

Our flowers are given today by:



*John & Joan Ott, in memory of Loved Ones*

*Barb Prall, in memory of Sabrina Prall, Danny Prall, Bertha & Nelson Prall, and Mary & Herman Neuman*

*Debbie Schaumburg, Michelle Mahan, and Bernice Bedell, in memory of Andy Schaumburg, Dick Bedell, Richard E. Bedell, Sid and Helen Schaumburg, Helga Hernandez, and Heidi Whitfield*

*Barb Sliva, in memory of Norm*

*Mary Wilson, in thanksgiving for blessings received*

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**Mark your calendars!**

**This Sunday, December 26th, we will have one service at 9:30am.**

**January 16th - Sunday services with Bishop Kai Ryan**

**One Service at 10:30am**

**After 10:30 service - Reception & Luncheon for Bishop Ryan**

**January 23rd - Annual Parish Meeting**

**9:30am between services**

**Breakfast goodies provided!**

All music used under OneLicense permit #A-720720



**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

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# CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST DECEMBER 24, 2021



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

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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**Prelude**                      “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”                      Piano/Organ

**Processional**                      “O Come All Ye Faithful” (vs 1,3,6)                      Hymnal 83

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

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

**5:30 service: Procession of the Children and Their Animals to the Manger**

**Musical Interlude (5:30)**                      *What Child Is this?*                      **Violin Solo by Emily Bell**

**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.***

**Gloria** (*spoken*)

**BCP 356**

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### The Collect

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

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

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Our flowers are given today by:**



*Julia Adams, in thanksgiving for family.*

*Michael Blomquist, in memory of Martha and Lewis & Mable*

*Barnett & JoAnn Carthey, in memory of Richard & Mate Carthey, parents of Barnett, and in thanksgiving for Joseph & Ruby Buie, and JoAnn's parents*

*Scott Clark & Chris Messing, in memory of Charles Baker, in thanksgiving for Wes & Karen Peoples*

*Jim Culver, in memory of my wife, Janet, and our son, Dale, in thanksgiving for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren*

*Judith Gonzalez, in memory of Sacchia Gonzalez and Rosario Garcia*

*Lenore Woods Guyton, in memory of my mother Ione Woods, and my father, Charles Woods*

*Debbie Hargreaves, in memory of my mom, Janet Culver, my brother, Dale, my Aunt Siebrig, Uncles George, Carl, & Lowell, Cousin Martha, in thanksgiving for my dad, Jim, and my siblings, Ruth, Stephen, & Mary Lou, my son and daughter -in-law, James & Angie, and the support system at St. Christopher's*

*Fr. Steve and Dana Karcher, in memory of John Conrad, Maggie LePage, and loved ones lost to COVID-19, in thanksgiving for our Army men, Connor and Omar, and for our daughters, Katy and Mary*

*Judy MacWillie and Karen Simmons, in memory of Cody Ryan Simmons and Don MacWillie*

*Sue McLendon, In memory of Dorothy Manning, in thanksgiving for Mac, James, Jackie, Kenzie, Kaden, Kaitie, Kyler, and Kenneth*

As the candles are lit and the house is dark, we sing:

“*Silent Night*” (vs 1,2,3)

**Hymnal 111**

### **The Christmas Blessing**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**Recessional**      “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” (vs 1,3)      **Hymnal 87**

### **Dismissal**

Priest:      Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

*(Please carefully extinguish your candle as our lights come on.)*

**GOD’S BLESSINGS AND PEACE FOR THIS  
JOYFUL CHRISTMAS!**

**JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL  
FOR CHRISTMAS TREATS AFTER  
THE SERVICE!**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**See Insert**

**Lector:** A reading from the Book of Isaiah

*After the reading:*

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

People:      *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 96**

**See Insert/BCP 725**

*(Read Responsively by whole verse)*

### **The Second Lesson**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**See Insert**

**Lector:** A reading from Paul’s letter to Titus.

*After the reading:*

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

People:      *Thanks be to God.*

### **Gospel Hymn**

“*Away in a Manger*” (vs 1)

**Hymnal 101**

**The Gospel** *(all stand as you are able)*

**Luke 2:1-14**

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

People:      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

*After the Gospel:*

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord

People:      *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Gospel Hymn**

*“Away in a Manger” (vs 2,3)*

**Hymnal 101**

**Christmas Eve 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 death, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**Prayers of the People - Form II**

**BCP 385**

*(In our tradition, we stand or kneel to pray, as you are able)*

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for Michael, our presiding Bishop; Andy, Hector, Jeff, and Kai our Bishops; for Steve, our priest, for this gathering and for all ministers and people. *Pray for the Church.*

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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

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

**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.

*You are invited to Jesus’ table to receive Communion or a blessing.*

**Communion Hymns**

*“O Little Town Of Bethlehem” (vs 1,3,5)*

**Hymnal 79**

*“What Child Is This?” (vs 1,2,3)*

**Hymnal 115**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 366**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Celebrant and people:**

*Almighty and ever-living 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.*

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.*

**Celebrant:** 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.***

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

### **Confession of Sin**

**BCP 360**

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

***All: 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.***

### **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*)

**BCP 360**

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

People: **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

Please read your copy of **The Voice**

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Sentence**

Celebrant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

**Musical Offering (5:30)** “*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*”

**Violin Solo  
by Emily Bell**

**Musical Offering (7:30)** “*He Is Born*”

**Organ**

**The Doxology** (*Acapella*)

**Hymnal 380, v.3**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above the Heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP 367**

**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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Celebrant and People:**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest**

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;***