

CHRIST CHURCH

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

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



THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2026 | 10:30AM

*"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 soon.

UPCOMING SERVICES

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: A Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday, July 26

8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 2

8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Holy Eucharist & Healing

Wednesday, August 5

12 pm in the Church

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9

8 am & 10:30 am in the Church

Compline

Every Wednesday

8:45 pm on Facebook

THE ENTRANCE RITE

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Prelude in G Major, BWV 557 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Hymnal, 390

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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 GLORIA

Hymnal, S 280

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The People sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6–8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us

what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL: (*Spoken responsively by half verse*)

Psalm 86:11–17

- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
- 12 I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.
- 13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
- 14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.
- 15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 8:12–43

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the

whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE: Like the murmur of the dove's song

Hymnal, 513

The People remain standing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People sit.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

The People kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form IV

BCP, p. 388

Intercessor: Loving God, we thank and praise you for your steadfast love and for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us, and upon all people. Let us offer our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, silently or aloud.

Silence may be kept.

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for those serving in the military, especially Alivia, Austin, Cameron, Donald, Georgia, Joe, Lorraine, and Sam.

Silence

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Intercessor: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Al, Angie, Bailey, Becca, Bob, Brenda, Claire, Dan, Dave, Dennis, Ed, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Gary, George, Gibson, Gracie Marie, Griffin, Helen, Jaime, JB, John, Kara, Kay, Ken, Kristie, Lee, Leslie, Libby, Lillian, Lisa, Lowe, Margaret, Matthew, Nancy, Pat, Patricia, Pete, Peter, Phil, Pud, Rodney, Sammy, Susan, Tommy, Trisha, William, and Wright. Please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.

Silence may be kept.

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Amelia Parks Leonard, who died recently, and Ann Hughes and Otis Hughes, for whom the altar flowers are given today in loving memory, and to the glory of God. May your will for them be fulfilled, and, we pray, may we share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

People: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

The Celebrant will conclude with a suitable Collect

The People remain kneeling.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

BCP, p. 360

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The People stand.

THE PEACE

The People sit.

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. If you would like to receive prayer for healing, please remain at the rail after receiving Communion with your hands in an attitude of prayer and our prayer ministers will pray with you and anoint you with oil for healing.

THE OFFERTORY

The People stand.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY: Be Thou My Vision arr. Richard Shepherd (1949–2021)

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or my night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
thou in my dwelling, and I one with thee.*

*High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION: Praise God from whom all blessing flow Hymnal, 380 v. 3

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS: Holy, holy, holy Lord Hymnal, S 129

The People kneel.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION BCP, p. 362

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION BCP, p. 363

THE GREAT AMEN

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION

BCP, p. 364

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: I come with joy to meet my Lord

Hymnal, 304

The People kneel.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

THE BLESSING

The People stand.

HYMN IN PROCESSION: Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Hymnal, 344

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Fugue in G Major, BWV 577

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

CELEBRANT, GOSPELER, & PREACHER

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

VERGER

Russ Henry

FLOWER GUILD

Keri Jones

ACOLYTES

Cohen Camp, *crucifer*

Andrew Whitaker, *clergy cross*

William Whitaker, *torch*

Avery Svare, *torch*

HEALING PRAYER MINISTER

Katy Tosh

USHERS & GREETERS

Hal & Nan Harper

Susannah & Tripp Maddux

Leah & Taylor McNeill

Andrew & Meg Sutherland

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Lutricia Richardson

Will Horkan

VESTRY WELCOMER

Margaret Boltja

ALTAR GUILD

Roxanne Hinson

Lauren Marshall

Charlotte Way

Corie Weiche

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIAN

David Cline

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Parish Office Hours | Monday—Thursday 9am–12pm & 1pm–4pm | Closed Friday

Sunday, July 19: The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Holy Eucharist (Spoken) — *Church*
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (With music) — *Church*
Lemonade on the Lawn— *Cloister Garden*
Sandwich Making Service Project — *Great Hall*
11 am Weekend Lunch (Riverside United Methodist Church) — *Jones Chapel*

Wednesday, July 22

- 8:45 pm Compline — *Facebook*

Friday, July 24

Parish office is closed

Saturday, July 25

- 11 am Weekend Lunch (Christ Church) — *Jones Chapel*

Sunday, July 26: The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8 am Morning Prayer (Spoken) — *Church*
10:30 am Morning Prayer (With music) — *Church*
Lemonade on the Lawn— *Cloister Garden*
11 am Weekend Lunch (Christ Church) — *Jones Chapel*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please send announcements to communications@christchurchmacon.com)

Alpha Marriage Course Beginning This Fall

Wednesdays at 6 pm, September 9 – October 21

We are offering the Alpha Marriage Course for anyone who would like to strengthen their relationship. Facilitated by Jamie and Ben Walden, and taught by a couple who have been married for over 40 years at Holy Trinity Brompton where it was developed, this course is an opportunity for a “date night” while you work together on your marriage. Each couple will have their own table for two where they will be served dinner while they watch the talk. Throughout the talk there are periods for each couple to have private conversations between themselves using their course workbook as a guide. The topics covered are: Building Strong Foundations, The Art of Communication, Resolving Conflict, The Power of Forgiveness, The Impact of Family—Past and Present, Good Sex (about communication not a “how to”), Love in Action, and Coping with Times of Separation. We have been using the premarriage version of this course for several years and couples have loved it!

This course will be on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 9th and going through October 21st. We are arranging for childcare to be available if needed. The evening will take 2 hours and we are planning to begin at 6:00 if that works well for the group. To learn more or to sign up please email Cynthia@christchurchmacon.com.

Growing in Your Faith through the Alpha Course

Sundays at 5 pm, beginning August 23

An active parishioner who was a man in his late sixties at the time who had just completed the Alpha course stood up in church and said, “I have been going to church all my life (in the Episcopal Church) and I learned more in that course about my faith than in all the years combined.” A group of people who had been friends all their lives and did the Alpha course together found their friendship had moved to a much deeper level through sharing this faith journey together. The course covers topics like “Who is Jesus?”, “Why did he have to die?”, “Why and how do I pray?”, “How does God guide us?”, and “Does God heal today?” among others. Each evening begins with a shared meal, we watch the talk on video that lasts about 25 minutes, and then discuss. It’s a class where there are no stupid questions and people are free to explore and wrestle with what they believe. Each evening will begin at 5:00 with the expectation of finishing around 6:30. Programming for children and youth will be simultaneous and we are working to put child care in place for the evening as well. The course begins on Sunday August 23rd. We will not be meeting on any holiday weekends unless the group decides otherwise. To sign up or learn more email Cynthia@christchurchmacon.com.

Sunday Evenings at Christ Church

Sundays at 5 pm, beginning August 23

This fall, we are remaking Sunday evenings into a community night with food, faith formation, and worship for all ages. The evening will start at 5:00 pm in the Great Hall for a parish supper. After dinner (5:20–5:30), people will split up to go to their respective programs. For children, the Choir School of Macon will have its rehearsals. Youth will have EYC in the Youth Suite. Adults will have a choice between the Alpha Course and perhaps one other Bible study which is still being organized. At 6:30, you are invited to join us for Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of every month or a brief Compline service on other Sundays. If you are interested the Adult Choir or the Choir School of Macon, contact Jonathan Poe at music@christchurchmacon.com. If you are interested in EYC, contact Hope Westervelt at hope@christchurchmacon.com. If you are interested in joining the Alpha Course or participating in a Bible study, contact Cynthia Knapp at cynthia@christchurchmacon.com. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the supper, contact Nidia Svare at office@christchurchmacon.com. We hope that you will join us on Sundays this fall for evenings of food, fellowship, and faith for the whole church family.



Sunday Evenings

— AT —

CHRIST CHURCH

Food, Fellowship, & Faith...
For the *Whole Church Family*.

Morning Prayer Next Sunday

Sunday, July 26 at 8 am & 10:30 am

Next Sunday, while our priests are away on a well-deserved break, we will have services of Morning Prayer at 8 and 10:30 am. These services will be led by lay officiants with a lay preacher and will not have Communion. Morning Prayer (the morning counterpart to the Evensongs offered by our choir) is part of the Daily Office, one of the treasures of our Anglican heritage. The Daily Office was created by the authors of the Book of Common Prayer to make the riches of the monastic tradition accessible to the whole church.

Sandwich Making Service Project

TODAY after the 10:30 am service

You're invited to join us for an impromptu summer service project today after the 10:30 service. Bring a loaf of bread and join us in the Great Hall to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help stock the community food pantry. We have some jars of peanut butter and jelly that are about to expire, and we'd like to use them to help our neighbors.



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: JULY



www.maconbookem.org

Book 'Em is a local 501(c)(3) corporation which partners with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office to deliver books to children/youth in our community who might otherwise have none. Christ Church parishioner Katie Powers serves as its executive director.

To date, Book 'Em has delivered over 60,000 brand-new books to children/youth in Macon-Bibb County. This partnership with the BCSO helps to foster a positive relationship between our local law enforcement officers and the community. Most recently Book 'Em held a book distribution at Rosa Taylor Elementary School. Each of the school's 405 students was able to select four brand-new books to keep in an effort to prevent "summer slide."

Every dollar donated goes toward the purchase of new books. Donations can be made via maconbookem.org or by sending a check to **Book 'Em** at 3557 Vineville Avenue, Macon, 31204.

Why is this so important? More than 43% of all children in Macon-Bibb are growing up in poverty. Most of these children have very few, if any, books in their homes. Consider this statistic: in low-income neighborhoods there is approximately **one book for every 300 children**. In **middle** income neighborhoods there are approximately **13 books per child in each household**. Access to books is fundamental to developing reading skills. Studies confirm that the number of books in the home directly affects reading achievement levels. Perhaps the most disturbing fact of all is that many municipalities plan the number of jail cells needed in the future by the percentage of students in their schools who cannot read fluently by the end of their 3rd grade year.

For more information about Book 'Em or to make an online donation, visit: maconbookem.org



VESTRY

Jed Hill, *Senior Warden*
Rob Wilkin, *Junior Warden*
Steve Welsh, *Treasurer*
Chris Hair, *Clerk*

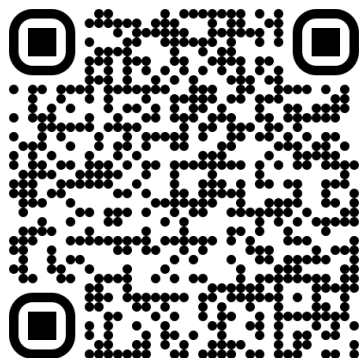
William Baxley
Jan Beeland
Margaret Boltja
Christine Hoskins

Keri Jones
Molly Muse
Jeff Powers
Nancy Wilkerson

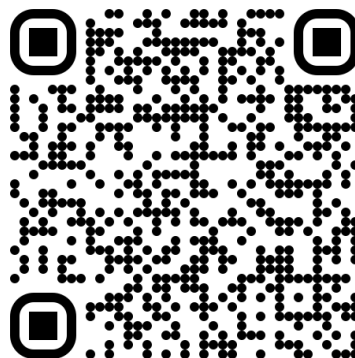
CLERGY & STAFF

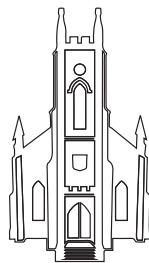
The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*
The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*
The Rev. Harriette J. Simmons, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Dr. John F. McCard, *Priest Associate*
Hope Westervelt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Rachel Horkan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*
Lacey Chaney, *Associate for Children's Music*
Nidia Svare *Parish Administrator*
Timothy Hoskins, *Director of Communications*
Laurel Eady, *Parish Bookkeeper*
Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*
Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*
Markisha Carter, *Assistant Sexton*

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CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL