



Welcome to Christ Church

Advent 4

December 20, 2015



8:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Rite I: *The Propers for this Sunday*

This service begins in the Prayer Book (gold cross on the cover) on page 323. See **Intercessions List** on the stand to add names for the prayers. Thanks to our liturgical assistants.

The Collect.... *Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
 People **And with thy spirit.**
 Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Micah 5:2-5

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.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * *shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.*
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * *stir up your strength and come to help us.*
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * *show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, * *how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?*
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * *you have given them bowls of tears to drink.*
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * *and our enemies laugh us to scorn.*
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * *show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 1:39–45 [46-55] (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." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

Announcements for Advent 4: December 20, 2015

Welcome to your church! Today is our Christmas Pageant at the Tang Center. Following the Pageant you are all welcome to come back across the street to the Great Hall to celebrate Jesus' birthday with a big cake!

Church School –We are currently looking for engaged and committed folks to become regular members of the Committee. **Committee Meeting** next on January 24th in the Library at about 11:45 a.m. which will include some exciting conversation about new curriculum; **Nicole Nichols** churchschoolpomfret@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Choir meets on Dec. 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Epiphany Open House at the Carters on January 2nd starting around 5:30 p.m. Adult event for Christ Church folks: All welcome!

St. Nicholas Fair: Thanks so much! Total is over \$15,000.

Teen Program: J2A and YAC activities, see separate email notices; As posted in the Reminder **Dee Dee** is stepping down as of December 31st. *We have a candidate who has stepped up* but if you are interested in this paid position talk with the Rector asap; Rite-13 (grades 6-7), J2A (8-9) and YAC (10 grade+); Dee Dee Markes: deedeepa@gmail.com 860-963-1245.

Time Off: Both Dave and Jane are off the week after Christmas. Emergency concerns should be addressed to the Wardens through the office: 860-315-7780 or to Peter Lusa: 928-2753 or Steve Adams: 974-0728.

Vestry: It's count down time for the Annual Meeting when some of your Vestry members step down and others step up. We need one more Vestry member for the **Class of 2019** (3-year term). We also need two new **Officers** on the Vestry: A new Clerk who takes notes of important points of our meetings (11 a year) & a Jr. Warden who assists in the running of the parish as a volunteer (a few hours a month, and helps supervise when the Rector is on vacation or away). Please speak to Steve Adams, Peter Lusa or Dave, if interested. We will also be recruiting!

Vine and Branches Mural: See Rite-13ers or Jim Goodwin to get your photo taken!

Visions & Ventures/Stewardship for 2016: Time to submit your pledge! The total is currently 60 pledges for approximately \$152,734. We're getting there. Our working goal is \$213, 592. Thank you!

Women's Spiritual Growth Workshop: 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 22nd** in the library (or larger space) for spiritual exploration and celebrating our Sisterhood! Just bring yourself. Jane Hale at jclhale@charter.net.

Worship Upcoming: Christmas Eve Service times are 4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.; Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m. Communion; Dec. 27th 8 and 10:15 services with the Rev. J. Kellaway as celebrant. On January 3rd, 8 and 10:15 services with Dave, preacher and Jane, worship leader.

House-keeping:

Courier Deadline for February: January 18th; *We will mail out first class to those who request it.* Our **Thursday Reminder** is a key email update (which includes the Courier). **Do we have your email or snail-mail address?** Update or renew, see the form on the music stand **or email** (address below).

Directories... there are *usually* directories of the parish in the basket to the left just inside the office!

CSO – Community Kitchen on January 25th; Cooking a meal at CCPomfret and taking it to the Hill Church (1st Cong.) in Woodstock. See Pauline Phillips, Supervisor. **We collect durable foods here weekly for ACCESS.**

Flowers: the memorial/thanksgiving form is on the stand in back. Master Flower Sign-up outside the office starting again in January.

Pastoral Call Emergencies should be directed to office (860-315-7780) or Fr. Dave's cell phone: 860-608-7632. Or if you need to call in prayer concerns to the **Prayer Chain** call the office: 860-315-7780.

Prayer Shawls – Blessed shawls on the back table of the church (please write in who is receiving the gift in the shawl journal). More in the hallway closet by the offices: Rebecca Patenaude: patenaude.rebecca@gmail.com.

Special Mission - the Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer's programs on Spirituality are in the Reminder.

Vestry meets next on January 20, 2016