

The Second Sunday of Advent
Year C

December 8, 2024



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733





CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
SAVANNAH

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
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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 *Benedictus* Alec Rowley (1892–1958)

Processional Hymnal 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

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.*

The Word of God

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1–4

Reader A reading from the Book of Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah

BCP 92

Sung by the choir.

setting: Charles V. Stanford (1852–1924)

Luke 1: 68–79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
 To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Epistle

Philippians 1:3–11

Reader A reading from the Book of Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having



produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Zechariah and St. John the Baptist. A medieval Georgian fresco from the Monastery of the Cross, Jerusalem.

Sequence Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

Bereden väg för Herran

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–6

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Caravaggio. Between 1604 and 1605.
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri.

Sermon	The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, <i>Associate Rector</i>
Nicene Creed	BCP 358
Prayers of the People, Form IV	BCP 388
Confession and Absolution	BCP 360
The Peace	

The Holy Communion

Offertory	<i>A spotless rose</i>	Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
A spotless Rose is blowing	The Rose which I am singing,	
Sprung from a tender root,	Whereof Isaiah said,	
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,	Is from its sweet root springing	
Of Jesse promised fruit;	In Mary, purest Maid;	
Its fairest bud unfolds to light	For through our God's great love and might	
Amid the cold, cold winter	The blessed babe she bare us	
And in the dark midnight.	In a cold, cold winter's night.	
	(<i>Anon., 14th century</i>)	

Presentation of the Gifts	Hymnal 56, v. 4
O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny	
That trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.	
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

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.

Hymns at 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 366
The Blessing	
Closing Hymn	Hymnal 444
<i>Blessed be the God of Israel</i>	<i>Thornbury</i>
Dismissal	
Postlude <i>Fugue on the Magnificat'</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)



Prayers of the People*

For Lei Kline Furlong, Jewelry Tyne, Alfredo Garcia, 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, Susan Sorensen, 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: Daniel H. Bradley, Anne Blimmel, Nan Dismukes, Anneliese Shweistris, Deric Beil

*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 and in celebration of the birthday of Mary McElveen Dulany by the Dulany family.

This Week 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

Monday, December 9

5:30 p.m. In the Spirit. *Judgment.*

Wednesday, December 11

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing

5:15 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

10:30 a.m. Book Group

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

Next Sunday at Christ Church

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Forum: The Love that is God

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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.

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. We will also have supplies for decorating Christmas gift bags for Emmaus House for any supervised children who would like to join.

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.

Coming Up

In the Spirit

Monday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.

"In the Spirit" is a discussion group for those who seek to deepen their faith through meaningful conversations. Join us on Monday at The 5-Spot in Sandfly (7360 Skidaway Road), where you can grab something to eat or drink as we spend time together. We'll gather at 5:30 p.m. and begin our discussion at 6. This week's topic is *Judgment*.

Christ Church Book Group

Thursday, December 12, 10:30 a.m.

The CCE Book Group will meet on December 12th to celebrate Christmas with a potluck gathering. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the undercroft.

Please bring something to share. Most of us buy store bought goodies so as not to add more stress to the holiday season. We will also discuss what books we want to read for 2025.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

In the Undercroft, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Reverend Cathy Zappa will be leading a weekly Bible study on the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome! There is no preparation required. Simply come as you can to spend time in lively discussion, good company, and the good Word!

The Joy of Christmas

Friday, December 20

Tickets available now

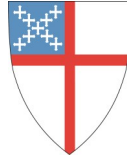
Ring in the Christmas season in this festive benefit concert! Join in singing favorite hymns, hear the choirs of Christ Church sing anthems and carols both ancient and modern, and support Emmaus House. Ticket reservations are available now via our Eventbrite page for congregation members, and November 15th for the general public. Tickets are always free. They simply ensure that you can get a seat without standing in a long line, and enable us to maintain required safety and capacity standards.

Become a Eucharistic Visitor or Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)!

This January, we are starting a “Eucharistic Visitor” ministry, in which trained lay Eucharistic Visitors take the consecrated sacrament from our Sunday morning Eucharists, as well as our community’s prayers, to individuals who cannot currently attend services in person. These visits are a blessing for visitees and visitors alike, and they help us stay connected.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) assist in the distribution of Communion by bearing a chalice. As our congregation grows and welcomes more and more people, we will be experimenting with additional Communion stations before the steps, starting in January. That means that we will need more LEMs, too!

For more information, please contact Cathy Zappa at cathy.zappa@ccesavannah.org.



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.