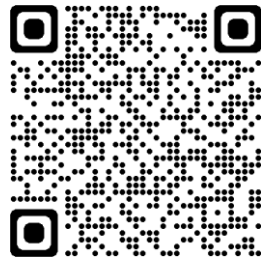


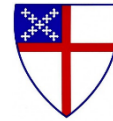
# Christ Episcopal Church



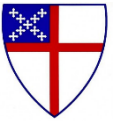
Scan to donate

December 17, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

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 – 3 PM  
e-mail address: Father Hal – [rector@christchurchvaldosta.org](mailto:rector@christchurchvaldosta.org)  
Church website: [www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)  
Phone: 229-242-5115 FAX: 229-242-2247



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



December 17, 2023

Advent III

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Welcome to Christ Church!  
Mobile text your gift to **844-928-4938**

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Prelude – *I Am A Poor, Wayfaring Stranger***

John Jacob Niles

**Opening Hymn – *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding***

Hymn 59

**Lighting of Advent Candles**

**Opening Salutation**

BCP 355

**Collect for Purity**

BCP 355

**Trisagion**

Hymnal S102

**The Collect of the Day**

BCP 212

**The Lessons**

(See Insert)

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

Hymn 76

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Hal Weidman

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

**Prayers of the People (Form III)**

BCP 387

**Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**The Peace**

BCP 360

**Announcements – please be seated**

**Offertory – *Advent Echo*** Mary Kay Beale

**Doxology**

Choir  
Hymn 380 vs. 3

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

BCP 367

**Sanctus**

Hymnal S125

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

**Fraction Anthem**

Hymnal S164

**The Communion**

BCP 364

**Communion Hymns – *Herald, Sound the Note of Judgement***

Hymn 70

***The Lord Will Come and Not be Slow***

Hymn 462

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

BCP 365

**Blessing**

***Hymn – O Zion Haste***

Hymn 539

**Dismissal**

BCP 366

**Postlude – *O Blessed Emmanuel***

J.S. Bach

### SPECIAL NOTES

**WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE.** We are so glad you're here! Father Hal, the Vestry, an Usher or a member are available to welcome you and answer your questions.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES** will take a break for the holidays. We will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NURSERY OPENS AT 9:00AM** – The Nursery opens at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday

**EVENING PRAYER** is held on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. We invite you to join us. We will not have evening prayer on Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.

**THE TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** led by Willa Valencia, is held at 7:30pm at the home of Ron and Tammy Borders (1718 Williams St.). All adults are welcome. Please bring your Bible—any translation.

**THE STITCHERS OF LOVE** need your donations of new or gently used stuffed animals to donate to the Children's Advocacy Center to comfort and soothe abused children. Contact Deacon Patricia Marks at 229-630-8644 or bring the animals to the Christ Church Office.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**December 17** – 11:15 – Baptism Class

**3p** – Organ Recital

**4p** – Sticher of Love

**5:30p** – EYC – Gabard Building

**6p** – Vespers

**7p** – Vestry Meeting at Jeani Synyard's Home

**December 18** – **5:30p** – Evening Prayer – Sanctuary

**December 19** – **7:30p** – Valencia Bible Study – Borders' Home

**December 20** – **7p** – Choir Practice – Sanctuary

**December 23** – **6p** – HEP Party at Sandbach's Home

**December 24** – **8 & 10a** – Holy Eucharist

**9a** – Nursery

**9:15a** – Christian Education

**11:15a** – Greening the Church for Christmas

**4:30p** – Children's Christmas Eve Service

**10:30p** – Christmas Eve Music

**11p** – Christmas Eve Service

### SERVERS

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Julia Ariail, Nancy Lutsko, Maddie Yarbrough

**Lectors:** Maddie Yarbrough, Kathleen Parsons, Julia Ariail

**Acolytes:** Joel Williams, David Holland, Holly Rogers

**Altar Guild:** Frances Guice, Krystle Black, Nikki Yarbrough, Martha Leake, Kathleen Parsons

**Ushers:** Trent Coggins, Cliff Baker, Jerry Byrd

**Greeter:** Michael Black

**Coffee Hour:** Krystle Black, Sue Ellen Rumstay, Stefani Carroll, Ruth Holland, Pat Bezona

**Audio/Visual Crew:** Julius Ariail, Ken Rumstay, Charles Whiting, Larry Wisenbaker

**CHRISTMAS RECITAL** - Our annual Christmas recital will be **today** at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature festive organ music by Sue Ellen Rumstay.



**HEP (Happy Episcopal People) Party**  
**Saturday, December 23, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

H.E.P. Party: Adult Friends and Family Welcome  
Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM at  
David and Elise Sandbach's - 2607 Pebblewood Dr .  
Please mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy an evening of Christmas Cheer.

Drinks will be provided, please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.

Remember this is an adult only gathering. Childcare will be provided at the church in Gabard Building.



**PLEDGE CARDS** are still being accepted if you have not turned one in yet. Please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible this aids the Finance Committee to work on the budget for 2024. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Church!

We have received **83 pledges** for a total of **\$442,180** as of December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**EPIPHANY PAGEANT** – The children's pageant will take place on the Feast of Epiphany again this year. Mark your calendars to attend the 10am service on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and plan to stay for a Brunswick Stew lunch! (Contact Molly Stevenson if you can provide a pot of Brunswick Stew or a pan of cornbread - (229 292-8215... text or call)



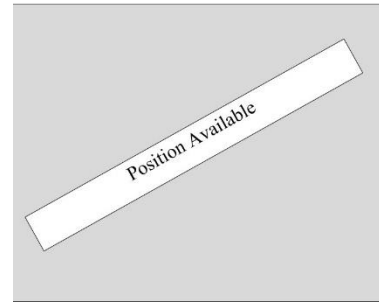
**CONSIDERING BAPTISM?** - Have you ever considered being baptized and just haven't gotten around to it? Well, now is the time. Fr Hal will hold a preparation class for you and parents and godparents/sponsors (for those individuals not capable for answering questions of faith). The class meets at **11:15a.m. today** in the Sanctuary. The Sunday we celebrate Jesus' baptism, January 7th, we will baptize those who are interested."



**THE GARDEN GUILD** will take a brief break for the holidays and will meet again on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. We focus on the church grounds. The Garden Guild could use more hardworking people. All are welcome to join us. Bring your gloves and tools.

### **CHRIST CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR A DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE MINISTRY**

We will accept resumes and applications until the position is filled. Please call (229-242-5115) or email (office@christchurchvaldosta.org) the office for the application to be sent to you. We pray that God sends us the right individual to be a visionary, communicator, recruiter and a leader in the College Ministry of our parish.



**Make a difference with your year-end gift!**  
**Donate Now**

### **End of Year Giving**

Donations for the 2023 tax year can be dropped off at the church office before December 21st, 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 25th - January 2nd.** Donations may be dropped in the drop-box on the College Street office door after 12/21 but before 12/29, so they can be deposited before the 1st of January. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Church.

### **The Lessons**

#### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. <sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Psalm 126**

**(Unison)**

**BCP 782**

*In convertendo*

- <sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.**
- <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- <sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**
- <sup>4</sup> The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**
- <sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.**
- <sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**
- <sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## Second Reading

### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## Gospel Lesson

### John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**Remember in your prayers:** Ann Burnette, Alexis Carr, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Allan Dear, Irene Dodd, Bishop Tom Ely, Gene Greneker, Louise Harden, Peter Ingeman, Michane James, CathyAnn Kautter, Mike Lassen, the Long family, the McCrary family, Gnann Moser, Ray Murphy, Brett Nelson, Rocky, Burt Tillman, Willa Valencia, Sue Marie Waddell, Michelle Weidman, Chuck Whiting

Lorri McCrary – deceased – (Sister of Troy Long)

## Advent/Christmas at CHRIST CHURCH



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

8 am, Holy Eucharist Rite One  
9:15 am, Christian Education  
10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite Two  
11:15 am, Coffee Hour – Parish Hall  
11:15 am, Baptism Class – Sanctuary  
3 pm, Organ Recital – Sanctuary  
4 pm, Stitches of Love  
5 pm, EYC – Gabard Building  
6 pm, Vespers - Sanctuary  
7 pm, Vestry Meeting at Jeani Synyard's Home

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVE**

8 am, Holy Eucharist Rite One  
9:15 am, Christian Education  
10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite Two  
11:15 am, Greening of Church – No Coffee Hour  
4:30 pm, Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
10:30 pm, Music  
11 pm, Celestial Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite Two - Spoken

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 – TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 **CHRISTMAS I**

10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite Two - Spoken  
**No Christian Education, or Coffee Hour**

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1 **THE HOLY NAME**

10 am, Holy Eucharist, Rite Two – Spoken

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 **EPIPHANY PAGEANT**

10 am, Holy Eucharist Rite Two

**All things come from you. And of your own have we given you.**

1 Chronicles 29:14

As we move quickly toward the end of 2023, you may be considering additional financial gifts that will help you with your 2023 taxes. Listed below are a few ideas for you to consider.

- \* Appreciated securities - using these assets you get the same income tax savings as you would by making a gift of cash. Also you eliminate any taxes on the increase in value of the securities. You must have owned the shares you are giving for at least a year.
- \* If you have an IRA (individual retirement account) and are 70 1/2 or older, you can make charitable gifts from that account of up to \$100,000. You will not pay income taxes on the amount you withdraw from the account if used for such a gift. Some of you may be of an age that you are required to take minimum distributions. You can use your gift to satisfy that requirement.
- \* DAF (donor advised funds) are also good vehicles for making charitable gifts. These are established by agreement with community foundations or other sponsoring organizations. Your financial advisor can give you more details.
- \* The easiest and quickest way to make a year end gift is to simply write a check to Christ Episcopal Church and make sure you get it to us before the end of 2023. Please remember that December 31 is on Sunday this year and our office will be closed the last week of the year. Be sure that your check is in the mail in time to be post marked no later than December 31.

This information should not be taken as financial or tax advice. You should always consult your professional advisors to ensure that your gifts meet all of the requirements for tax deductions. We do ask that you prayerfully consider these methods to maximize your financial support of Christ Church. Wishing you many blessings



## **OUR MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL**

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia  
All Christ Church Families & Friends are Ministers  
Hal Weidman, Pastor & Priest  
Nancy Sartin, Deacon  
Kim Dudley, Administrator  
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper  
Michelle Weidman, Director of Christian Education  
Position Available, Director of College Ministry  
Elise Sandbach, Director of Preschool & PMO  
Issa Young, Choir Director  
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist  
Jacob Alward & Kylee Creasy, Nursery  
Nancy Lutsko, Verger

## **OUR VISION**

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

## **VESTRY**

2023	2024	2025
Brad Burnette	John Hiers	Phyllis Holland
Sandra Fletcher	Jeani Synyard	Steve Honeycutt
Dottie Pitts	Patricia Tyson	Molly Stevenson
Al Turner	Larry Wisenbaker	Mike Tanner

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Al Turner (Senior Warden)  
Steve Honeycutt (Junior Warden)  
Sandra Fletcher (Secretary)  
Stefani Carroll (Treasurer)

## **Ministry Chairs**

Administration – Al Turner  
Altar Guild – Lucy Tomberlin  
Acolyte, EMs & Lectors – Nancy Lutsko  
Adult Formation, DOK, Music & Worship – Molly Stevenson  
Building & Grounds – Steve Honeycutt  
Choir – Sue Ellen Rumstay  
Christian Formation – Patricia Tyson  
College Ministry – Jeri-Lyn Flowers  
Discipleship & Evangelism – Dottie Pitts  
Finance – Brad Burnette  
Foyer Groups, Parish Life & Stewardship, Endowment – Jeani Synyard  
Habitat for Humanity, Men in Blue, Outreach & Parish Life – Mike Tanner  
Hospitality – Pat Denmark  
Jamming for Jesus – Stella Clark  
Lunch Bunch – David Sandbach  
Media & Communication – Larry Wisenbaker  
Newcomers – Martin Holland  
Pastoral Care – Phyllis Holland  
Stitchers of Love – The. Rev. Dcn. Patricia Marks, Julia Ariail  
Ushers – Bobby Yarbrough  
Vespers – Phyllis Hiers

**The 10:00 service is livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA](https://www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA)  
[www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA](https://www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA)

