



CHRISTMAS 2022



Welcome to this service of Holy Communion! We are so excited to have you here. Please know that everyone is invited to take communion at God's table.

Christ Episcopal Church is a vibrant and welcoming congregation of families and singles, committed to inspiring worship, theological inquiry, and service to our community and the world. If you are a visitor, please complete a "Welcome Brochure" found in the pew racks. You may give the card to one of the worship leaders as you leave the church. We hope you will return often!

*When the service starts, the leaders will help you to follow along. If you choose to read along, whenever you see something written in **bold**, you are invited to join us in saying this!*

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Leader Christmas is almost here.

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader Today, we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus, who brings us hope, love, joy and peace.

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Leader Let's all say this prayer together.

People **O God, we thank you for giving us the baby Jesus, born in a stable and laid in a manger: help us to worship and adore him and show his love to all the world.**

SONG: *O come, all ye faithful*

1:

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come, and behold him,
Born the King of angels**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord**

2:

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord**

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS: LUKE 2:1-20

We'll listen to the story, and see the Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the manger, with the angels and shepherds. Then we'll think about what we just saw.

SONG: *Silent night*

We'll sing this song with our candles.

1:

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

2:

**Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the savior is born,
Christ the savior is born.**

PRAYERS

We'll say "Amen!" after each prayer.

We thank you, God, for the sun and the snow, for plows and shovels. **AMEN.**

We thank you, Jesus, for churches and places of beauty where people can worship you. **AMEN.**

We pray for children everywhere: children in Pittsford, Brighton, Rochester, Fairport, Henrietta, and all around our area; children across the United States and around the world. **AMEN.**

We pray for our families and friends, for our moms and dads, sisters and brothers, our grandmas and grandpas, our aunts and uncles, our cousins and our friends. We pray also for our pets. **AMEN.**

We pray to God for the people who take care of us, and the people we take care of. **AMEN.**

God, we now remember those people who are no longer with us, and we thank you for taking them into heaven.

You may say the names of people you remember out loud or to yourself. **AMEN.**

Concluding Prayer

THE PEACE

You are invited to show the people around you peace and love. You can say the words "Peace be with you".

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

OFFERING

There is a collection plate near the church entrances if you would like to support the ministry of this parish.

HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we thank you for everything that you have given us: this beautiful world, our families and friends, our gifts and abilities.

It is right, O God, to give you thanks and praise, as we remember the birth of your son Jesus Christ. Born in a stable, laid in a manger, worshiped by shepherds and kings, we bring the gifts of our hearts to offer to Christ. So we join with angels and archangels, singing with them in their everlasting praise, and ringing our bells.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, (S125)
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died, Jesus sat at the table with his friends. He gave them bread, and said, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine and gave thanks, and said, "Take 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.

We now offer these gifts, this bread, this wine, and ourselves – our bodies and our souls remembering that:

Christ has died.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Christ will come again.

We ask that your Holy Spirit come to this table and fill this bread and this cup with God's powerful love that can make all things new. We pray that we, too, will be filled with the Spirit and joined together as one people blessed, and filled with hope.

We pray this, giving honor and praise to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, in the words that Jesus taught us, we pray:

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

Alleluia! Jesus died for us.

Alleluia!

Alleluia! We will have a feast together.

Alleluia!

These Gifts are from God for you, the People of God.

TAKING COMMUNION

You are invited to come up to the front of the church to the altar rail. You can stand, kneel, or stay in your wheelchair. You can eat the bread. Or you can cross your arms across your chest, if you like, and ask for a blessing. All Communion wafers are gluten-free.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, God, for letting us be part of the Body of Christ.

Thank you, God.

We thank you, God, for feeding us with the Body of Christ.

Thank you, God.

We ask you, God, to send us out into the world, stronger than when we came here, so that we can worship you this Christmas with our whole hearts and bodies.

Thank you, God.

SONG: *Joy to the world*

1:

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven
and nature sing**

2:

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

BLESSING

Celebrant Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

The Rev. Julie Cicora

David Jutsum, Seminarian

Dr. David Baskeyfield, Musician

Liz Salamone, Director of Children's Ministry

The Christ Church Youth Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM: SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

10:00 AM: SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

5:00 PM: A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 PM: SERVICE FOR FAMILIES

4:00 PM AND 8:00 PM:

CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Carols, sermon, and Holy Communion, with music.

Professional childcare is available in the nursery at the 2:00 and 4:00 services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM: SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

A spoken service of carols and Holy Communion with sermon.



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