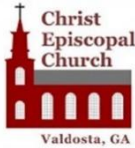


# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to Christ Church!  
Vision: God's Love for All



December 14, 2025  
10a



Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude – <i>Medley on Savior of the Nations, Come;</i>	
<i>Carol of the Bells and O Sons and Daughters</i>	by Rebecca K. Owens
Opening Hymn – <i>Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding</i>	Hymnal 59
Salutation	BCP 355
The Collect for Purity	BCP 355
Trisagion	Hymnal S102
The Collect of the Day	BCP 212
The Lessons	(See Insert)
Gospel Hymn – <i>Watchman, tell us of the night</i>	Hymnal 640
The Sermon	The Rev. Walter Hobgood
Nicene Creed	BCP 358
Prayers of the People, Form III	BCP 387
Confession & Absolution	BCP 360
The Peace	BCP 360
Announcements – <i>Please Be Seated</i>	
<i>Daughters of the King Induction</i>	(See Insert)
Offertory – <i>Mary Did You Know</i>	by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, arr. by Douglas Wagner
Doxology	Hymnal 380 vs. 3

## THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer – Prayer B	BCP 367
Sanctus	Hymnal S130
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
Fraction Anthem	Hymnal S164
The Communion	BCP 365
Communion Hymn – <i>The Lord will come and not be slow</i>	Hymnal 462
<i>Herald, sound the note of judgement</i>	Hymnal 70
The Prayer of Thanksgiving	BCP 365
The Blessing	BCP 366
Hymn – <i>Rejoice! rejoice, believers</i>	Hymnal 68
Dismissal	BCP 366
Postlude – <i>Recessional on "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"</i>	By Franklin Ashdown

**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. **Amen.**

**First Lesson:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> 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.” <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.

**Psalm: 15    The Song of Mary    *Magnificat*                      *Luke 1:46-55*                      BCP 91**  
**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \***  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***  
**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**  
**He has mercy on those who fear him \***  
**in every generation.**  
**He has shown the strength of his arm, \***  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**  
**He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \***  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**  
**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**  
**He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \***  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**  
**The promise he made to our fathers, \***  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Second Lesson:**

**James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> 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.’ <sup>11</sup> 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.

***Remember in Your Prayers: Gayle Adams, Bryan Almand, Bruce Beal, Tyson Carter, Mark Chamberlain, Luke Cowart, Gretchen DeLong, Judy Scharf Earl, Jane Earle, Jackie Elam, Mackey Foster, Louise Harden, Teresa Hill, Creston Hulett, Keena, Marilyn Kemper, Dennis Marks, Kenny Mistick, Kamrin Naville, David Parker, Johnny Price, Rocky, Dick Sager, Terry Windell.***

**SERVING TODAY**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Tammy Borders, Molly Stevenson, Jeani Synyard  
**Lectors:** Jane Kinney, Ruth Holland, Molly Stevenson  
**Acolytes:** Phyllis Holland, David Holland, Holly Holland  
**Altar Guild:** Phyllis Holland, Anne Reid, Mimi Allen, Pat Bezona, Daphne Wright  
**Ushers:** Stephen Sandbach, Tanner Darby, Martin Holland  
**Greeter:** Michael Black  
**Audio/Visual Crew:** Julius Ariail, Ken Rumstay, Larry Wisenbaker  
**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Bonnie Hanson, Phyllis Holland, Elise Sandbach, Chris Roan, Melissa Carter

**The 2026 BUDGET IS BEING PREPARED** – Please prayerfully consider your pledge to the ministry of Christ Church and return your 2026 pledge card as soon as possible. Your Finance Committee is hard at work and needs your commitment to support Christ Church and her ministries to those in this part of God’s Kingdom.

**INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?** The website Sisters in Faith ([sisters-in-faith.org](http://sisters-in-faith.org)) commemorates forgotten Episcopal deaconesses, those who could not be ordained because they were women. After graduating from deaconess school, many became nurses, teachers, and church helpers in disadvantaged areas both abroad and in the United States. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Deacon Patricia Marks ([spmarks@bellsouth.net](mailto:spmarks@bellsouth.net); 229-630-8644).

**WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY:** Thursdays from 10:15-11:15 at the home of John & Mtr Marcia McRae - 2701 Green Meadow Drive. *November 6* we will be starting a new book based on the *Epistle of James*. We will be using the book *James for You* by Sam Allberry. Anyone interested in joining can purchase the book and come or call Tammy Borders for more information @ 229-560-5889.



**MONTHLY GRACE CAFÉ FOOD/SUPPLIES DRIVE**

Christ Church participates in a monthly Food/Supplies Drive for Grace Café. **December** please bring **canned goods, such as soups, canned meals and proteins**. A donation basket has been placed in the parish hall for your convenience. Thank you for your generous support of our College Ministry!

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

**December 14 4p TODAY!! Blue Christmas Service**

Blue Christmas, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the “blue” feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them and offer them to God. This time has been called the “long dark night of the soul” and “the winter of our discontent” in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, it may be Christmas Ever, or New Year’s Ever, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we’ll have some singing appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not a season of Joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it to God for healing and transformation. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Always remember that God know your pain and loves you unconditionally.

**December 17 – FINAL Worship/Dinner/Discussion.**

We will continue the 1Book1Diocese for Advent discussion which “offers the chance to reflect on vocation in our lives, through the book *“The Stories We Live: Finding God’s Calling All Around Us,”* by Kathleen Cahalan, professor of practical theology at Saint John’s University School of Theology and Seminary.”



**December 19 Noon HEP Nooners Luncheon and Wrapping Party**  
held in Christ Church parish hall.



**December 20 10a**  
**Children’s Christmas Party**

**December 21 3p Annual Christmas Organ Recital**

*Please Come!*

Annual Christmas Organ Recital and Holiday Reception  
Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 3p

Come and enjoy the inspiring music shared by our own Sue Ellen Rumstay, whose talents bless our congregation.

Following the recital, please join us in the church parish hall  
for our annual “Holiday Reception”.

All Are Welcome

Whether you are a longtime member or joining us for the first time, we encourage everyone to attend.

We Look Forward to celebrating with you!

“You are encouraged to bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share”.

**December 23 10a Greening of the Church for Christmas**  
**6:30p Annual Christmas HEP Party at Sandbach’s**

**December 24 4:30p Children’s Christmas Service**  
**w/ Bells and Candles**  
**11p Midnight Mass (pre-service music @ 10:30p)**

**December 25 10:00a Christmas Day Service**



## Christmas Poinsettias

Please include then names of persons for whom they are given and submit this form with your donation to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

*In Thanksgiving for / In Memory of / In Honor of*  
*Please circle one*

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*Given by*

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*Checks should be made out to Christ Church  
and marked Christmas Flowers.*



***Mission Statement: As followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we share God's love, grace and mercy through worship, prayer and service,  
respecting the dignity of all.***

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia  
All Christ Church Families & Friends are Ministers.  
The Rev. Walter Hobgood and The Rev. Bob Carr – Supply Clergy  
Nancy Sartin, Deacon  
Molly Stevenson, Sr. Warden  
Mike Tanner, Jr. Warden  
Peggy Baer, Administrative Assistant  
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper  
Stefani Carroll, Treasurer  
Jeri-Lyn Flowers, Director of College Ministry  
Elise Sandbach, Director of Preschool & PMO  
Kylee Creasy, Children's Ministries Leader  
Ellie Copeland & Katie Wisenbaker, Youth Ministers (EYC)  
Issa Young, Choir Director  
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Director of Music  
Nancy Lutsko, Verger

**The 10:00 service is livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA](http://www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA)  
[www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA](http://www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA)

The church office is located at 103 East College Street.  
Mailing address: 1521 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602  
Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00a – 2:00p  
e-mail address: Church Office - [office@christchurchvaldosta.org](mailto:office@christchurchvaldosta.org)  
Church website: [www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)  
**Phone: 229-242-5115 Bookkeeper: 229-242-0616**

**PASTORAL CARE**  
Molly Stevenson 229-292-8215



Scan to Donate

# The Service of Admission



Prayer and Service for the spread of Christ's  
Kingdom since 1885

## The Service of Admission

**PRESIDER:** It is my privilege to present \_\_\_ as candidates for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

**CLERGY:** We are gathered here in the sight of God and before this congregation to admit *these women* into The Order of the Daughters of the King®. We commend *them* to your earnest prayers that *they* may have grace to fulfill the obligations of the Order and that *their* labors may be to the glory of God and to the welfare of all His people.

*Addressing the candidates:*

**CLERGY:** The Daughters of the King is an Order for women whose mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls, through prayer, service and evangelism. Do you desire to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®?

**CANDIDATES:** I do.

**CLERGY:** Do you promise to obey faithfully the two Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service? To offer your support to the clergy for the good of the parish and the extension of Christ's kingdom? To wear faithfully the cross of the Order? And to work for its purposes, as God may give you the opportunity?

**CANDIDATES:** I do with God's help.

**CLERGY:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I receive and admit you as members of The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

*Addressing the congregation:*

**CLERGY:** Will you support *these women* in *their* ministry of prayer and service?

**CONGREGATION:** We will.

*The clergy blesses the crosses.*



**Clergy:** Bless, O Lord, *these crosses* and grant to your *servants* now admitted into this Order such an abundance of your grace that *they* may wear this sacred symbol in the spirit of humility and with devotion to the service of the King of kings. *Amen.*

*Each new member is presented her cross with the following words:* “Accept and wear faithfully the cross of the Order, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Take up your cross and follow me.”

**New Members:** Almighty God, help me to pray so faithfully that I may draw near to you and learn your will. Help me to serve so joyfully that others may be drawn to you. May your Holy Spirit guide me each day, that all I think, do, or say may be pleasing in your sight. I ask it all for the sake of Him whose cross I wear, my King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**All Daughters of the King:** O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do; that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Clergy:** May your love, O Lord, help the Daughters live lives of love, and may your holiness lead them to be examples of virtue, that they, strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may pray and serve you all their days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Clergy:** The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*