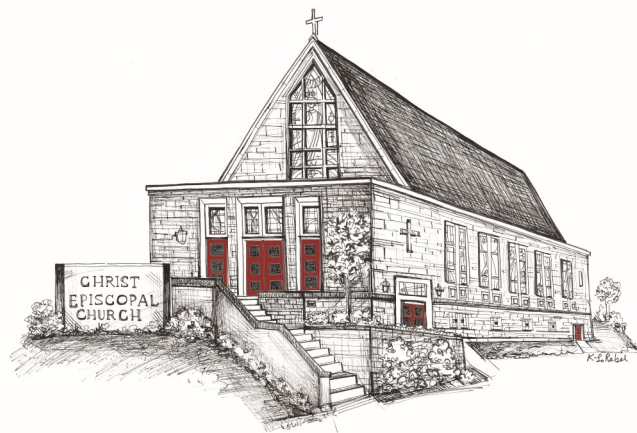


Christmas Pageant & The Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.



Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills

www.ChristChurchPGH.org

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN * 748 (CEC Hymnal Supplement)

1 In Christ alone, my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the once he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid
here in the death of Christ I live.

In Christ alone my hope is found

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

In Christ Alone

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

The Celebrant then continues

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.

People **Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Please remain standing)*

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON *(please be seated)*

(Micah 5:2-5a)

Here, the reader will say

A Reading from The Book of Micah, one of the Twelve Prophets

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 13 *(please remain seated)*

The Song of Mary Magnificat

(Luke 1:46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

(Hebrews 10:5-10)

Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

After the reading, the Lay Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

2 Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help, I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The ABC Nativity - Adapted from: *The Children's ABC Christmas*
By Patricia & Fredrick McKissak; Adapted by Jeff Allshouse

THE NICENE CREED

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

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 worshiped 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 dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *(silence)*

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader: For Joe, our president; Joshua, our governor, and this community, the nation and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader: For the peace and unity in the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Ketlen, our Bishop; James, Brandon, and Christopher, our priests; Lorena and Christine, our Deacons; and for Fr. Rich Witt and The Rural and Migrant Ministries; Bruce Robison and the people of All Saints', Brighton Heights; [The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer; Outreach Organization; The Parish Cycle of Prayer]; for those who are deployed, [especially _____] and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, [especially_____]. I invite your own petitions, either out loud or in silence. *(The people may add their petitions during this brief pause.)*
Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life [especially_____]. I invite your own thanksgivings. *(The people may add their petitions during this brief pause.)*
We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom [especially_____]. I invite your own petitions. *(The people may add their petitions during this brief pause.)*
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept

Leader and people

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION - RITE II

THE OFFERTORY - Please scan the QR Code on the last page for safe, electronic giving via our "Square Store" online

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE DOXOLOGY

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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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether Bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

THE SANCTUS * 747 *(CEC Hymnal Supplement)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel as able.

Then the Celebrant continues

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, you 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 worth 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to 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 [_____ and] 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 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..

People: Amen

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM * S-154 *(The Hymnal 1982)*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;**

Christ our Passover

**therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. *And may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with Thanksgiving

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

You may opt to intinct (dip) in the small chalice, or you may drink from the common chalice.

FIRST COMMUNION HYMN * 65 (The Hymnal 1982)

- 1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley,
a level way appear.
Greet one who comes most glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.

Prepare the way, O Zion

Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Bereden vag fur Herran

- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in ev'ry place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

SECOND COMMUNION HYMN * 615 (The Hymnal 1982)

- 1 "Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee
the passing ages pray;
and faithful souls have yearned to see
on earth that kingdom's day.
- 2 But the slow watches of the night
not less to God belong;
and for the everlasting right
the silent stars are strong.
- 3 And lo, already on the hills
the flags of dawn appear;

"Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee

gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
proclaim the day is near:

St. Flavian

4 the day to whose clear shining light
all wrong shall stand revealed,
when justice shall be throned in might,
and every hurt be healed;

5 when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
shall walk the earth abroad;
the day of perfect righteousness,
the promised day of God.

Prayer For Spiritual Communion at Home

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. As I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you, knowing that you are already here, and unite myself wholly to you, secure that you will never let me go. Amen.

- Based on the prayer attributed to St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN IN PROCESSION * 56 (*The Hymnal 1982*)

5 O come, thou Key of David come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leans on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel (*vs 5-8*)

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the son of God appear *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Cn. James D. Shoucair
Preacher & Assisting Minister	The Rev. Brandon P. Cooper
Organist & Choirmaster	Ed Kapsha
Acolyte.....	Clayton Blough
Altar Guild.....	Jen Aranda
.....	Valerie Tardif
Greeters.....	David & Lisa Bischoff
Lay Readers.....	Melissa Keebler
.....	Rich Seagraves
Ushers	David Bischoff
.....	Rick Mathews
.....	Jerry Stephenson
.....	Brian Rearick

Post-Worship Ministries

Altar Flower Delivery.....	No delivery this week
Coffee.....	Rick & Marianne Mathews
Counters	Attracta Coopey
.....	Tracy Rearick
Lay Eucharistic Visitors

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- The Rev. Cn. James D. Shoucair, Rector ~ Rector@ChristChurchPGH.org
- The Rev. Brandon P. Cooper, Assistant Rector ~ Brandon.Cooper@ChristChurchPGH.org
- The Rev. Lorena M. Ringle, *Ret.*, Deacon ~ Lorena.Ringle@ChristChurchPGH.org
- The Rev. Dr. Christopher H. Barker, *Ret.*, Priest-in-Residence
- The Rev. J. Christine McIlvain, *Ret.*, Deacon-in-Residence

- Eric O'Brien, Parish Administrator/Director Of Communications ~ Office@ChristChurchPGH.org
- Jan Krotine, Parish Treasurer ~ Jan.Krotine@ChristChurchPGH.org
- Jennifer Aranda, Safe Church Coordinator

- Ed Kapsha, Organist & Choirmaster ~ Ed.Kapsha@ChristChurchPGH.org
- Ellen Seagraves, Director of Christian Formation ~ Ellen.Seagraves@ChristChurchPGH.org



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