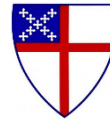


# Christ Episcopal Church



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



December 18, 2022

Advent IV  
Welcome to Christ Church!

Rite II



December 18, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

Prelude – *Medley on Savior of the Nations, Come; Carol of the Bells; and O Sons and Daughters*  
Rebecca Owen

Opening Hymn – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

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.*

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

The Lessons

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 (Unison)

BCP 702

*Qui regis Israel*

- 1 **Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 **Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
- 5 **You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 **Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 16 **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 17 **And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**
- 18 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## Gospel Hymn: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Hymnal 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

*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 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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, Caty Carter, Allan Dear, Janet Dickman, Tommy Hatcher, Peter Ingeman, Michane James, Laurie McCall, Laura Paine, Richard Rigby, Rocky, Burt Tillman, Jerry Tyson, Willa Valencia

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 Jimmy Carroll 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 – *Come, Messiah* by Lloyd Larsen Choir  
Jennifer Pifer, oboe; Al Turner, percussion

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.

## Spiritual Communion

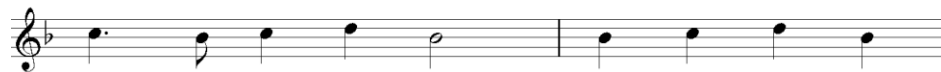
In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And, since I cannot receive you 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.*

## Communion Hymns – *Savior of the Nations, Come!*

Hymnal 54



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

## 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 – *Watchmen Tell us of the Night*

Hymnal 640

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
 lie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Dismissal

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude – *O Blessed Emmanuel*

J. S. Bach

Special Notes

**Children’s Church** will meet on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Children age 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to meet Keri Wilkin in the Children’s Classroom in Gabard. (This is the first classroom on the left in the preschool hallway.) We will take a break for the Holidays and will return to Children’s Church on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Parable of Sheep and Goats. Please join us after you get your coffee and snack for bible study.

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

**Stitchers of Love** will meet this evening. Stitchers is held in the Parish Hall from 4:30 – 6 p.m. All are welcome to come. If you have ever wanted to learn to knit or crochet, please plan to join us, we have many teachers.

**Garden Guild** will take a few weeks off for the holidays. We will resume the second week of January when we will begin work around the rectory.

**Vespers** meets in person tonight in the sanctuary beginning at 6:00 p.m. to read the Compline Service, pages 127-135 in the Book of Common Prayer and for friendly conversation afterwards. Bring a brown bag supper and join us in the parish hall after Vespers.

**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 has been posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall as well as in the Friday bulletin. 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.



**Special Notes – (cont.)**

**Christmas and New Year Services** – December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Children’s Sermon. December 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir music beginning at 10:30 p.m.  
**December 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II (spoken). **January 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken).

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

**Annual Parish Meeting - January 8, 2023** we will have only one service, a shortened 10 am worship service with the annual meeting at its conclusion. At the annual meeting we will have Vestry Elections and you will find out about all the good works that Christ Church has been doing. The Men in Blue, the Vestry, Parish Life Committee and the Hospitality Committee will be providing a hamburger/hot dog luncheon. Please call or email the [church office](#) if you plan to attend. There is no cost for the luncheon, nor do you have to bring anything. We need an RSVP, to help with food planning to make sure we have enough to feed everyone who will attend. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

**Birdwatching trip to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge** and boat trip at Wakulla Springs, January 1st. Meet at Christ Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Bring food to share at lunch. Come for all or part of the day. See John or Phyllis Hiers for more information.

**Stewardship Update** – We have received 80 pledges as of Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for a total of \$397,610  
3 new pledges totaling \$10,800  
3 have previously given but not pledged totaling \$11,800.  
29 pledges stayed the same totaling \$135,220  
35 increased their pledge totaling \$217,610 with an increase of \$27,810  
10 decreased their pledge totaling \$22,180 with a decrease of \$17,960  
(making our overall pledge increase total \$9,850)  
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](mailto:books@christchurchvaldosta.org)).

**Special Notes – (cont.)**

**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. 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:** St. Mark’s National Wildlife Refuge Trip  
**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:** Eric Nielsen, David Sandbach, Julia Ariail  
**Lectors:** Julia Ariail, David Sandbach, Ruth Holland  
**Acolytes:** Nancy Lutsko, Rich Johnson, Gowan Johnson  
**Altar Guild:** Team 3 – Frances Guice, Krystle Black, Nikki Yarbrough, Martha Leake, Kathleen Parsons  
**Ushers:** Al Turner, Tom Carroll, John McRae  
**Coffee Hour:** Krystle Black, Sue Ellen Rumstay, Stefani Carroll, Ruth Holland  
**Media Crew:** Julius Ariail, Ken Rumstay, Larry Wisenbaker