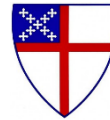


Christ Episcopal Church



Christ Episcopal Church
1521 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA



December 11, 2022

Advent III
Welcome to Christ Church!

Rite II



December 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Prelude – *Hark the Glad Sound*

Robert Powell

Opening Hymn – *Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes* Hymnal 72

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Opening Salutation:

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

Response: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant may say

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

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 *The Song of Mary – Magnificat*

Hymnal S247

Molly Stevenson - Cantor

The Antiphon will be sung by the Cantor the first time, followed by the congregation. After verse 3, 5, 8 and 10, the congregation will join in with the cantor to sing the antiphon again

Antiphon
Unison or harmony

1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness
of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in
God my Sa - vior; for he has looked
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
3 He has mercy on those who fear him
4 He has shown the strength of his arm,
5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
6 He has filled the hungry with good things,
7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
8 The promise he made to our fathers,
9 Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
10 As it was in the be - ginning, is now,

2 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
3 in every gen - er - ation. [Ant.]
4 he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit.
5 and has lifted up the lowly. [Ant.]
6 and the rich he has sent a - way empty.
7 for he has remembered his prom - ise of mercy,
8 to Abraham and his chil - dren for ever. [Ant.]
9 and to the Ho - ly Spirit:
10 and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

The antiphon may be sung in unison, with the counter-melody played by an instrument, or it may be sung in three parts.

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn – *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Hymnal 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Then, all standing, a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon – The Rev. Dr. David Perkins

The Nicene Creed

**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 IV)

Lay Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We pray for Christ Church as we receive your grace in Jesus Christ and share that grace with one another and the world, and for all people in their daily life and work.

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Frank our Bishop, Scott our retired bishop; for David our interim priest, Walter and Marcía our assisting priests, Nancy our deacon; Peter, our retired priest, Stella and Patricia our retired deacons and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for Joe, our President; Brian, our Governor, and for those serving in the Armed Forces.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Kathy Armstrong, Max Bontrager, Jimmy Carroll, Caty Carter, Allan Dear, Janet Dickman, Tommy Hatcher, Peter Ingeman, Michane James, Laurie McCall, Laura Paine, Richard Rigby, Rocky, Burt Tillman, Jerry Tyson

Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation,

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially

that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

(The celebrant then concludes:)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory – *An Advent Prayer*

Allen Pote

Choir

Doxology

Hymnal 380 vs. 3

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Sanctus Hymnal S125

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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.

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

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

People and Celebrant

**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

Hymnal S169

The Celebrant may say the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith,
with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns – *Thy Kingdom Come*

Hymnal 615

1 "Thy king - dom come!" on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;
2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;
3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;
4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,
5 when know - ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king - dom's day.
2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.
3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:
4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;
5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And, since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn – *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

Hymnal 68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry,
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Dismissal

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude – Recessional on Llangloffan

Franklin Ashdown

Special Notes

Children's Church will not meet on December 11th. Hope to see the Children age 3 – 5th grade next week to meet Keri Wilkin in the Children's Classroom in Gabard. (This is the first classroom on the left in the preschool hallway.)

Advent Bible Study – Father Perkins will hold a bible study in the front of the Parish Hall the Sundays of Advent. We will be discussing parables of Jesus that have Advent themes. This Sunday, we will discuss the Great Banquet. Please join us after you get your coffee and snack for bible study.

Garden Guild will meet Monday, December 12th and Wednesday, December 14th beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will meet under the Dave Clark Cook Shelter. We will take a break for Christmas and begin again the 2nd week of January. We will focus on the rectory grounds then. Many thanks to all of the hardworking people who help to clean up our church campus. More hardworking people are welcome to join us. Bring your gloves and tools.

Pub Night, December 13th - We will gather at the Georgia Beer Company, Tuesday, December 13th, at 7 pm for Pub Night. Our topic-- The Missional Church. The address, 109 S. Briggs Street. Pub Night is a great and safe place to invite a friend or relative without a faith community. We simply talk about the topic in a relaxed environment.

Poinsettia Order Sheet is available in the bulletin today. Please drop sheet with contribution in the offering plate, or bring your form by the church office by **December 15th**.

2023 Liturgical Kalendars are available in the Tower; a \$3 donation is appreciated.

H.E.P. Lunch Group - Save the date and time HEP (Happy Episcopal People) lunch group. **Friday, Dec 16 at noon**, John and Marcia McRae's home - 2701 Green Meadow Dr. Host are serving up chili, both vegan and chicken. Please bring your favorite chili side dish or a dessert to share. Requested to RSVP to 229-220-5619. Great time to share low key evangelism by bringing a friend or another member. Next lunch group will be Feb.17.

Organ Recital: Sunday, **December 18th** Sue Ellen Rumstay will be hosting a “Christmas Organ Recital” from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please join us.

Special Notes – (cont.)

Food Bank Collection - Collection containers will be in foyer the Advent Sundays. Part of the collection will be used to "pack the pantry" of our new habitat house. Please NO GLASS containers. Thank you for your donations. John McRae, coordinator 229-220-5619

Ladies Night Out: Friday December 30th, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Paul and Molly Stevenson. - 6933 Old Valdosta Rd. N., Hahira, GA 31632. Join us for food and fellowship. Bring your favorite appetizer. Drinks will be provided. Bring a friend!

Vestry - We have nine candidates for the position of Vestry 2025. Each candidate has been asked to send in a brief bio and submit a photo. This information once received will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall as well as in the Friday bulletin beginning December 23rd. Vestry Elections will be held on January 8, 2023 during the Annual Parish meeting to be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will only have a 10:00 service on this day.

Christmas and New Year Services – December 24th – 4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Children's Sermon. **December 24th – 11:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir (Music begins at 10:30). **December 25th – 10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II (spoken). **January 1st – 10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II (spoken).

Ongoing Invitation from Bishop Frank Logue - Bishop Logue and Canon Lasch remain available to answer any questions about the transition process. You can reach out to them through the diocesan office by phone (912-236-4279) or by email (bishop@gaepiscopal.org or llasch@gaepiscopal.org) to set up a time to speak either on the phone, via Zoom, or in person. A number of you responded to Bishop Logue's invitation previously, and he wants to keep that invitation open to you.

End of Year Giving: Donations for the 2022 tax year can be dropped off at the church office before December 22nd, or in the offering plate on December 24th or December 25th at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. **The Church Office will be closed from December 26th - January 2nd.** Donations may be dropped in the drop-box on the College Street office door after 12/22, or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Church.

Special Notes – (cont.)

Stewardship Update – We have received 77 pledges as of Monday, December 5th for a total of \$391,810

3 new pledges totaling \$10,800

3 have previously given but not pledged totaling \$11,800.

27 pledges stayed the same totaling \$130,420

35 increased their pledge totaling \$217,610 with an increase of \$27,810

9 decreased their pledge totaling \$21,180 with a decrease of \$16,460

(making our overall pledge increase total \$11,350)

We encourage you to give prayerful thought to your commitments for next year and to render your pledge as soon as possible. That gives the finance committee support and insight as they anticipate our 2023 budget.

You can render your pledge by putting your card in the box in the narthex, mailing it to the office, or emailing Amy

(books@christchurchvaldosta.org).

Save the dates: Below is a list of upcoming calendar dates. A calendar link has been added to the bottom of the Christ Church website homepage as well. More details will be distributed when the events get closer, but we wanted to get these dates out so you can mark your calendars:

Dec. 16: H.E.P. Lunch – 12:00 p.m. – McRae's Home

Dec. 18: Christmas Recital – 3:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Dec. 23: H.E.P. Party – 6:00 p.m. – Sandbach's Home

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services – 4:30* & 11:00 p.m.

Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service – 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 26-Jan. 2: Church Office Closed

Dec. 30: Ladies Night Out – 6:30 p.m. – Molly Stevenson's Home

Jan. 1: New Year's Day Service – 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 8: Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Elections – after 10:00 service

* Denotes date/time change

Serving Today

LEM: Phyllis Holland, Nancy Lutsko, Mike Tanner

Lectors: Mike Holland, Nancy Lutsko, Phyllis Holland

Acolytes: Joel Williams, Phyllis Holland, Nancy Lutsko

Altar Guild: Team 2 – Phyllis Holland, Anne Reid, Mimi Allen, Pat Bezona, Karen Gunter

Ushers: Hudson Tanner, Stephen Sandbach, Tanner Darby

Coffee Hour: Sallie Honeycutt, Pat Denmark, Eric Nielsen, Ann Burnette

Media Crew: Julius Ariail, Ken Rumstay, Larry Wisenbaker