Christ Episcopal Church





December 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.



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



December 4, 2022

Advent II Welcome to Christ Church!

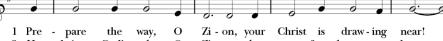
Rite II

Prelude - Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

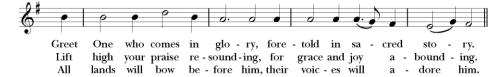
Raymond Han

Opening Hymn – *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Hymnal 65



- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi on; he comes from heaven a bove. 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.
- Let ev ery hill and val ley a lev el way ap pear.
 His rule is peace and free-dom, and jus tice, truth, and love.
 His tid ings of sal va tion pro claim in ev ery place.





Opening Salutation:

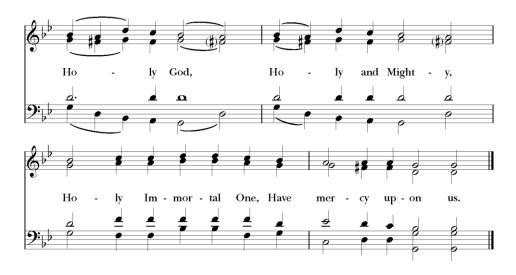
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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



The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Lessons

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall

strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Unison

BCP 685

Deus, judicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



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 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: `Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 Marćia 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, Benita Sandbach, 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 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, recital., Every Valley Shall be Exalted, aria, G.F.Handel

Chris Rutland, tenor

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.

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*.

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 Hymn – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal 67



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



Dismissal

Response: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Michael Burkhardt

Special Notes

<u>Children's Church</u> will meet on December 4^{th} . Children age $3-5^{th}$ 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.)

<u>Dave Clark Build for the Cure</u> Thank you to everyone who has come out to help with the build. The dedication for the house is now scheduled for December 10th. Help us celebrate the Habitat Home for Christmas with the family on December 10th at 10:00 a.m. If you can carpool from the church that would be helpful as parking at location is limited.

<u>Garden Guild</u> will meet Monday, December 5th beginning at 10:00 a.m. (later time – weather permitting). We will meet under the Dave Clark Cook Shelter on Mondays and Wednesday. Bring your gloves and tools. All are welcome.

Rev. Lonnie Lacy Installation, December 4 One of our own, The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, is being installed as rector at St. John's, Tallahassee, FL, this Sunday, December 4th at 3 pm. Lonnie grew up at Christ Church and served previously at St. Anne's, Tifton, GA. The Right Rev. Scott Benhase, retired bishop of Georgia, will preach. Fr. David, our interim, will attend, as will numerous other Diocese of Georgia clergy. The service is open to the public. St. John's is located at 211 North Monroe Street.

Advent Bible Study — Father Perkins will hold a bible study in the front of the Parish Hall the second-fourth Sundays of Advent (Dec 4, 11, 18). We will be discussing parables of Jesus that have Advent themes. This Sunday, some of Jesus' seed parables. Please join us after you get your coffee and snack for bible study.

Special Notes

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.

<u>Lunch Bunch</u> is seeking monetary donations for the purchase of Christmas items for those we serve at Hudson Docket and Ora Lee West. Lunch Bunch teams will purchase the items to be distributed. **On**December 10 at 9:00 AM - Lunch Bunch will be wrapping Christmas presents for presentation to our children with their lunches. After the 150 presents are wrapped, lunches will be made and packed, and then lunches and presents transported to be given out. We need people and we need SUV's/trucks for delivery.

<u>Stitchers of Love</u> will meet this evening. Stitchers is held in the Parish Hall from 4-6 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.

<u>Vespers</u> 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 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.

<u>Christmas Recital</u> - Our annual Christmas recital will be held on Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature festive organ music, and heavenly harp music.

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.

Special Notes – (cont.)

Food Bank Collection - Collection containers will be in fover the next 3 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 vour donations. John McRae, coordinator 229-220-5619

Stewardship Update – We have received 72 pledges as of Tuesday,

November 21st for a total of \$364,410

3 new pledges totaling \$10,800

2 have previously given but not pledged totaling \$5,800.

24 pledges stayed the same totaling \$110,020

35 increased their pledge totaling \$217,610 with an increase of \$27,810 8 decreased their pledge totaling \$20,180 with a decrease of \$16,260

(making our overall pledge increase total \$11,550)

We encourage you to give prayerful thought to your commitments for next year and to render your pledge by November 30th. 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. 4: Stitchers of Love – 4:00 p.m. – Parish Hall

Vespers – 6:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Dec. 10: Lunch Bunch – 11:00 a.m. – Parish Hall * Dec. 10: Habitat House Dedication for Christmas

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. – Sanctuary

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

Dec. 26-Jan. 2: - Church Office Closed

* Denotes Date change

Serving Today

LEM: David Sandbach, Martin Holland, Maddie Yarbrough Lectors: David Sandbach, Martin Holland, Maddie Yarbrough

Acolytes: Nancy Lutsko, Chip Whiting, Phyllis Holland Altar Guild: Team 1 – Sandra Fletcher, Rita Hightower, Sallie Honeycutt, Amber Tanner

Ushers: Alex Alvarez, Delrick Bradley, Eric Nielsen

Coffee Hour: Julie Reynolds, Gwen Daughtrey, Marcie Dennard, Leigh Long

Media Crew: Julius Ariail, Larry Wisenbaker



The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia The Rev. Dr. David Perkins, Interim Kim Dudley, Church Administrator Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper Keri Wilkin, Director of Children's Ministry Chris Rutland & Joel Williams, Co-Directors of EYC Charles Whiting, Director of College Ministry Issa Young, Director of Music Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist

OUR VISION

To receive God's grace in Jesus Christ, and share this grace with one another and the world.

VESTRY

2022	2023	2024
Alex Alvarez	Brad Burnette	Jeani Synyard
Stefani Carroll	Sandra Fletcher	Patricia Tyson
Bonnie Hanson	Dottie Pitts	Joel Williams
Nancy Lutsko	Al Turner	Larry Wisenbaker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nancy Lutsko (Senior Warden) Alex Alvarez (Junior Warden) Bonnie Hanson (Secretary) Stefani Carroll (Treasurer)

The church office is located at 103 East College Street. Mailing address: 1521 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602

Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4 PM

Phone: 242-5115 FAX: 242-2247

e-mail address: Father Perkins: interim@christchurchvaldosta.org

Church website: www.christchurchvaldosta.org