someone. It is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**January 25, 2026- The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Please note that funerals, weddings, and baptisms take precedence over scheduled memorials.

This date is for 2026 only. The date may be different in 2027 and in the future. Please let me know if you're interested and whether you'd like to continue your dedication to 2027.

**Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for January - March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). For January: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, and other hygiene items.**

*From Tracy Hinchcliff, Executive Director, Grace Network*

As we approach the new year, there are many families in our community that struggle all of the seasons of the year. But, your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Remember to pick up our assigned items when you visit the grocery store.

Thank you for helping to make a difference in 2025 for so many that are hurting. Your generous donations are essential in helping our mission and we simply cannot do what we do without your help. God Bless You All!

You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Ann Gardner

**Chalicer:** Natalie Coleman, Rives Coleman

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Chorister/Cantor:** Raul West

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

**Ushers:** Trippi Penn, Pete Scouras

**Camera Operator:** Andy Williams

**Counters:** Bob Bushnell, Kyle Trent

**Altar Guild:** Team #5 - Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens,  
Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

**Nursery Attendants:** Caroline Davis

### **2026 Christ Church Vestry**

**Year 3:** Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers,  
Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden

**Year 2:** Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges; Secretary, Steve Keyser

**Year 1:** Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, Ron Probst