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 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Annual Meeting
November 15, 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. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

The Opening Voluntary *"Ciacona in F"* Johann Pachelbel

Processional Hymn *"Not here for high and holy things"* Hymn 9

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:
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.***

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Reader A reading from the Book of Judges (4:1-7)

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

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

Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*



1 To you I lift /up my /eyes, *
to you /enthroned in the /heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand /of their /masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the/ hand of her mis/tress,

3 So our eyes look to the/ Lord our/ God, *
until /he show us his/ mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O /Lord, have/ mercy, *
for we have had /more than enough of con/tempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the/ indolent /rich, *
and of the de/rision of the /proud.

Reader A reading from the First Book of Thessalonians (5:1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Sequence Hymn *"Rise up, ye saints of God!"* **Hymn 551**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (25:14-30)
People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

The Sermon *"Pilgrims for mercy"* The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- What do you know about or have you experienced of pilgrimage?
- Has God ever called to come together with others to address a problem you couldn't solve alone?

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.

The Prayers of the People Form IV BCP 388

Reader Let us pray for the Church and for the world. (*Pause*) Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Reader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Reader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Reader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Reader Comfort and heal *Sue, Julia, Mallory, Ginger C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A., Valerie B., LaRue, Jean, Nancy, Honore, James H., Chase I.,* and all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Reader We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

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 Sing to the Lord Most High* Robert J. Powell

The Doxology: v. 3, Hymn 380

All: Praise God, from whom all blessing 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.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant BCP 361-362

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

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

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 Hymnal S 132

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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.

Fraction Anthem *(sung in unison)* 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 chalicer 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 chalicer. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.

Communion Chant *Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord* Matthew 25, Psalm 119

Communion Hymn *Humbly I adore thee* Hymn 314

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people *Kneeling or standing* BCP 365

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 *"Come, labor on"* Hymn 541

Priest: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*
People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Closing Voluntary *Prelude in F* J. S. Bach

We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Altar Flowers
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Charles M. Hart, Jr.
By Lucy Hart Davis

We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Narthex Flowers
Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for
Morgan Holland on his birthday
by his Children and Grandchildren

Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to Trinity Boonsboro, Lynchburg. Pray today for the people of Trinty Boonsboro, Lynchburg and their rector, the Rev. Gail Goldsmith. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

Stewardship

The 2027 pledge campaign is underway. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please get one from the narthex (church entrance area) or office. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support to Christ Church for 2027 and return your pledge in the offering plate or to the office as soon as you are comfortable doing so. During the service on November 15, Fr. John will offer a special prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts that have been pledged.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place after the 10:30 service on November 15, with lunch provided. In addition to discussing our ongoing efforts to improve the grounds and offer more fellowship opportunities, we will consider the current state of the finances and elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry.

Monday Bible Study

Our study of the Revelation to John of Patmos continues on November 16 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Parish House. No reading in advance is required, and all are welcome at any time.

Thanksgiving Holiday
There will be no Monday Bible Study on November 23 or Wednesday Eucharist on November 25, and the Office will be closed Thursday and Friday (November 26 and 27).

The First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 29 is open for altar flowers if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of… in honor of… or in thanksgiving for… someone. You can do this one time or continue it from year-to-year. It is a first come first served basis. It will be red flowers and greenery with Hypericum red berries for Advent.

Angel Tree
This Advent, we will once again partner with Boys & Girls Club in the Angel Tree ministry. Members of Christ Church will be invited to purchase Christmas presents for a specific child and/or write a check to Boys & Girls Club. Stay tuned for more details later this month.

Diocesan Communications Survey
The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is conducting a survey about their emails and other forms of communication with us. If you have a few minutes, please respond to the survey at https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/swva_communications_survey.

Grace Network – Our Grace Network Assignments for November thru December: Saltine Crackers (box). For November: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by 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.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!
Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams
Reader: Susan Critz
Chalists: Natalie Coleman, Steve Keyser
Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner
Chorister/Cantor: Raul West
Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir
Ushers: Hank Long, Pete Scouras
Camera Operator: Rives Coleman
Counters: Steve Keyser, Jay Dickens
Nursery: Caroline Davis
Altar Guild Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

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