

First Sunday after the Epiphany

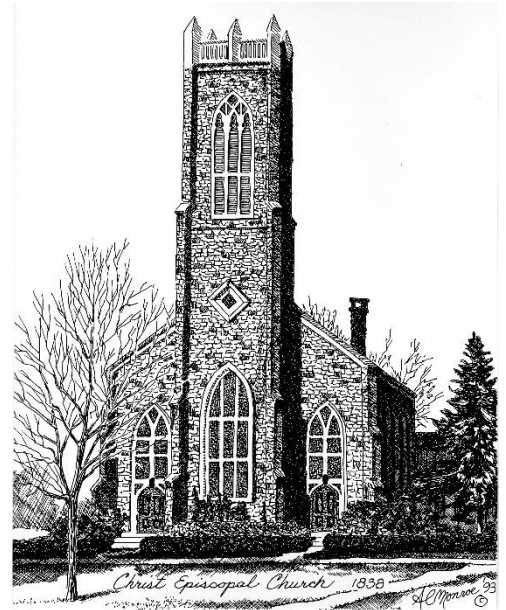
The Baptism of our Lord

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

January 12, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Welcome to Christ Church!

This faith community has worshiped on the Guilford Green since 1744; and it is continually made new by the Spirit and those who gather here. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. Your presence is a blessing. May this gathering be a blessing to you.



Prelude Christ our Lord to the Jordan came BuxWV 180

D. Buxtehude

Prayer Before Worship

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

This spoken prayer is followed by two minutes of silent prayer to prepare in heart and mind for worship. You might focus attention on your breath—noticing how the breath of life sustains you and connects you to God and to every living being in God's creation. (Genesis 2:7, John 20:22)

The Word of God

Hymn #135 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Salzburg

Sung by all, standing as you are able. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982, unless noted.

Opening Acclamation

Prayer Book, p. 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Prayer Book, p. 355

All: **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.**

Song of Praise S-278 Glory to God in the highest

W. Mathias

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

The people sit.

Thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino*

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #121 Christ, when for us you were baptized

Caithness

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

The Baptismal Covenant

The people stand as able.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as
yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, protect and restore the beauty
and integrity of all creation?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers of the People: Form VI

Prayer Book, p. 392

The people remain standing or kneel.

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

A brief silence is observed before the prayers.

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: In our cycles of prayer, we pray for St. James', Danbury; St. Luke's, Darien;
St. Paul's, Darien and the Church of the Province of West Africa.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader: For those on our parish prayer list: Ed, Liam, Debbie, Rick, Maria, Terry K.,

Noah Fujimoto Sands, Mary Feldtmose, Judy March, Nicky, Judy, Jeff, Chloe
Negron, Michael Campanelli, Duke and Susan Oakley, and David Barker.

We pray for those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles, those who are
fighting the fires and providing care, and those we name now, silently or aloud.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Leader: For all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The people may add their own prayers and petitions.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: **Who put their trust in you.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The people may add their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

The people may stand or kneel. Silence is observed before the Celebrant begins the Confession.

All: **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant declares the Absolution.

The Peace

The people stand as able.

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet your
neighbors in the name of the
Lord, then all are seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Gifts can be made in the offering plate or using the QR code.

Thank you for your generosity.



Offertory solo I wonder as I wander

Leila Mustakos, soprano

J. J. Niles

The Doxology Hymn #380 (vs. 3)

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Old 100th

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer B

Prayer Book, p. 367

The people remain standing.

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-128 Holy, holy, holy

W. Mathias

The people remain standing or kneel as the Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-155 Christ our Passover

G. Near

Invitation to Communion

Following the invitation, the people are seated.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, Amen.

Communion anthem *Non nobis Domine*

W. Byrd

Postcommunion Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 365

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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 Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn #632 O Christ, the Word Incarnate

Munich

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Toccata in Seven

J. Rutter

As you depart during the postlude, you are welcome to greet your neighbors, being mindful of those who are praying or listening to the music. Coffee hour follows the service in the Parish Hall.

In Today's Worship

Celebrant: The Rev. Michael Sweeney

Music Director: Mark Sullivan

Altar Guild: Diane Pierpont

Usher: Diana Stovall

1st Reading: Patti Kron

2nd Reading: Jennifer Huebner

Prayers of the People: Laura Raymond

Chalice Bearers: Diane Pierpont and Bill Saviers

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are often given in memory of, or thanksgiving for, family members and loved ones. If you would like to give the flowers for a particular Sunday, please call the office or speak to Vicky Reeve.

Annual Giving Update

As of January 9, we have received 81 pledges for 2025, totaling \$240,314. Thank you for helping us reach our goal! If you would like envelopes for submitting pledge payments, please contact the office. If you've not yet submitted a pledge, you can submit one online or by picking up a pledge card at the back of the sanctuary.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Wednesday, 12:00 -12:30 p.m. – Service of Holy Eucharist in the sanctuary

Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Choir rehearsal in the Parish Hall

Friday, 12:00-12:30 p.m. – Music meditation in the sanctuary

Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Bible study in the Guild Room

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – Service of Holy Eucharist (*Sunday school & Nursery in lower level*)

Sunday, 5:00 p.m. – Candlelight service of Holy Eucharist, followed by supper

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3rd Sunday Evening Service & Supper – Jan. 19, 5:00 p.m. service & 6:00 p.m. supper.

This candlelight Eucharist includes anointing for healing, a personal reflection in place of the sermon, and music accompanied by piano and other acoustic instruments.

Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate our community, reflect on 2024, and look ahead to 2025, with updates on ministries, the presentation of the budget, and the election of new leaders.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Children & Youth

Sunday school for children ages 3+ meets at 10 a.m. most Sunday mornings from September-June. There is childcare available during the 10 a.m. service for children under 3. For more details contact Page Pelphrey at education@christchurchguilford.org.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW will not meet formally during January and February. The first gathering of 2025 will be held in the Guild room on Thursday, March 13th at 10:30, followed by lunch.

Music

The choir is open to all and rehearses on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. To learn more about music at Christ Church, contact Mark Sullivan at music@christchurchguilford.org.

Prayer Shawls & Home Communion

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home or would appreciate a prayer shawl knit with love by parishioners, please contact the office.

Weekly E-mail

You can sign up to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter on our website, or by calling the office or filling out a welcome card in your pew. The weekly email is our most detailed communication and a great way to keep track of everything going on at Christ Church.

WELCOMING THE REV. DREW COLLINS

The Rev. Drew Collins received his PhD in theology from Cambridge (UK), works at the Yale Center for Faith & Culture, and serves as an Associate Research Scholar and Lecturer at Yale Divinity School and Yale College. Drew and his wife, Mary, live in Guilford with their three children. Drew loves fly-fishing, going to concerts, reading novels, playing the guitar, and skiing.

On Sunday, January 19, Drew will begin his ministry with us as a non-stipendiary priest associate, meaning that he will continue to be employed full-time at Yale, while serving at Christ Church on Sunday mornings. This is an incredible blessing for our community.

Drew will typically be with us three Sundays a month. Like Rev. Michael, Rev. Drew has a passion for ministry with children and youth, and his arrival will make it possible for each of them to spend time with our Sunday School at least once a month.