



Welcome to Christ Church

Advent 4

December 20, 2015



"Our mission is to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, welcoming all who come through our doors to participate in worship, education, service and fellowship on a journey in Christ, a journey that we believe not only has power to heal and change us but also has potential to transform the world."

10:15 a.m.

Christmas Pageant in the Tang Auditorium, Rectory School

The words to the hymns are on the insert.

Prelude

Angel of the Lord: *Prepare ye the way of the Lord*

A Light in the Darkness

The Christ Candle is lit. Then all respond where emboldened

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night.

And your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you.

The night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness.

And fill your Church with your glory.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, who was born for us in Bethlehem. Help us to find time in our lives for quiet; that we may reflect upon the wonder of Love and allow the story of His birth to penetrate our hearts and minds; so that the actions of our lives may be a response to all that you have done for us.

Let us pray, for our nation, for the troubled areas of our world, for those afflicted by natural disasters, for the just and proper use of all natural resources. May we be aware of and respond to the needs of the poor, the helpless and the hungry, the sick and those that mourn, the lonely and unloved, and victims of oppression.

We pray for: *(as written on the intercessions list)*

And let us say together..... **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 glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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.*

The Christmas Pageant

- 83 Hymn *O come, all ye faithful (vss. 1 and 6)* (The congregation may remain seated during the hymns)
The First Scene: The Annunciation
Narrator begins; then Mary and Angel Gabriel sing ***Messiah's Lullaby***
- 79 Hymn *O little town of Bethlehem (vss. 1 and 2)*
The Second Scene: The Proclamation: the Roman Centurion announces the census
- 115 Hymn *What child is this (vss. 1 and 3)*
The Third Scene: The Journey and the Birth
Mary, Joseph, Innkeepers: Mary and Joseph sing.... ***Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine***
- 96 Hymn *Angels we have heard on high (vss. 1 and 4 only)*
The Fourth Scene: The Shepherds
Mary, Joseph, Baby, Star, Cow, Donkey, Doves, Shepherds, Sheep, Angel Gabriel
- 89 Hymn *It came upon a midnight clear (vss.1 and 4)*
The Fifth Scene: The Angels
The shepherds and angels... ***Sing Noel***; Lead Shepherd: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see...."
- 101 Hymn *Away in the manger (vss. 1 and 2)*
Angels, Sheep and Shepherds go to the manger
The Sixth Scene: At the Manger with the Animals
Narrator: "And they went with haste....."; The children sing.... ***The Friendly Beasts*** (guitar)
Narrator: "Now when Jesus was born..."
- 128 Hymn *We three kings of Orient are (vss. 1- 4 sung by Kings, congregation joining in on the refrain)*
The Seventh Scene: The Three Kings
The Three Kings (Magi), Pages, Herod, Herod's Attendants, Priests
- 105 Offertory Hymn *God rest ye merry, gentlemen (vss.1-4)*
Ushers will take the offering
- 380 Presentation Hymn (vs. 3) *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.....*
Ushers present the offering
- 111 Hymn *Silent night, holy night*

Announcements (**Photo-Op!**) (Coffee Hour and Birthday Cake for Jesus in the Great Hall at CC)

Christmas Blessing

Go in peace.... and may
The wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor guide you
The strength of the Mighty God defend you
The love of the Everlasting enfold you
The peace of the Prince of Peace be upon you.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
Be upon you all this day and for evermore..... **AMEN**

Recessional Hymn *Soon and Very Soon*

Pageant Participants 2015 (known!)

Thanks to Headmaster, Fred Williams and the Rectory School for use of the Tang Auditorium and especially to our Director, Donna Bessette! Many thanks to our Church School Director Nicole Nichols as well as to all our young people, children and their parents for a fine year of work & worship together.

<i>Joseph</i>	Newell Hale
<i>Mary</i>	Brooke Zahansky
<i>Gabriel</i>	Katherine Archambault
<i>Narrator</i>	Emily Watling
<i>Narrator</i>	Hannah Chubbuck
<i>Narrator</i>	Ame Tsamaase
<i>Angel of the Lord</i>	Yvie Bessette
<i>Baby Jesus</i>	Henry Swenson
<i>Chimes</i>	Charlotte Nichols, Paloma Flath, Melissa Wishart, Thomas Madenjian, Julia Powell, Miranda Apicelli, Noah Salsich, Thomas Bergendahl, Brooke Peloquin, Mackenzie Peloquin
<i>Clarinet</i>	Nathalie Paul
<i>King 1</i>	Ellie Nunes
<i>King 2</i>	Ashley Nunes
<i>King 3</i>	Fiona Rigney
<i>Kings Entourage</i>	Maddie Malbeouf, Meredith Bergendahl
<i>Priest 1</i>	Evan Watling
<i>Priest 2</i>	Nicole Apicelli
<i>Roman Soldiers</i>	Henri Bessette, Adam Lee, Brody Zahansky, Peter Hale, Keegan Kent
<i>Inn Keeper</i>	Lefika Tsamaase
<i>Herod</i>	Kate Landis
<i>Old Woman</i>	Molly Landis
<i>Star</i>	Abram Nichols
<i>Cows</i>	Kate Ritzau, Kaydence Kent
<i>Donkey</i>	Jack Archambault, Alec Nunes
<i>Sheep</i>	Luke Landis, Owen Rigney
<i>Dove</i>	Ava Salsich, Liliana Moran, Abigael Stevens
<i>Angels</i>	Amber Apicelli, Liam Galante, Hattie Patenaude, Aylin Stevens, Giuliana Galante, Annabelle Ellsworth, Hazel Rigney
<i>Lead Angels</i>	Helen Hale, Lauren Semancik
<i>Shepherds</i>	Blake Zahansky, Calvin Swenson, Abel Rigney, Nathan Tiffany

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: deedeespa@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