

CHRIST CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

"Growing by God's Grace as a Family of Faith, Fellowship, and Ministry"



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

December 24, 2022 | 11 PM

Diocesan Purpose Statement

*"We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus
as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."*

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church gladly welcomes all people. Our clergy, staff, and parishioners are delighted to assist you in learning more about our worship and our community. Restrooms are located in the Parish House to the left of the church. Ushers are available to assist you as needed. If this is your first time visiting with us today, please complete a visitor card (*located in the pew*) and place it in the offering plate. Clipboards containing materials for children are available in the Narthex.

Christ Church is an active and vibrant parish in the heart of Downtown Macon since its founding in 1825. We are a forward-looking parish that values our heritage, liturgy, and outreach to the greater community. To learn more please visit us online via our website at www.christchurchmacon.com. The Parish Office is open from 9a–4p Monday through Thursday. You can reach us by calling (478) 745-0427.

We Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ Church welcomes all people and no matter where you are on your faith journey, you have a place here. We hope to see you again soon.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

CAROL IN PROCESSION: O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal, 83

WELCOME

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal, 96

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born 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.

People: **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

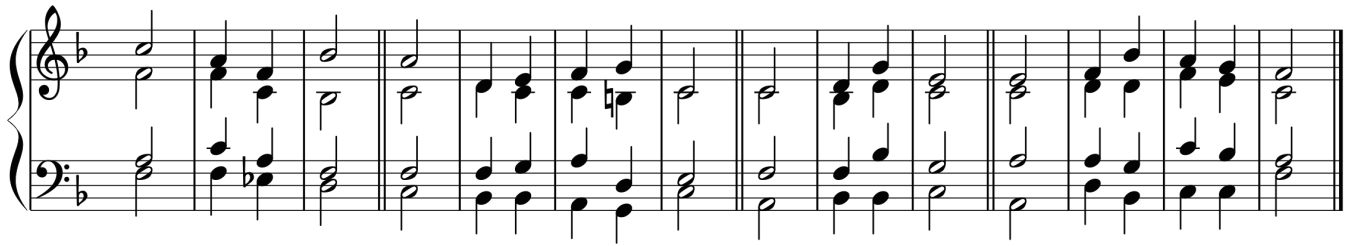
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



- 1 Sing to the Lord a / new / song; *
sing to the Lord, / all the / whole / earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and / bless his / Name; *
proclaim the good news of his sal/[vation] from / day to / day.
- 3 Declare his glory a/[mong] the / nations *
and his / [wonders] a/mong all / peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and / [greatly] [to be] / praised; *
he is more to be / feared than / all / gods.
- †5 As for all the gods of the nations, / [they are] but / idols; *
but it is the / Lord who / made the / heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and mag/[nificence] [of his] / presence! *
Oh, the power and the / splendor / of his / sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you / [families] [of the] / peoples; *
ascribe to the / Lord / [honor] and / power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor / due his / Name; *
bring offerings and / come in/to his / courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the / [beauty] of / holiness; *
let the / whole earth / [tremble] be/fore him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: “The / Lord is / King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will / judge the / [peoples] with / equity.”
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and / [all that] is / in it; *
let the field be joyful and / all that / is there/in.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the / Lord [when he] / comes, *
when he / comes to / judge the / earth.
- 13 He will judge the / world with / righteousness *
and the / peoples / with his / truth.

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand

SEQUENCE HYMN: Angels, from the realms of glory

Hymnal, 93

The People remain standing

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has

made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People sit.

THE SERMON

the Rev. Cynthia Knapp

The People stand.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP, p. 358

The People kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Please add your own prayers of praise and thanksgiving to God either silently or aloud.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: fill our hearts with joy as we come into your presence in worship. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that all people and nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of this city and region to yourself. May all of the distractions and struggles of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence is kept.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your loving arms with healing and comfort to the sick and the lonely. We pray for those on our Parish Prayer List: Alice, Bailey, Bebe, Bill, Charlie, Dennis, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Emory, Gail, George, Griffin, Helen, James, JB, Jeff, Joe and Robin, John, Katy, Kelly, Ken, Lawrence, Libby, Linda, Lowe, Malcolm, Marcello, Margaret, Marquis, McKenzie, MarKisha, Matthew, Nancy, Pammy, Pete, Phil, Rodney, Shelia, Sue, Thomas, Tommy, Trisha, and Walter.

We also pray for those serving in the military, especially Austin, Cameron, Connie, George, Georgia, Joe, John, and Rose.

Please add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Silence is kept.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You came to dwell among us with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. The flowers throughout the church are given in memory of our loved ones and to the glory of God.

Silence is kept.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 360

The People stand.

THE PEACE

BCP, p. 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

You are welcome to light a votive candle and offer up a prayer during communion, or before or after the service. The candles are located in front of the first pew.

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you do not wish to partake, you are invited to receive a blessing by crossing your arms at the altar rail. If you are unable to come to the altar, please notify an usher and the elements will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, Whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, Whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal, 87

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal, S 125

The People kneel.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BCP, p. 362

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION BCP, p. 363

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD BCP, p. 364

FRACTION ANTHEM: My flesh is food indeed Hymnal, S 169

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION BCP, p. 365

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

Cradle Song (*Kate Hudson, mezzo-soprano*) John Rutter (b. 1945)

What child is this Hymnal, 115

It came upon the midnight clear Hymnal, 89

Away in a manger Hymnal, 101

The People kneel.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER BCP, p. 366

Remain kneeling; the light will be passed from the altar to the center aisle.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CAROL: Silent night, holy night Hymnal, 111

THE BLESSING

The People stand.

CAROL IN PROCESSION: The first Nowell the angel did say Hymnal, 109 sts. 1, 2, 4, 6

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: *Noël Suisse* Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Andrew Gordon

GOSPELER & HOMILIST

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

VERGER

Julie Groce

ACOLYTES

John Henry Causey, *thurifer*

Cal Hatcher, *crucifer*

Addison Henry, *clergy cross*

Katherine Causey, *torch*

Lily Hatcher, *torch*

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Jeff White

Nancy White

MUSICIANS

The Christ Church Choir

Jonathan A. Poe, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Ted Babbitt, *Assistant Organist*

ALTAR GUILD

Sally Hatcher

Kate Hudson

Nan Harper

FLOWER GUILD

All Guild Members

AUDIO-VISUAL TECH

David Cline

CLERGY & STAFF

The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, *Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*

The Reverend Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*

The Reverend Andrew T. Gordon, *Curate*

Mr. Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*

Mrs. Ellen Bunker, *Director of Finance*

Ms. Lynn Waggoner, *Interim Director of Communications*

Dr. Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*

Mr. Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*

Mrs. Markisha Styles, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Tripp Maddux, *Senior Warden*

Roger Marxsen, *Junior Warden*

Malcolm Burgess, *Treasurer*

George Greer, *Clerk*

Chris Blake
Harry Groce
Kelli Hill
Dawn Key

Laurie Minette
Katie Powers
Meg Sutherland
Duncan Walker

ABOUT THE COVER ART

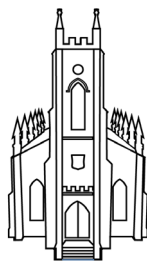
“The Adoration of the Shepherds” (1622)

Gerard van Honthorst, (1590–1656)

The influences of Caravaggio are immediately recognizable in the works of Van Honthorst. The artist plays with light; irrelevant parts of the canvas are purposefully left in the dark. In Italy Van Honthorst was known as *Gherardo delle Notti*, "Gerard of the nights" because he had great skill at *chiaroscuro*, often painting scenes illuminated by a single candle. In this work, the child appears to be the source of the light, which illuminates upward onto the faces of Mary, Joseph, and the three shepherds. This is in accordance with John's statement that Christ is "the true Light" (John 1:9) and Jesus' declaration "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12 and John 9:5).

Gerard van Honthorst was a Netherlandish painter, born in Utrecht. He studied with his father and with Abraham Bloemaert. Around 1610 he travelled to Italy, probably together with Bloemaert. In 1620 he returned to Utrecht, where he married Sophia Coopmans. He was one of the founders of the Utrecht painter's guild. In 1628 he spent a few months in London, commissioned by Charles I to decorate the Whitehall Banqueting House. During his stay in Italy, Van Honthorst had great success painting in a style influenced by Caravaggio. He, and others, were deeply influenced by the art they encountered in Rome.

They became known as the Utrecht caravaggisti.



CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL