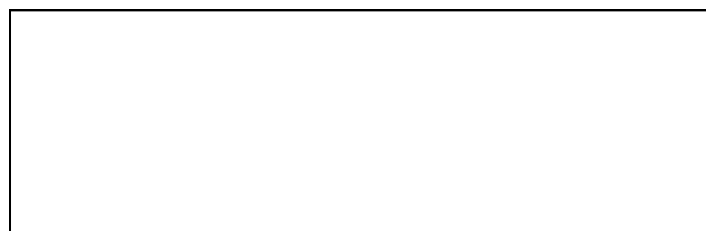


The Enlightener

Christ Church
36 South Main Street
Pittsford, NY 14534

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Growing in Community and Generosity



36 S. Main St. Pittsford, NY 14534

Office Hours Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-5:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Phone (585) 586-1226

parishadmin@christchurchpittsford.com
www.christchurchpittsford.com

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Julianne Buenting, Interim Rector
Alden Wright, Music Director
Cindy Kline, Parish Administrator
Liz Salamone, Children's Ministry and Financial Administrator
Mary Thor, Rick Webster, Tristan Berlet, Sextons
The Rev. Winifred N. Collin, Rector Emerita

Wardens

Daryl Sharp, Pat Morrow

Vestry Members

Mark Dwyer, Jane Gorsline, Alan Jonason,
Patty Sampson-Bouchard, Jeremy Brown,
Natalie Mai-Dixon, Nahoko Kawalyku-O'Connor,
Mike Kramer

Michael Lehman, Treasurer
Kay Marshman, Clerk of the Vestry



THE ENLIGHTENER

DECEMBER JANUARY 2023/2024



"ADVENT and CHRISTMAS: The days are surely coming, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 33:14)

Our church's calendar "new year" begins on the first

Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023. Perhaps priests are not supposed to have favorite liturgical seasons, but I certainly do. And it is Advent. This season of preparation for the yearly feast celebrating God's Incarnation in Christ Jesus is almost overly full of prophetic reminders and expectation, both of Christmas this year and of the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises. Plus, there's Sarum blue brocade vestments and paraments- perfect for Episcopal churches because we come from Church of England lineage and the Sarum Rite was the liturgy used in Salisbury Cathedral from the eleventh century to the English Reformation.

This year, we get a very short Advent season just three full weeks and one day, because the Fourth Sunday of Advent is on December 24th. That means we have to "double dip" on that Sunday. (I would add that I do not understand why the Advent Sundays do not get pushed back a week when December 24th falls on a

Sunday. I desperately need to find an Episcopalian liturgy expert and grill them about the rationale.) To accommodate both observances, we'll have one service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Then, the afternoon switches to Christmas Eve with a Family Service at 2 :00 pm and 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm Solemn Holy Eucharists of Christmas Eve. We will also have a 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 am on Christmas Day with abundant carol singing. Alden and I are going to do our best to see that everyone gets to sing or hear their favorite Christmas carol!

Amongst the anticipation and celebration, I would ask that each of us remain attentively and in prayer for those throughout the world, and in our own locale, who are suffering and in need. Please remember to give generously of your time and other resources to assist those without adequate food, shelter, health, and safety. Pray vigorously and persistently for an end to war, conflict, and violence in our world, for leaders of all the nations, and for those who work for peace, mercy, justice, and love among all humankind. The Prince of Peace who came as Emmanuel (God-with-us) urges us on as messengers of his peace.



CANDLELIGHT NIGHT

Tuesday, December 5, 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Please stop by Christ Church during the Village of Pittsford's annual Candlelight Night. Kids can make Christmas-themed crafts and all can enjoy refreshments. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office, 585-586-1226.



DECEMBER ADULT FORUMS SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM

December 3: True God from True God: The Centrality of the Incarnation

St Athanasius once wrote that 'God became what we are, that we might become what He is.' This Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas, it's fitting that we reflect on what it means to say that God became truly human, and how the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus redeem our human condition. Inspired by the words of the Nicene Creed and the writings of Christian theologians, we'll explore how the coming of the Christ-child is truly the central event in our Christian story.

December 17: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic: The Incarnational Church

After Jesus' ascension, His mission continued through the work of His earliest followers and, through many trials and tribulations, it continues to this day through the Church. Episcopalians and other Christians often use the term 'incarnational' to describe the Church and its mission, but what does this mean exactly? We'll explore this by looking at how the love of God is made manifest through the sacraments, through the path of Christian discipleship in community, and through the outreach and witness of the Church to the wider world.

I admit a large debt to the writings of ++Rowan Williams in these forums, particularly his reflective work 'Tokens of Trust' (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007), which I highly recommend though it's certainly not required.

OUTREACH ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree items help support Cameron, CASA, Meal and More, Pittsford Food Cupboard, School 9 and Baby Love. Please help us give others a Merry Christmas.

There are a couple of ways parishioners can take part in this year's Angel Tree. Parishioners may take an angel and make the purchase themselves. If you make the purchase yourself, please be sure to return the unwrapped gift with the angel attached before December 10.

Financial donations can be made by check or cash in the plate on Sundays, by mail, or always accepted online. The deadline for donations is December 10.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 am HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 am: SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

(No nursery care or Sunday School)

4:00 pm Afternoon Tea hosted by the Parish Life Committee

5.00 pm: A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS

A festive telling of the Christmas story with scripture reading and music by the Christ Church choir, and congregational singing in the style of King's College, Cambridge.

Professional childcare is available in the nursery.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 am: HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00 pm: FAMILY SERVICE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

An abbreviated child-friendly service of carols and communion.

Professional childcare is available in the nursery.

4.00 pm and 8.00 pm CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Carols, sermon, and communion, with music from the Adult Choir and soloists.

Professional childcare is available in the nursery for the 4:00 pm service.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am: HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

A simple service of carols and Communion with sermon.



CALENDAR

Altar Guild meets every Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday, December 3 Advent I

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:00 am Forum
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II with Baptism
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 11:15 am Coffee Hour
 11:15 am Pageant Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 5 Candlelight Night

9:00 am Stretch and Strengthen Class
 5:00 pm Candlelight Night Activities

Wednesday, December 6

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, December 7

9:30 am Qi Gong

Sunday, December 10 Advent II

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 11:15 am Coffee Hour
 11:15 am Pageant Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 am Stretch and Strengthen
 12:00 pm Caregivers' Luncheon
 5:45 pm Vestry

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, December 14

9:30 am Qi Gong
 3:00 pm Non Fiction Book Club

Sunday, December 17 Christmas Pageant

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 9:00 am Forum (Library)
 9:15 am Pageant Rehearsal
 10:00 am Coffee Hour
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 11:15 am Coffee Hour
 4:00 pm Parish Life Afternoon Tea
 5:00 pm Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 7:30 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, December 21

9:30 am Qi Gong

Sunday, December 24 Advent IV

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services

2:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Nursery Care
 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist Nursery Care
 8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Thursday, December 28

4:00 pm Cloverwood Communion Service

Sunday December 31

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 11:15 am Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 3

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 4

9:30 am Qi Gong

Sunday, January 7

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 11:15 am Coffee Hour

Tuesday, January 9

12:00 pm Caregivers' Luncheon
 5:45 pm Vestry

Wednesday, January 10

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 4:15 pm Chorister's Rehearsal
 7:30 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, January 11

9:30 am Qi Gong

Sunday, January 14

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:00 am Coffee Hour
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 10:00 am Sunday School and Nursery Care
 11:15 am Coffee Hour



SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP AND NURSERY

Our Sunday School friends continue to meet each Sunday at 10:00 to learn about their faith and enjoy fellowship and fun with their Christ Church friends. After Thanksgiving, our Sunday School lessons will focus on Advent and preparing for Christmas.

Information and a sign-up for the annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 17 during the 10:00 service will be available soon.

Drop-in rehearsals will be held after the 10:00 services on December 3 and 10 and immediately before the 10:00 service on December 17. There will be opportunities for all ages to get involved in this year's pageant. Please contact Liz at sundayschool@christchurchpittsford.com if your family is interested in participating.

The Christ Church youth group had a spooky outing to the Powers Farm Haunted Hayride right before Halloween. The night featured eerily good weather and a fun time with Pat, Julianne, and youth group friends. Another Youth Group outing will be planned after Christmas.

If your family hasn't had a chance to register for Sunday School yet, it's never too late! The registration form is available on the Christ Church website as well as in each of the classrooms.

As always, we welcome new adult and youth volunteers to teach and assist in each of our Sunday School rooms. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. Scheduling is flexible. Please email Liz at sundayschool@christchurchpittsford.com if you are interested in lending a hand.

Christ Church welcomes Madeline Dembowski as our new Nursery Caregiver.

Madeline is a senior at Nazareth University, double majoring in Speech Therapy and Dance Studies. She joins Tori Dennis in the Nursery each Sunday at 10:00. The team is ready to welcome all infants and toddlers from birth through age 2.



MUSIC

Although one of the shortest liturgical seasons in the Church year, Advent is a rich and complex time, with a great potential to lead us into a deeper understanding of the great mystery and miracle of Christ's incarnation on Earth through its liturgy and music. Advent is a time of joyful expectation in waiting for the coming of Christ. The 'coming' is of course two-fold: the coming of the anniversary of Christ's birth in a manger, and the second coming of Christ to redeem the whole Earth at long last. The latter is difficult and perplexing for many, because it is an idea so strange and foreign to the modern mind, but it is nevertheless essential to the experience of Advent because it keeps us true to the constant promise "Christ will come again." Most choose to focus on the former theme, that of Christ's first coming as a babe in a manger, as a way of expecting the coming of Christmastide. This duology, coupled with the complex feelings associated with waiting, including expectancy, longing, and preparation, gives rich possibilities for musical offerings in worship through hymns, anthems, and musical 'Advent calendars,' which through customary changes in verse lead us through the four weeks. The intention should be that the liturgy is marked by a restrained, yet joyful expectation, which is not inherently penitential. It is my hope that the musical offerings throughout the season of Advent lead us all toward a feeling of confidence and joy, and most importantly a deeper understanding of this Holy mystery, culminating in the celebration of Christmas together.

One of the single most celebrated events within the coming season throughout the Christian world is the Service of Nine Lessons with Carols, which has reached tremendous attention internationally over the past 75 years through yearly broadcasted services from the Chapel of King's College in Cambridge. This service is renowned for its beauty in the synergistical blending of scripture and music, both from the choir and the congregation. The service itself has its origins in the year 1880, not in Cambridge, but in Cornwall, when Edward W. Benson, the Bishop of Truro, created a simple service of nine lessons and nine carols to provide a Christmas celebration for all people regardless of religious tradition or social condition. In that year, construction was underway on a new grand Cathedral in the Gothic tradition, the first of its kind to be built in England since the Middle Ages. There was huge upheaval in the Cornish village, because construction of this building meant destruction of existing homes and structures that existed for centuries prior. It was the goal of this carol service to bring unity and peace among the residents, and the service was held in a temporary wooden shed on the present-day grounds of the grand Victorian Cathedral, which saw its completion in 1888. The service eventually made its way to Cambridge, where it was first instituted in 1919, significantly after the catastrophic war just prior.

It is a special privilege among this great season of expectation to present our own version of this service here at Christ Church, Pittsford, which will take place on Sunday, December 17 at 5:00pm. Though this will be a somewhat premature celebration of the birth itself, it will hopefully serve to remind us of the various facets of waiting associated with the Advent season. I hope you will all join us for this service in singing and celebrating the joyful coming of Christ.



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS



THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO AN AFTERNOON TEA AT 4:00 PM BEFORE THE SERVICE.

A FESTIVE TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY FEATURING SCRIPTURE READINGS INTER-SPERSED WITH

MUSIC BY THE CHRIST CHURCH CHOIR AND CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONAL ORDER OF SERVICE
CODIFIED BY KINGS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP

Caregivers Luncheon

Tuesdays, December 12, January 9 at 12:00 pm

Caregivers meets the second Tuesday of the month, right here at Christ Church. All participants must be caring for a loved one in their personal lives. We offer nourishments for the body, mind and soul. This group is lead by two very experienced caregivers: Jamie Hill and Laurie Sorge. This group is not limited to members of Christ church, that means if you have a friend or relative or even "friend of a friend" in need, they are welcome. Please contact Cindy (parish administrator) through the church office at 586-1226 or Laurie Sorge at 703-3503.

Non Fiction BOOK CLUB

December 14 and January 11 at 6:00 pm

The December book is *Operation Long Jump: Stalin, Roosevelt, Churchill and the Greatest Assassination Plot in History* by Bill Yenne. The next meeting will be on December 14 at 6.00 pm in the Collin Fellowship Room. The group meets the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome.

Women's Retreat

December 9 at 10:00 am

Please join us as we work on how to nourish the joy of this Christmas season despite all that can distract us. We love to co-create an enriching morning of sharing, learning and opening ourselves to the wonders of God's love.

Women's Book Club will meet in January

Look more information in the MailChimp and Announcements.