

The Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

December 10, 2023



**CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL**

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733





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SAVANNAH

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Entrance Rite

Prelude Two settings of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 599 & 659
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Processional Hymnal 59
Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding Merton
(Children's Chapel follows the procession. Suggested ages are pre-K through fifth grade; younger children are welcome if accompanied by adults.)

Opening Acclamation BCP 355
Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity BCP 355

Kyrie Hymnal S-91
from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* Healey Willan (1880–1968)
Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)
Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)
Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Collect of the Day
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Word of God

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11

O Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
that she has served her term,
 that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
 double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
 and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

 And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;



lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 “Here is your God!”
 See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Martin Johnson Heade (American, 1819–1904), *Roman Newsboys*, 1848, oil on canvas, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 *Benedixisti, Domine* BCP 708

Sung by the choir.

chant: Plainsong, Tone I

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
 you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
 and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
 and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
 that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
 and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Sequence Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

Bereden väg för Herran

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s

hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Thomas Cole (American, 1801–1848), *St. John in the Wilderness*, 1827, oil on canvas, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT



Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People, Form I

Confession and Absolution

The Peace

The Reverend Patti R. Davis, *Deacon*

BCP 358

BCP 383

BCP 360

The Holy Communion

Offertory *People, look East!*

arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

People, look East. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

(*Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965*)

Presentation of the Gifts	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, <i>Eucharistic Prayer B</i>	BCP 367
Sanctus and Benedictus	Hymnal S-114
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	
Fraction Anthem	Hymnal S-158
from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i>	H. Willan
(All Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.)	
Holy Communion	Hymnal 75, 67
<i>There's a voice in the wilderness crying</i>	<i>Ascension</i>
<i>Comfort, comfort ye my people</i>	<i>Psalm 42</i>
Postcommunion Prayer	BCP 365
Recessional	Hymnal 54
<i>Savior of the nations, come!</i>	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i>
Dismissal	BCP 366
Postlude Fantasia on <i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i> , BWV 661	J. S. Bach



Thank you to Alex Mann for curating the artwork for the Season of Advent.

Prayers of the People*

For our confirmands preparing to affirm their baptismal vows: that they will receive power and wisdom from the Holy Spirit, and by grace grow into the full stature of Christ.

For the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and places of conflict around the world: for strength, hope, perseverance, and protection; for liberation from violence and oppression; for the end of war and the laying down of weapons.

Also for Anders Robertson, Andrew Rosenbaum, Nancy Thompson, Bernie Armstrong, Heyward Gignilliat

For the Birthdays of Blue Dennard, Erin Ham, Liza Summerell, Sophia Stanbridge, Brad Davenport, Charlotte King, Chip Goldsmith, Mimi Dulany, Grace Keller, Lawton Shipley, Stephen Ham, Robbie Harrison, Jess Mikell, Margaret Smith, Georgia Stone, Grant Stovall, Oliver Bailey, Garrett Greiner, Tyrus Smith, Clara Perkins, Randy Woodruff, Ryan Chandler, Will Sumner, Katie Griffith, Ava Grace Gardner, Comer Immel, Emily Stolba, Jaimie Vela, Vivienne Ham, Sylvia Severance, Mary Sumner, Wiley Chandler, Fatima Berry Gomes, Joseph Frew-Miller, Blake Huennekens, Pat Harrison, Mickey Ott, Claire Rilee, Courtenay Espy, Will Wallace, Renee Huskey Chandler, Liz Davenport, Corey Summerell, Judy Walters, Selia Hooten, Alexander Fleming, Carol Whitfield, Tom Kirkpatrick

For the Wedding Anniversaries of Kristy and Jerry Reeves, Ruth and Chris Hallman, Tina and Ken Palmer, Claudia and David Seyle, Lisa and Frank Chappell, Hester and Bob Hodde, Sarah and Zak Craig, Joyce and Stevenson Wallace, Kim and Charlie Sachs, Catherine and Joe Gussler, Paul Kline and Max Maxwell

For Those Who Have Died and for the Comfort of Their Families: Howard Jordan, Jr., Emma Buchanan Chastain, Larry Austin, John B. Severance

*The full prayer list may be found on our website and in our weekly email.

Announcements

Altar Greens

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Susan Wolfe Harrison by Eleanor, Peter, Isabelle, Sophia and Daniel Harrison Bregman, Margaret Harrison, Finn and Evie Jane Greer, Catherine Harrison Cobb and Andrew Cobb, and Lindy and Robbie Harrison.

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, December 10

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum in the Chapel. *The Gospel of Mark*
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Choristers, lunch and rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Book Study. *Everything Happens for a Reason*

Monday through Friday, December 11–15

- 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Docent Tours

Wednesday, December 13

- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

- 10:30 a.m. Christ Church Book Group, undercroft

Next Sunday at Christ Church

Sunday, December 17

- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Choristers, lunch and rehearsal

Advent Book Study: *Everything Happens for a Reason*

Sunday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

During the season of Advent, the “1Book1Diocese” offering for Episcopalians across the Diocese of Georgia is *Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I’ve Loved)*, by Kate Bowler. At the age of 35, Duke Divinity School professor Kate Bowler learned that she had stage IV colon cancer. Stripped of certainty, she finds that life is beautiful, but beautiful in a way it never had been before. *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I’ve Loved)* is not only

an insightful and funny memoir, but an exploration of theodicy, or God's justice. Join fellow Christ Church members as we discuss this illuminating exploration of mortality and mercy. We will meet on Sunday evening, December 10, at 6:00 in the undercroft. Afterwards, we will have a brief service of Compline in the chapel. The book is available for purchase from most major online book retailers.

Christ Church Book Group

Thursday, December 14, 10:30 a.m.

Join us each second Thursday in the undercroft as we explore insights from thought-provoking works. This month, we will have a pot luck lunch to choose books for 2024.

The Joy of Christmas

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

The annual Christ Church classic is back! In this historic church filled to the brim with poinsettias and holiday garland, get in the Christmas spirit and ring in the holiday with the Savannah Brass Quintet and the choirs of Christ Church! For the first time, this event will be ticketed. Tickets are free and can be reserved on Eventbrite—you can find the link on our website, in the weekly email, or on our Facebook page. Nursery care will be provided.

Paperback Children's Books for Belize

Please donate new or gently used paperback books for the children who will be treated by Project Smile in the last week of January 2024. The team members from Christ Church are Clayton Gagne-Thomas, Crystal and Roy Maynard, and Montie and Steve Acuff. All books will need to be collected by the end of December. If you have any questions, please contact Montie Acuff, montieacuff@gmail.com. There will be a donation bin located in the undercroft.



Exploring Episcopal Worship

Sundays, January 7–February 4, 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel

During the season after the Epiphany we will take a close look at the gift of our worship tradition. Come and learn more about the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal, our Sunday morning liturgy, the ministry of the Altar Guild and the role of Deacons in worship.

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17

Celebration of Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.

The Joy of Christmas

Thursday, December 21 – 7:00 p.m.

(Offering will benefit Emmaus House feeding ministry)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

Celebration of Holy Eucharist – 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist – 5:00 p.m.

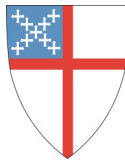
Carols by Candlelight – 9:30 p.m.

Choral Eucharist – 10:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

Celebration of Holy Eucharist – 12:00 p.m.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Frank S. Logue, *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Michael S. White, *Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Reverend Helen S. White, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

Suzanne Phillips Smith, *Parish Administrator*

Charles L. Epps, *Sexton*

The Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Richard "Max" Maxwell, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend David C. Seyle, *United Methodist Pastor-in-Residence*

Vestry

Sarah K. Jones, *Senior Warden*; Stephen R. Rilee, *Junior Warden*;

Sarah B. Smith, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Patton W. Dugas, *Treasurer*;

Catherine M. Gussler, *Assistant Treasurer for Stewardship and Finance*;

Charles H. Chewning; Washington C. Dender; Katherine J. Griffith;

Stephanie C. Lindley; Rosemary W. Mackey; Roger Moss, Jr.; Rena K. Patton;

Elizabeth L. Pember; Molly C. Taylor; Paul H. Threlkeld; Susan H. Wetmore

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery, located on the 2nd floor of the Parish House at 18 Abercorn

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Church building is located at 28 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

The telephone number is 912-236-2500

www.christchurchsavannah.org

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site.