

# Christ Episcopal Church



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December 31, 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  
Church website: www.christchurchvaldosta.org  
Phone: 229-242-5115 FAX: 229-242-2247



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



December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas  
Welcome to Christ Church!  
Mobile text your gift to **844-928-4938**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Prelude – *We Three Kings with O Come Let us Adore Him*** Carolyn Hamlin

**Opening Hymn – *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*** Hymn 497

**Opening Salutation** BCP 355

**Collect for Purity** BCP 355

**Trisagion** Hymnal S102

**The Collect of the Day** BCP 213

**The Lessons** (See Insert)

**Gospel Hymn – *Brightest and Best are the Stars of the Morning*** Hymn 117

**The Sermon** The Rev. Dcn. Nancy Sartin

**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 – *There's a Star in the East*** Trad. Spiritual Choir

**Doxology** 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 – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent  
Of the Father's Love Begotten*** Hymn 324  
Hymn 82

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** BCP 365

**Blessing**

**Hymn – *All Glory Be to God on High*** Hymn 421

**Dismissal** BCP 366

**Postlude – *Brightest and Best are the Stars of the Morning*** Wilber Held

## 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.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** December 25 – January 2, 2024.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** will take a break for a few weeks. We begin again on January, 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NURSERY OPENS AT 9:30AM** – The Nursery opens this week at 9:30 a.m.

**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 31 – 10a** – Holy Eucharist

**9:45a** – Nursery Open

No Coffee Hour

**January 1 – 10a** – The Holy Name – Holy Eucharist

**January 2** – Church Office Closed

**January 3 – 7p** – Choir Practice – Sanctuary

**January 6 – 10a** – Epiphany Pageant – Brunswick Stew Lunch

**January 7 – 8 & 10a** – Holy Eucharist

**9a** – Nursery

**9:15a** – Christian Education – Gabard & Parish Hall

**11:15a** – Coffee Hour

**4p** – Stitchers of Love

**5:30p** – EYC – Gabard Building

**6p** – Vespers

## SERVERS

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Eric Nielsen, David Sandbach, Patricia Tyson

**Lectors:** Ruth Holland, Patricia Tyson, David Sandbach

**Acolytes:** Nancy Lutsko, Phyllis Holland, Molly Stevenson

**Altar Guild:** Nancy Lutsko, Judy DeMott, Happy & Peter Ingeman, Frances Guice

**Ushers:** Stephen Sandbach, Tanner Darby, Martin Holland

**Greeter:**

**Coffee Hour:** No Coffee Hour today

**Audio/Visual Crew:** Ken Rumstay, Larry Wisenbaker



**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>.

Out of those pledges: **1 new** pledge totaling \$500.00

**8** has **previously given** but not pledged totaling \$32,620.00

**35** pledges **stayed the same** totaling \$150,230.00

**34** **increased** their pledge totaling \$217,330.00 with an increase of \$41,830.00

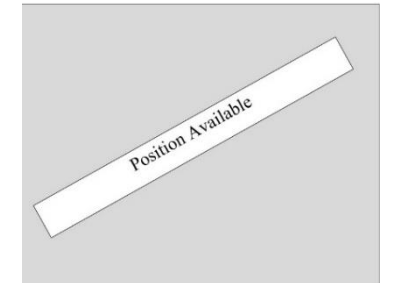
**5** **decreased** their pledge totaling \$41,500.00 with a decrease of \$11,060.00 (making our overall pledge increase total \$30,770.00)



**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 Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please call (229-242-5115) or email ([office@christchurchvaldosta.org](mailto: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.



**EPIPHANY PAGEANT** will be held on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10a. A Brunswick Stew lunch will be provided after the pageant in the Parish Hall.

## The Lessons

### First Reading

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

<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. <sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Psalm 147:13-21** (Unison)

BCP 805

*Laudate Dominum*

- <sup>13</sup> **Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion;**
- <sup>14</sup> **For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.**
- <sup>15</sup> **He has established peace on your borders;  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**
- <sup>16</sup> **He sends out his command to the earth,  
and his word runs very swiftly.**
- <sup>17</sup> **He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**
- <sup>18</sup> **He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;  
who can stand against his cold?**
- <sup>19</sup> **He sends forth his word and melts them;  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**
- <sup>20</sup> **He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
- <sup>21</sup> **He has not done so to any other nation;  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading

**Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Gospel Lesson

**John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <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>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*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)*