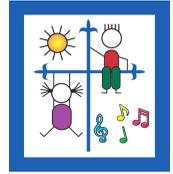




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



# CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023



5:00pm Family Eucharist

11pm Choral Eucharist

*Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community*

# WELCOME!

*We hope that you will find spiritual nourishment and fellowship with us this evening.*

*This bulletin will guide you through today's service step-by-step. Restrooms are located by going out the door located next to St. Mary's Chapel (which is on the right), and following the hallway through the doors.*

*All are handicap accessible. If you have any questions at all, our ushers will be happy to help you.*

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## A NOTE ABOUT INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

You will hear Mother Diana using female pronouns for God, when the bulletin has printed in it the traditional all male language. This is to provide a balance, and to invite us all into the understanding that God is not a boy's name – God is both and neither female or male – we are all made in God's image – women and men. You may, as you feel called, use the female language too.

Our **Christmas Day** service is at **3pm**.

Please join us tomorrow for this informal and fun service!



The Rev. Diana Wilcox, *Celebrant*  
Ms. Jackie McLeod, *Seminarian*  
Tom Reynolds, *Livestream Host*  
Ann Watson, *ASL Interpreter*  
Scott Ziegler, *Organist*

# THE WORD OF GOD

## THE PRELUDE

**INTROIT**      *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light.*      J.S. Bach

*Please stand, as able. We use a hypo-allergenic incense during the processional.*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83** (1982 Hymnal    *Words: John Frances Wade    Music: Adeste Fideles*)

O come all ye faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6     Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
        born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION** (*Church of England, liturgical supplements, pg. 74, adapt.*)

Celebrant     The people who have walked in darkness

**People        have seen a great light.**

Celebrant     For to us a child is born

**People        to us a child is given.**

Celebrant     Glory to God in the highest

**People        and peace to God's people on earth.**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

## COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrant God is with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### FIRST READING

### ISAIAH 9:2-7

Lector The first reading is from the book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

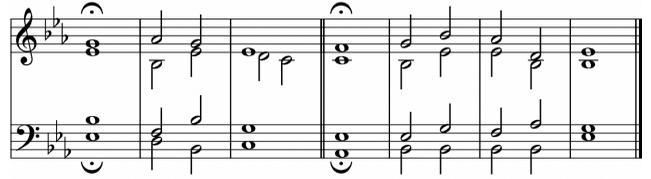
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People Thanks be to God.**

*Chanted together.*

## PSALM 96



Sing to the LORD | a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, | all the **whole** earth.

Sing to the LORD and | bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from | **day to day**.

Declare his glory a | mong the nations \*  
and his wonders a | mong all **peo**-ples.

For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised; \*  
he is more to be | feared than **all** gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who | **made the** heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the | splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD | honor **and** power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and | come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of | holiness; \*  
let the whole earth | tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is King! \*  
he has made the world so **firm** that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples | **with** equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that | is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and | all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD | when he comes, \*  
when he | comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with | righteousness \*  
and the | peoples with his truth.

# HYMN 96 (Hymnal 1982 Words: French Carol Music: Gloria)

Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

Lector            The second reading is from the epistle to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able. We will sing verses 1-2 before the Gospel, and verse 3 after the Gospel.*

**HYMN 67** (*Hymnal 1982* Words: C. Wesley Music: Mendelssohn)

Hark! The herald angels sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*  
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

Celebrant      The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke  
 People        **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*Please be seated.*

*All children are welcome to come forward to participate in a short interactive story time.*

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** *(5pm only)*

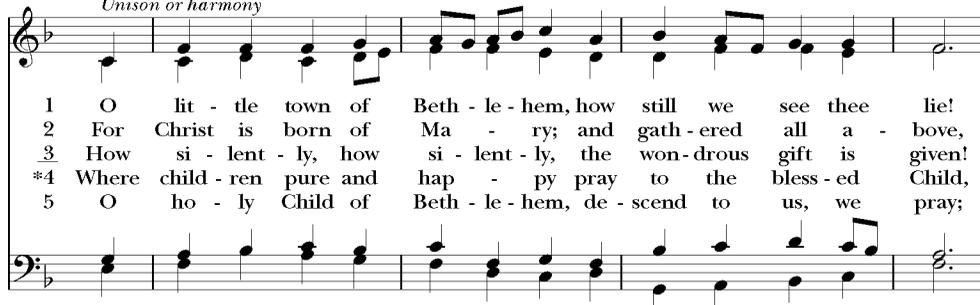
**HOMILY** *(11pm)*      The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox

Please stand, as able.

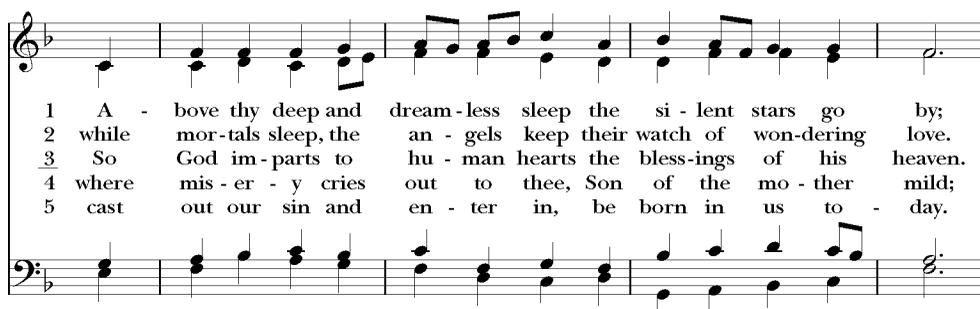
**HYMN 109** (Hymnal 1982 Words: Phillip Brooks Music: Forest Green)

O little town of Bethlehem

*Unison or harmony*



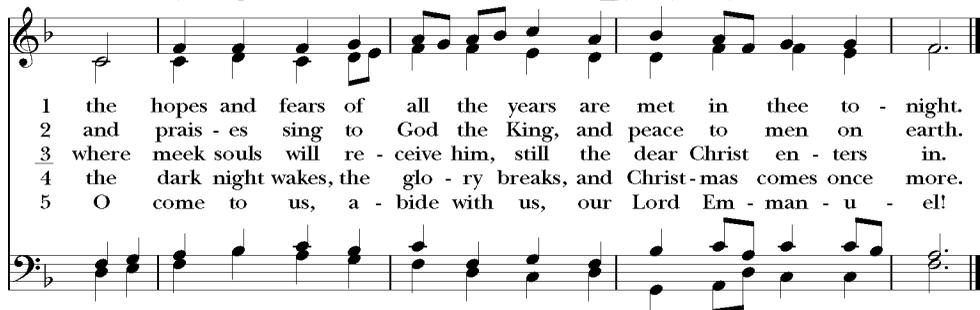
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
\*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(Adapted from Sundays and Seasons)*

*Celebrant* This night the eternal Word of God is born in us. We pray for Christ's light of life to take flesh in the church, the creation, and all people of God.

*Leader* We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. We pray for our neighborhoods of Bloomfield & Glen Ridge. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* I invite you now to offer your own intercessions or thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

## **COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS** *(Adapted from Sundays and Seasons)*

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. **Amen.**

*The people may stand or kneel, as able.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN** *(Book of Common Prayer, p.360)*

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(A period of silence is kept)*

**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.**

## **ABSOLUTION** *(Enriching our Worship 1, p. 56)*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE** *(Enriching our Worship 1, p. 56)*

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Cradle Song* John Rutter



receive power to become your children. 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 HYMN** (*Hymnal 1982, S125* Composer: Proulx)

*Said together at 8:00. Sung by all at 10:30.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues (Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 368)*

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

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.

*Sung by all.*

**THE GREAT AMEN** (*Three-fold Amen*    *Tune: Danish*)



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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## FRACTION ANTHEM *(Hymnal 1982, S164 Proulx)*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

# COMMUNION HYMN (Words: v.1 Traditional v.2-4 Jeffrey Wilson 2019)

## God Rest You Merry

*Note the change in these verses. It may feel strange to veer from the way we have always sung this hymn, but the rewrite makes an important statement about the birth of Jesus - that God walking among us was for all people. May we always be reminded of this, and in the Spirit of the child whom we celebrate tonight, allow the discomfort to stir our hearts to change the world in His name.*

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let no - thing you dis - may!  
2. God rest you al - so, wom - en, who by men have been e - rased,  
3. God rest you, queer and ques - tion - ing, your an - xious hearts be still,  
4. God rest your mind, O hu - man - kind, let strife and con - flict cease.

Re - mem - ber Christ will bring love's light the dawn of Christ - mas day  
Through his - to - ry ig - nored and scorned, de - filed and dis - placed;  
Be - lieve that you are deep - ly known and part of God's good will  
Re - mem - ber love is act - ive here, and on - ly to in - crease,

To lead us all from woe and sin when we have gone a - stray.  
Re - mem - ber that your stor - ies, too, are held with - in God's grace.  
For all to live as one in peace: the glo - bal dream ful - filled.  
To car - ry us to well - springs of God's joy - ous hope and peace.

O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

*The church is darkened except for the light over the baptismal font. As the Celebrant reads the passage from John, the light of Christ, is brought forward from the font to the altar, from there, other candles are lit, until everyone's candles are lit.*

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*Celebrant*

A reading from the Gospel of John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. (John 1:1-5, 9, 14a)

**HYMN 111** (*Hymnal 1982* Words: J. Mohr Music: *Stille Nacht*)

Silent night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

*Standing, as able.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** (*Enriching Our Worship, p. 69*)

**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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING** (*Book of Occasional Services, p. 23, adapt.*)

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 our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our  
sustainer, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL** (*See next page*)

**DISMISSAL** (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 366*)

Celebrant: Let us go forth to proclaim the good news of Christ!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please be seated through the end of The Postlude.*

**THE POSTLUDE**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN 100 *(Hymnal 1982 Words: I. Watts Music: Antioch)*

Joy to the world!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING.  
IF EXITING THE CHURCH AFTER THE MIDNIGHT MASS, BE MINDFUL OF NEARBY  
NEIGHBORS WHO MAY BE SLEEPING, AND EXIT THE CHURCH QUIETLY.



*May the peace and hope of  
Christ's birth  
be with you now and in the days ahead...*



## **CHRISTMAS GREENS & POINSETTIAS**

*Given to the glory of God*



*By Nancy Fairty, Kelly & Amy McAllister, Ann Watson, Nadine Sempier,  
Denise Massay-Williams, Betty Yarborough, Edmund Fursa,  
and Laurie Calfo, in thanksgiving for Christ Church*

*By Bill Seeman, in memory of Karen Seeman*

*In memory of Mary Louise Mitchell Brinkerhoff, John Morgan Brinkerhoff, Gretchen  
Brinkerhoff, Eleanor Morgan Brinkerhoff and Richard Sayre Brinkerhoff*

*By the Rev. Diana L. Wilcox, in memory of Brenda Willoughby, and in thanksgiving for  
the people, Vestry, and Wardens of Christ Church*

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## SUNDAY

Choral Eucharist – 10:30am



## THE LEADERSHIP OF CHRIST CHURCH

### WARDENS

Michelle Ryndak (24) and Tom Reynolds (25)

### VESTRY

Ben Reynolds (24) Leo Toledo (24) Carol Madden (25)

One Open Seat (25) Bill Seeman (26) Denise Massay-Williams (26)

### STAFF

The Reverend Diana Wilcox, *Rector*

Jackie McLeod, *Seminarian*

Scott Ziegler, *Director of Music*

Candice Whitaker, *Director of Family Ministries*

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Bonnie VanOrnum, *Director of Finance*

Aazhae Coleman, *Director of our Nursery School*

Donald Gibson, *Sexton*

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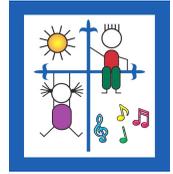
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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



# CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023

★  
For  
unto  
you is  
born this  
day in the  
city of David  
a saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.  
Luke  
2:11

3pm Holy Eucharist & Carols

*Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community*

# WELCOME!

*We hope that you will find spiritual nourishment and fellowship with us this afternoon.*

*This bulletin will guide you through today's service step-by-step.*

*Restrooms are located by going out the door located next to St. Mary's Chapel (which is on the right), and following the hallway through the doors. All are handicap accessible.*

*If you have any questions at all, our ushers will be happy to help you.*

*We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us and invite you to join us again at our regular Sunday worship service.*

*10:30am – Choral Eucharist*

*Everyone is welcome here!*

# THE WORD OF GOD

*Please stand, as able.*

**OPENING HYMN 83** (1982 Hymnal Words: John Frances Wade Music: *Adeste Fideles*)

O come all ye faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION** (*Church of England, liturgical supplements, pg. 74, adapt.*)

Celebrant The people who have walked in darkness

**People have seen a great light.**

Celebrant For to us a child is born

**People to us a child is given.**

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest

**People and peace to God's people on earth.**

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

## COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebrant God is with you.  
**People And also with you.**  
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a Mary: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 9:2-7**

Lector The first reading is from the book of Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

## CONTEMPORARY READING

Lector      The Contemporary Reading is from the movie, *The Santa Clause*.

In the movie, *The Santa Clause*, Scott Calvin is an ordinary man, who accidentally causes Santa Claus to fall from his roof on Christmas Eve and is knocked unconscious. When he and his young son finish Santa's trip and deliveries, they go to the North Pole, where Scott learns he must become the new Santa and convince those he loves that he is indeed, Father Christmas. But first, he must believe himself.

Scott Calvin: Look, you're a nice little elf.

Judy the Elf: Thanks. –

Scott Calvin: But this is a dream. I mean, this is fabulous. Is that a polar bear directin' traffic down there? I-- I see it, but I don't believe it.

Judy the Elf: You're missing the point.

Scott Calvin: What is the point?

Judy the Elf: Seeing isn't believing; believing is seeing. Kids don't have to see this place to know that it's here. They just... know.

Lector      Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People      Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able. We will sing verses 1-2 before the Gospel, and verse 3 after the Gospel.

## HYMN 67 (Hymnal 1982 Words: C. Wesley Music: Mendelssohn)

Hark! The herald angels sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De-i-ty,  
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!  
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2: 8-20

Celebrant        The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke  
People            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

*Please be seated.*

**HOMILY**            The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox

## **THE CREED** *(Enriching Our Worship, p. 53)*

*Note the change in the wording, most especially with regard to the Holy Spirit. These are not errors in the bulletin, but are part of our rich liturgical heritage. The wording about the procession of the Holy Spirit is part of the difference in the Eastern and Western Churches, and a source of controversy. In fact, at our 71<sup>st</sup> General Convention, it was decided to remove the words "and the Son."*

Let us stand together with Christians throughout the centuries and proclaim the basic creed of the church:

**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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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 giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who 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** *(Adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Year B)*

*Celebrant* Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

*Leader* God of glory, fill our hearts with the joy of this day. Stir your church in every place to join the angels' song, praising you for your birth among us and your presence within us. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* The seas thunder, the fields rejoice, and the trees shout for joy at your coming. Renew the earth and all its creatures to declare your praise. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Scatter the bitterness of hatred and fear, that all people seek your peace on earth and work to establish goodwill among the nations. We pray for our neighborhoods of Bloomfield & Glen Ridge. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Shine your healing light on those who are alone and long for companionship, those who are rejected, weak, troubled, or sick. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Comfort us with the gracious vision of our departed loved ones basking in the light of your eternal presence until we too inherit the fullness of your glory. God, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* I invite you now to offer your own intercessions or thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

## **COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS** *(Adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Year B)*

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Please stand, as able.*

## **THE PEACE** *(Enriching our Worship 1, p. 56)*

**Celebrant** The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

# HOLY COMMUNION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand, as able.*

**PRESENTATION HYMN 107** (*Hymnal 1982 Verse 1 Words: J. Mason Neale Tune: In dulci jubilo*)

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul an voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

**SURSUM CORDA** (*Hymnal 1982, S120*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them up 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 (Book of Common Prayer, p. 367)*

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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

## THE SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues (Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 368)*

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

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,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE FRACTION** *(Enriching Our Worship, p. 69)*

**Celebrant** This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

**People** **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

**Anyone with a present to be blessed should bring it forward with them for communion, and Mother Diana will offer a blessing on it. Your hands will also be anointed, if you would like.**

**COMMUNION HYMN 109** (*Hymnal 1982 Words: English Carol Music: The First Nowell*)

The first Nowell

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full re - v - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

*Standing, as able.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*Enriching Our Worship, p. 69*)

**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 CHRISTMAS BLESSING** (*Book of Occasional Services, p. 23, adapt.*)

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 our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our  
sustainer, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** (*See next page.*)

**DISMISSAL** (*Book of Common Prayer, p. 366*)

Celebrant: Let us go forth to proclaim the good news of Christ!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

# CLOSING HYMN 100 *(Hymnal 1982 Words: I. Watts Music: Antioch)*

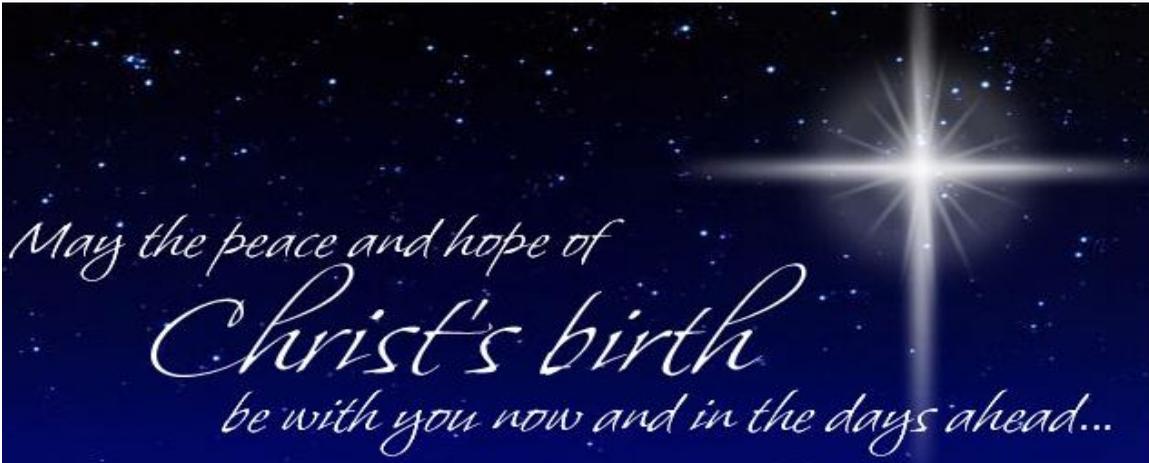
Joy to the world!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

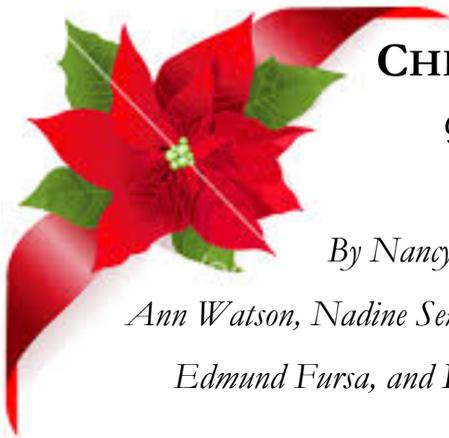
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 repeat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



*May the peace and hope of  
Christ's birth  
be with you now and in the days ahead...*



## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

*Given to the glory of God by*

*By Nancy Fairty, Kelly & Amy McAllister,  
Ann Watson, Nadine Sempier, Denise Massay-Williams, Betty Yarborough,  
Edmund Fursa, and Laurie Calfo, in thanksgiving for Christ Church*

*By Bill Seeman, in memory of Karen Seeman*

*In memory of Mary Louise Mitchell Brinkerhoff, John Morgan Brinkerhoff, Gretchen  
Brinkerhoff, Eleanor Morgan Brinkerhoff and Richard Sayre Brinkerhoff*

*By the Rev. Diana L. Wilcox, in memory of Brenda Willoughby, and in thanksgiving for  
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# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## SUNDAY

Choral Eucharist – 10:30am



## THE LEADERSHIP OF CHRIST CHURCH

### WARDENS

Michelle Ryndak (24) and Tom Reynolds (25)

### VESTRY

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One Open Seat (25) Bill Seeman (26) Denise Massay-Williams (26)

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