



# 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.*

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

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

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

The Opening Voluntary     *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*     Johann Pachelbel

Processional Hymn     *"The people who in darkness"*     Hymn 126

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

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.

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.

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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:1-4)

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Psalm 27:1, 5-13 *Dominus illuminatio*

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then /shall I /fear? \*  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then /shall I be a/fraid?
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;  
one /thing I /seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord /all the days of my /life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the/ Lord \*  
and to /seek him in his /“temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe/ in his/ shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me /high upon a /rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts /up my /head \*  
above my /enemies round a/bout me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds /of great /gladness; \*  
I will sing and make/ music to the /Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, /when I /call; \*  
have mercy on /me and answer /me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say,/ "Seek my /face." \*  
Your face,/ Lord, will I /seek.
- 12 Hide not your /face from /me, \*  
nor turn away your /servant in dis/pleasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;  
cast me /not a/way; \*  
do not forsake me, O /God of my sal/vation.

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth (1:10-18)

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of

S 214

Ray Francis Brown  
(1897-1965)



you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Sequence Hymn      "They cast their nets in Galilee"      Hymn 661

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (14:12-23)  
*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

The Sermon "Fish stories" The Rev. John Adams

## *Ideas to ponder*

- What experiences or images come to mind with the word 'fishing'?
- What stories do you have of fishing for people?

## 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.

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,

## "Fish stories"

The Rev. John Adams

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.

### The Prayers of the People Form III

*Standing or kneeling*

BCP 387

Reader      Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*People*      ***That we all may be one.***

Reader      Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*People*      ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

Reader      We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People*      ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Reader      We pray for Donald, our President, and all who govern and hold authority in  
the nations of the world;  
*People*      ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Reader      Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*People*      ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Reader      Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*People*      ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Reader      Give to the departed; ***especially Milton***, eternal rest;  
*People*      ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Reader      We praise you for all your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People*      ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Reader      Let us pray for our own needs and those of others; especially ***Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, Leon, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Mattie, Audrey Grace, Dorothy, and the Barber family.***

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

### Confession of Sin

*Kneeling or standing*

BCP 360

Celebrant      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## *Celebrant and People*

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.

*Celebrant* 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 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

## *“O Star of Beauty”*

Rob Glover

## 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 A

### *Standing*

BCP 361

*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.

## Celebrant

BCP 361-362

It is right... proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Hymnal S 125

*Celebrant*

*Kneeling or standing*

*BCP 362-363*

Holy and gracious Father: ... do this in remembrance of me. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Hymnal S 132

*Celebrant*

*Kneeling or standing*

*BCP 363*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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	"Follow me"	Matthew 4, Psalm 119
Communion Music	"I come with joy to meet my Lord"	Hymn 304
Once all have received, the celebrant says Let us pray.		
Celebrant and people	Kneeling or standing	BCP 366
<b>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.</b>		
The celebrant blesses the people.		
Recessional Hymn	"Thy strong word did cleave the darkness"	Hymn 381
Celebrant	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.	
People	Thanks be to God.	
The Closing Voluntary	The Star Proclaims the King is Here	Kaspar Othmayr
No flowers		

### 2025 Pledges

If you're making a 2025 pledge payment, please specify "2025 pledge" in the memo line on your check. All checks not marked will be deposited to the 2026 pledge payments.

### 2026 Pledges

To this point, we have received 50 pledges totaling \$218,750 for 2026, compared to 54 totaling \$234,410 for 2025. Thank you! If you have not yet done so, we ask that you take some time to pray about your giving to Christ Church this year and submit your pledge as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or from the office.

### Monday Bible Study

Our Monday evening study meets in the Parish House from 7:00 to 8:00. On January 26, we will continue the Song of Songs, a collection of Hebrew love poetry, beginning with chapter 6. All are welcome and encouraged to join at any time; no reading ahead of time is necessary.

### Loaves & Fishes

Ron Probst and Kelly Cain have graciously volunteered to serve as L&F leaders. Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) resumes on January 28, with dinner being served from 5:00 to 6:00. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Sign up on our website under volunteers or contact the Church office.**

### Mark Your Calendars

On February 17 (Shrove Tuesday), we will have Supper and Trivia Night in the Undercroft; more details as the month progresses.

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. 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.

As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. **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:** Susan Critz

**Chalice:** Jay Dickens, Tom Webster

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Chorister/Cantor:** Raul West

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

**Ushers:** Rives Coleman, John Swezey

**Camera Operator:**

**Counters:** Linda O'Dell, Kelly Cain

**Altar Guild:** Team #5 - Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens,

Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

**Nursery Attendant:** 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

**Let Father John or Deborah know if someone needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.**