

The First Sunday of Advent

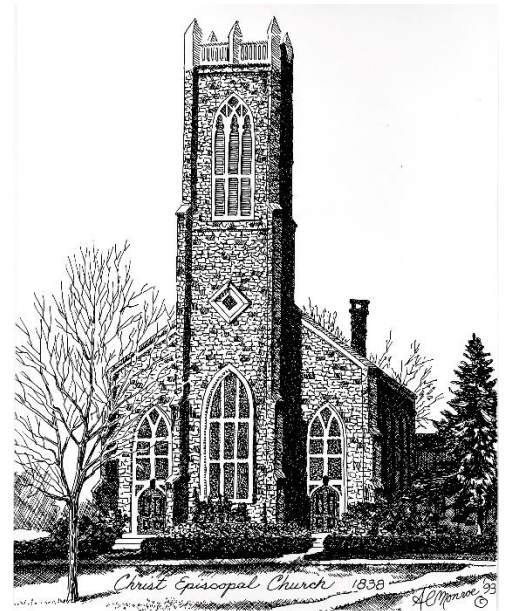
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

December 1, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal 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 Prelude on *Wachet auf!* BWV 645

J. S. Bach

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We who have sat in darkness have seen a great light, the light of Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The lighting of the advent wreath is followed by two minutes of silent prayer to prepare in heart and mind for worship. You might simply focus your attention on the breath—the breath of life by which the Spirit sustains every living being in God's interconnected creation.

The Word of God

Hymn #61 "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

Wachet auf

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

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 50

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

Trisagion

A. Archangelsky

Ho - ly God, — Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The people sit.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

The psalm is sung by a cantor. Please join the cantor in singing the following refrain at the beginning of the psalm and after every three verses:



1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths. **REFRAIN**

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. **REFRAIN**

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **REFRAIN**

Second Reading

Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #74 Blest be the King whose coming
Sung by all, standing.

Valet will ich der geben

The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

The Nicene Creed

The people stand.

**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.

Prayers of the People: Form V

Prayer Book, p. 389

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: As we eagerly await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found
without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In our cycles of prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany and Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers and those on our parish prayer list, especially Liam, Debbie, Rick, Maria, Terry K., Noah Fujimoto Sands, Jane Keilty, Mary Feldtmose, Judy March, Nicky, Judy, Jeff, Chloe Negron, Michael Campanelli, Jo-Ann Ansaldo, and David Barker. For our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died, especially Paul Howes, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,**

**the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Celebrant declares the Absolution.

The Peace

The people stand.

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

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Anthem O Heavenly Word

R. Shepherd

The Doxology: Hymn 380 (vs. 3)

The people stand.

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

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

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship, p. 60

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:

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of abundant life. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus S130 Holy, holy, holy

F. Schubert

The people remain standing or kneel as the Celebrant continues:

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinner, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ, and make us the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 164: O Lamb of God

F. Schubert

Invitation to Communion

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 solo Steal Away
Leila Mustakos, soprano

trad. Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh

Postcommunion Prayer

Enriching Our Worship, p. 69

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*All: **God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn #57 Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Sung by all, standing

Helmsley

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Prelude on *Valet will ich der geben* BWV 735

J. S. Bach

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: Pat Daunic and Lucas Malton

Ushers: Aleah LaFata, Mardee Moore, and Cristina Negrón

Acolytes: Austin LaFata, James Oshana, and Emmett Sweeney

1st Reading: AJ LaFata

2nd Reading: James Oshana

Prayers of the People: Gabrielle Johnson

Chalice Bearers: Pat Daunic and Annie Rae

Counters: Leigh Beatty and Donna Tafel

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are donated by Tony and Susan Leonard with love for Susan's mother, Del Coley, and their families. We sincerely apologize to anyone who contributed to the carnations for veterans and was not included in the bulletin. If you and your beloved veteran(s) were not named, please let us know by contacting the office.

Annual Giving Update

As of November 27, we have received 59 pledges for 2025, totaling \$170,714. Thank you! This community exists thanks to the generosity of this community. If you've not yet

Online Giving: Scan the QR code to submit your pledge, offering or special gift.



submitted a pledge, we need your help to reach our goal of \$235,000. Pledge cards are available at the front of the church near the gratitude candle. With the finance committee working on the 2025 budget, we encourage you to make your pledge by **December 4**.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Advent book study in the Parish Hall

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

Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Chili supper in the Parish Hall

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Advent Study – Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Led by Rev. Michael in the Parish Hall, this study is based on Mark Thibodeaux's *Hope and Light for Advent*. Copies are available at the parish office for a suggested donation of \$10. Reading is optional. If you'd like to join on Zoom, contact the office for the link.

Chili Supper – Friday, Dec. 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to welcome and show hospitality to our neighbors. We need volunteers to help set up and serve at the supper. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church. The ECW also invites you to bake and donate cookies, which they sell at the supper with proceeds going towards college scholarships.

3rd Sunday Evening Service & Supper – Dec. 15, 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.

Open House at the Rectory – Saturday, Dec. 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Come connect with fellow parishioners and see the beautifully refurbished rectory.

Christmas Services – Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. / Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.

All three Christmas celebrations will be services of Holy Eucharist with music. The early Christmas Eve service will be especially inviting to families with young children. The music at the late service will include choir, harp, and soloists.

Epiphany Pageant – Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:00 a.m.

This year's pageant will be part of our worship on the eve of the Epiphany—the feast celebrating the visit of the Magi and the revelation of Christ to all people and nations. To participate contact Page Pelphrey at education@christchurchguilford.org.

LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Parish Office Hours

The parish office is located on the lower level of the Parish Hall building and is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You can reach our parish administrator, Linda DePedro, at 203-453-2279 and admin@christchurchguilford.org.

Children & Youth

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

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW Committee meets 1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays from 10:30-1:00 in the Guild Room to create crafts to sell during the upcoming holidays and to enjoy fellowship with each other. All are welcome. Bring a sandwich and perhaps an extra one to share.

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.

Outreach

The Outreach Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month. Christ Church partners with and supports various organizations, including CT Violence Intervention Program, the Guilford Food Bank, and the New York Haiti Project. To learn more about these ministries, contact Caroline Herrick at caroline.herrick@gmail.com.

Prayers of the People

As part of our worship on Sunday morning, we pray for the needs and concerns of this community. If there is someone you would like us to include in our prayers, please let us know by calling the office or contacting Michael at msweeney@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.