

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 25, 2022 | 10:30 AM

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.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp, *Celebrant*
Scott Hoskins, *Lector*
Christine Hoskins, *Lector*
Susan and Bill Allen, *Ushers/Greeters*
Kitty Foster, *Usher/Greeter*
Timothy Hoskins, *Audio/Visual Technician*

THE ENTRANCE RITE

OPENING VOLUNTARY: God rest you merry gentlemen W. L. Webber (1914–1982)

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Angels from the realms of glory Hymnal, 93

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.

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

THE 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 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 People sit.

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.**

THE GRADUAL

Psalms 96

- 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 salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among 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 magnificence 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 into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before 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 therein.
- 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.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal, 87

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 bands of cloth, 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 swaddling clothes 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 SERMON

The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp

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 PEACE

BCP, p. 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

We come together as the Body of Christ, we partake in the Body of Christ, to go out into the world to be the Body of Christ. 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

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Go tell it on the mountain Hymnal, 99

The People remain standing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A BCP, p. 361

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord Hymnal, S 127

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

THE FRACTION ANTHEM: Be known to us, Lord Jesus Hymnal, S 171

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION BCP, p. 365

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: O little town of Bethlehem Hymnal, 79

The People kneel.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER BCP, p. 366

THE BLESSING

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Joy to the world! Hymnal, 100

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Good King Wenceslaus W. L. Webber (1914–1982)

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



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