

The First Sunday of Advent
Year C

December 1, 2024



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733





CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
SAVANNAH

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733

Today's service follows the form for Holy Eucharist Rite II, beginning on page 355 of the red Book of Common Prayer ("BCP"). The music may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982; numbers beginning with "S-" are service music, located at the front of the hymnal.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Entrance Rite

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Choral Introit *Matin Responsory*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (ca. 1525–1594),

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Processional

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

Hymnal 61

Wachet auf

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
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Word of God

First Lesson **Jeremiah 33:14–16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Psalm 25: 1–9 *Ad te, Domine, levavi* **BCP 614**

Sung by the choir. chant: Plainsong, Tone I

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
 my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated,
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Sequence Hymn

Savior of the nations, come

Hymnal 54

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world,

for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.



“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Judgment Day, Aaron Douglas. 1939. National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Sermon

The Reverend Cathy Zappa, *Interim Rector*

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP 388

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

The Leader and People pray responsively.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those on our prayer list, including
Alfredo Gracia, Jennifer Kelly, and David Crampton.

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.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died,
that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all
your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our own needs and those of others.

[The congregation offer further prayers, silently and aloud.]

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and Absolution BCP 360

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people may kneel.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

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.

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.

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.

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 56, v. 1

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| The Great Thanksgiving, <i>Eucharistic Prayer B</i> | BCP 367 |
| <i>Sanctus & Benedictus</i> | 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, <i>Agnus Dei</i> | Hymnal S-158 |
| from <i>Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena</i> | H. Willan |
| <i>All Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You may kneel or stand at the altar rail. Please let an usher know if you need to receive from your pew. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. To receive a blessing, you may cross your arms over your chest.</i> | |
| Hymns at Communion | Hymnal 60, 640 |
| <i>Creator of the stars of night</i> | <i>Conditor alme siderum</i> |
| <i>Watchman, tell us of the night</i> | <i>Aberystwyth</i> |
| Postcommunion Prayer | BCP 366 |
| The Blessing | |
| Closing Hymn | Hymnal 57 |
| <i>Lo, he comes with clouds descending</i> | <i>Helmsley</i> |
| Dismissal | |
| Postlude <i>Toccata on 'Helmsley'</i> | Brenda Portman (b. 1980) |



Prayers of the People*

For Alfredo Gracia, Jennifer Kelly, David Crampton

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

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

For Those Who Have Died and the Comfort of Their Families:

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

Announcements

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Mary Raines in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of the Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser.

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Forum: The Love that is God
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Advent Wreath Making
- 12:00 p.m. Reception Honoring the Rev. Canon Todd D. Smelser

Wednesday, December 4

- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing
- 12:30 p.m. Mid-day Music. George Fergus, *organ*.
- 5:15 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Evensong & St. Nicholas Dinner
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

- 5:00 p.m. Bible Study in the Choir Room

Next Sunday at Christ Church

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Forum: The Love that is God
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 p.m. Over the Moon Youth Service Project
- 4:00 p.m. Choral Evensong for Advent

This Sunday

Sunday Forum:

The Love that is God: An Invitation to the Christian Faith

Sundays in Advent, 9:30 a.m., Parish House

This Advent, we will join other Episcopalians across the Diocese of Georgia as we explore what it means to say "God is love." This Advent's 1Book1Diocese selection is *The Love that is God: An Invitation to Christian Faith*, by Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt, a Roman Catholic Deacon who is a Professor of Theology at Loyola University. He earned his undergraduate degree at Sewanee and is the brother of the Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. The book is available for purchase across major online retailers, and a reading guide will be provided.

Advent Wreath Making for All Ages

Christ Church Front Porch, after the 10:30 service

Everyone is invited to make an Advent Wreath on the porch. The stations will be set up after the 10:30 service. Advent wreaths offer a beautiful opportunity

for a faith practice at home, rooted in scripture and tradition, that helps us prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Reception for the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of the Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser

Today, following the service

Please join us for a joyful celebration honoring the Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser's 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Coming Up

Evensong & St. Nicholas Dinner

December 4, 6:15 p.m.

Please join us for Evensong at 6:15 p.m. on Wed, December 4, immediately followed at 6:30 p.m. by an early celebration of St. Nicholas Day! Pinwheel lasagna, Caesar salad, and garlic bread will be provided for dinner, and we only ask that you bring your favorite dessert to share. During dinner we will be telling the story of St. Nicholas to the children (and adults!), and after dinner we will decorate Christmas gift bags for Emmaus House. This will be a fun way to celebrate giving as we kick off the Advent season, and as a bonus you don't have to cook dinner, so please join us!

Over the Moon Youth Service Project

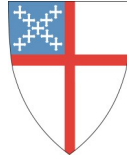
December 8, 12:00 p.m.

Following the 10:30 a.m. service on December 8, all youth in grades 6-12 (and parents, too, if you'd like to join) are invited to take part in a service project with Over the Moon Diaper Bank. Please invite friends as well—this is a great opportunity to log some service hours, and even to introduce friends to the community of Christ Church. We'll head over to the Parish House right after the service to pack supplies for our Chatham County neighbors, and after we finish our work (around 1:00 p.m.) we will have pizza and salad together. Please RSVP to John Audette, john.audette@ccsavannah.org.

Choral Evensong for Advent

Sunday, December 8, 4:00 p.m.

Prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ child and join us for this meditative service of Choral Evensong in observance of the Advent season. The Christ Church Schola will offer prayers and anthems on behalf of all gathered as we pray this ancient service that is a signature of the Episcopal tradition.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

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

The Reverend Cathy Zappa, *Interim Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

The Reverend Dr. Bertice Berry, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

John Audette, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

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

Stephen R. Rilee, *Senior Warden*; Washington C. Dender, *Junior Warden*;

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

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

Lindsey A. Eberle; Katherine J. Griffith; Stephanie C. Lindley;

Rosemary W. Mackey; Elizabeth L. Macfadyen; Roger Moss, Jr.;

Rena K. Patton; Paul D. Reddick; Paul H. Threlkeld;

Polly C. Webster; 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.