



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 after the Epiphany: Council Sunday

February 1, 2026

10:30 A.M. Morning Prayer, Rite II

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*Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

The Opening Voluntary	<i>Prelude and Fugue in G Minor</i>	J. S. Bach
Introit	<i>"Blessed are the peacemakers"</i>	Matthew 5, Psalm 34
Processional Hymn	<i>"In the cross of Christ I glory" (vs. 1-4)</i>	Hymn 441

*Officiant:*

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling:*

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.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
*Amen.*

**Invitatory and Psalter** *All stand*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

**People:** *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Officiant and People:*

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.***

Officiant: The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Hymnal S 35

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Psalm 15** *Domine, quis habitabit?*

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

**Reader**                      **A Reading from the Prophet Micah (6:1-8)**

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**Reader:**        The Word of the Lord.

**People:**        *Thanks be to God.*

**The Third Song of Isaiah**        *"Arise, shine, for your light has come"*                      **Hymnal S 227**

**Reader**                      **A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth (1:18-31)**

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**Reader:**        The Word of the Lord.

**People:**        *Thanks be to God.*

**Nunc dimittis**                      *"Lord God, you have set your servant free"*                      **Hymn 499**

**Officiant**                      **A Reading from the Book of Matthew (5:1-12)**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Officiant

Hank Long

The Apostles' Creed      Officiant and People *spoken*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of  
the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father.

He will come again to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer (Officiant 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.

Suffrage B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless  
your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and  
always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have  
mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship and faith. Bless our incoming Bishop and other clergy, and all of our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Pray for the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Offertory Anthem

The Doxology:

Hymn 380 verse 3

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 General Thanksgiving

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you  
humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-  
kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation,  
preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable  
love  
in the redemption of the world by our  
Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope

of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an  
awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may  
show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our  
days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages.  
**Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

*"Sing, my soul, his wondrous love"*

Hymn 467

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

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

The Closing Voluntary

*"Toccata in C"*

Johann Pachelbel

*No flowers this Sunday*

Prayer list: Please pray for Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, Leon, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Mattie, Audrey Grace. Please keep Fr. John, Rives Coleman, and Jay Dickens in your prayers as they join clergy, laity, and youth from across this corner of Virginia in taking counsel for the renewal and mission of the Church.

#### Monday Bible Study

Our Monday evening study meets in the Parish House from 7:00 to 8:00. On **February 2**, 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.

#### 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 **February 5** and **March 5**.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **February - March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). For February: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapper), 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!

Officiant: Hank Long

Reader: Kelly Cain

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers:

Camera Operator:

Counters: Bob Weatherall

Altar Guild: Team #1 - Beth Sibbick, Stuart Webster, LaRue Powers,  
Jane Thomasson, Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick

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