# Mark your calendars!

Sunday, December 25 - 10:30 am service - Christmas Day Service Sunday, January 1, 2023 - 10:30 am service - First Sunday After Christmas

January 15th - 9:30am - Sunday Service with Annual Parish Meeting after the service Pot-Luck Crockpot lunch - bring your favorite crockpot meal to share!

Sign-up on the Bulletin Board!

# GOD'S BLESSINGS AND PEACE FOR THIS JOYFUL CHRISTMAS!



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# St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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# CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2022 6:00 PM



THE RIGHT REVEREND C. ANDREW DOYLE, BISHOP OF TEXAS
THE REV. ROHANI WEGER, SUPPLY PRIEST

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Prelude "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Organ

Choir Introit "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" St. Christopher's Choir

Processional "O Come All Ye Faithful" (vs 1,3,6) Hymnal 83

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** 

**Celebrant:** Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath and the Christ

Candle. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE; the third candle is JOY; the fourth candle

is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

The candles are now lit.

**Scripture:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will

be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah* 9:6

People: O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph

welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ,

the Lord of all. Amen.

**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.** 

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day BCP 213

**Celebrant**: The Lord be with you. People: **And also with you.** 

Celebrant: Let us pray.

# Our poinsettias are given today by:



JoAnn McMillen, in memory of Bob McMillen.

John & Joan Ott, in memory of John and David Ott and in thanksgiving for grandsons, Ben and Tim.

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

Mary Schappell, in memory of Jed Schappell.

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

Barbara Sliva, in memory of Norman Sliva.

George & Judy Van Riper, in memory of Russell C. Hantke, Rogene A. Hantke, George Van Riper, and Helen Van Riper.

Mary Wilson, in thanksgiving for blessings received.

#### Our poinsettias are given today by:



Michael Blomquist, in memory of Charlie Freemon and Martha Blomquist.

Beth Bodkin, in memory of Bill Bodkin and Jeff Bodkin.

Barnett and JoAnn Carthey, in memory of family who has passed on, and in thanksgiving for Our Family.

Jim & Stephen Culver, in memory of our wife & mother, Janet Culver, and son & brother, Dale Culver, and in thanksgiving for our family.

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

Beverly Guyton, in memory of Lenore Guyton.

Debbie Hargreaves, in memory of my mother, Janet Culver, and my brother, Dale Culver, in thanksgiving for my son and daughter-in-law, James & Angie, and for my family and friends.

Judith MacWillie, in memory of Don MacWillie, Jr. and Cody Ryan Simmons.

James & Sue McLendon, in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 See Insert

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

After the reading:

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.* 

Psalm 96 - read responsively by whole verse See Insert

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.* 

Sequence Hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" (vs 1) Hymnal 99

The Gospel Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) See Insert

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

People: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

(Children are invited to come forward to the altar to participate in the Christmas story)

After the Gospel:

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord. People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** 

Sequence Hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" (vs 2,3) Hymnal 99

Sermon The Rev. Rohani Weger

# **Prayers of the People - Form II**

**BCP 385** 

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our Bishops; Rohani, our Supply 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

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

# **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. **Amen.** 

#### Silence

# The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.* 

# 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 Hymn

"Joy To The World" (vs 1-4)

Hymnal 100

#### The Dismissal

**Celebrant:** 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.)

Postlude

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Organ



Immediately following the service, a Happy Birthday, Jesus! party with cake and refreshments will be in the Parish Hall for the children.

# The Breaking of the Bread

**BCP 364** 

**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.

(All are welcome to Jesus' table for Communion or a blessing)

# **Communion Hymns**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (3 verses)

Angels We Have Heard On High (4 verses)

What Child Is This? (3 verses)

Hymnal 96

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.

#### Lighting of the candles

(One candle is lit from the Christ Candle, then that candle will light the beginning of the 1st pews in each section)

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

"Silent Night" Hymnal 111

#### Confession of Sin

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

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

People: And also with you.

# Announcements/Birthdays/Anniversaries

# The Holy Communion

# **Offertory Sentence**

**Celebrant:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2* 

**Musical Offering** 

"He Is Born"

St. Christopher's Choir

The Doxology 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 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 forever sing this hymn, to proclaim the glory of Your name.

# The Sanctus (sung)

Hymnal S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. 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;

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.** 

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.