

Thank you for selecting an angel from our tree so that a child can have a wonderful Christmas!

Please fill out a form to purchase a poinsettia in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one. Please return with payment by December 20th.

Join us at St. Christopher's on *Christmas Eve!*

Our Family Service is at 5:30pm with a "Come to the Manger" pageant for all the children. Children may come dressed as a nativity character and bring a stuffed animal to take to the altar to be blessed.

Our Traditional Christmas Eve service is at 7:30pm.



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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

### PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD



## HOLY EUCHARIST 10:30 AM

THE RIGHT REVEREND C. ANDREW DOYLE, BISHOP OF TEXAS  
THE REVEREND STEVE KARCHER, RECTOR

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
2800 TRIMMIER ROAD  
KILLEEN, TEXAS

**Prelude** **Piano**

**Processional** **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** **Hymnal 56**  
Dec 19th - Verses 7 & 8

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Celebrant:** Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

People: ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

**Celebrant:** Show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved:

People: ***O Lord God of hosts.***

**Celebrant:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

*The Advent candle is now lit.*

**Celebrant:** Show us your mercy, O Lord:

People: ***And grant us your salvation.***

***Greetings from Fr. Steve (brief announcements)***

**The Opening Sentence** **BCP 355**

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

People: ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

**Celebrant:** 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.***

**The Trisagion (Spoken 3 times)** **BCP 356**

**Celebrant:**

Holy God

Holy and Mighty

Holy Immortal One

**People:**

***Have mercy upon us.***

**Celebrant:** 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 Hymns** **(see hymn board)**

*(All are welcome to Jesus' table for Communion or a Blessing.)*

**Post Communion Prayer** **BCP 366**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Celebrant and People:**

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

**The Blessing**

**Celebrant:** May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and each of you, and remain with you always. ***Amen***

**The Recessional** **(see hymn board)**

**Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

**Postlude** **Organ/Piano**

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

**Celebrant:** **BCP 364**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*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** **BCP 364**

**Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** *Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

**The Collect Of The Day** **(see insert)**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**The First Lesson** **(see insert)**

**Lector:** A reading from \_\_\_\_.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Psalm Of The Day** **(see insert)**

**The Second Lesson** **(see insert)**

**Lector:** A reading from \_\_\_\_.

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

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

**Gospel Processional** **(see hymn board)**

*At the Gospel reading:*

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_.

**People:** *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

**The Gospel (please stand)** **(see insert)**

*After the Gospel is read:*

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Gospel Recessional** **(see hymn board)**

**The Sermon** **Fr. Steve Karcher**

**The Nicene Creed** **BCP 358**

*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 worshipped 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.***

### **The Prayers of the People - Form III**

**BCP 387**

*(Please stand or kneel as you are able. The Leader and People pray responsively)*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

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.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**Celebrant and People:**

**BCP 375**

***We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

**Celebrant:**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember St. Christopher and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

**Celebrant:**

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again, and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.”

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

**For Peace**

**BCP 815**

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

**For the Parish**

**BCP 817**

Almighty and everliving God, hear our prayers for this parish family. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prayer for those in the Armed Forces**

**BCP 823**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Silence*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Birthdays/Anniversaries/Deployments/Prayers

#### Confession of Sin

BCP 360

**Celebrant:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People:** 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.**

#### The Absolution

**Celebrant:** 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 *(all stand)*

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

## The Holy Communion

#### Offertory Sentence

**Celebrant:** Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

#### Offertory and Musical Offering

*(Please drop your offering in the plate as it comes by)*

#### Doxology (Acapella)

Hymnal 380, v.3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

#### The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

#### **Celebrant:**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

#### The Sanctus (spoken)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**