



Christ Episcopal Church

M O U N T P L E A S A N T

Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols with a Celebration of The Holy Eucharist

**December 14, 2025
10:30 a.m.**

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today. This bulletin has been created from the prayers found in *The Book of Common Prayer*, and it contains most of the spoken parts of our worship. The Hymnal in your pew rack contains the hymns we will sing.

All are welcomed to our altar at Communion. Baptized Christians (in any Church) are invited to receive the Sacrament of bread and wine. If you would prefer instead to receive a blessing from the priest, you may indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

We are glad you're here, and grateful for your contribution to our common prayer today!

ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Opening Hymn: # 68

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Llangloffan

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Genesis 3:1-22 *The people sit*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said,

'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said,

'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
 and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
 "You shall not eat of it",
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.'

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.'

Choral Anthem

Deo Gracias
(St. Dunstan Choir)

Jim Leininger

Text:

Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond;	And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok,
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.	As clerkès finden written in their book.
Deo gracias!	Deo gracias!

Ne had the appil takè ben,	Blessed be the time that appil takè was.
Ne haddè never our lady A ben hevenè quene.	Therefore we moun* singen: Deo gracias!

**moun = must*

Isaiah 6:1-11

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' And he said, 'Go and say to this people:

"Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand."

Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,

and turn and be healed.’
Then I said, ‘How long, O Lord?’ And he said:
‘Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate.’

Hymn #324 *The people stand.* **Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

Picardy

Isaiah 40-1-11 *The people sit.*

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.

Choral Anthem

Drop Down, Ye Heavens
(Christ Church Choir)

Anna Lapwood

Micah 5:2-4

But 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.

Hymn #66

The people stand.

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Luke 1:26-38 *The people sit.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Choral Anthem

Ave Maria
(Christ Church Choir)

Rihards Dubra

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Translation:

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners.
Now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

The Peace	<i>The people stand.</i>
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*The Celebrant says to the people, 'The peace of the Lord be always with you.
The people respond, **And also with you.***

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem

There is No Rose

Philip Stopford

When the offerings are brought forward, the people sing the Doxology.

**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.**

Alternate tune - Puer nobis



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THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

The people stand.

Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 367

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant gives thanks for the gifts of God, and the people respond with the hymn,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people may stand or kneel for the remainder of this prayer.

In the midst of the Great Thanksgiving, the people join in declaring the mystery of faith:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

*At the conclusion of the prayer, the people respond,
Amen.*

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the Consecrated Bread.*

A period of silence is kept. Then the Celebrant and people speak the Fraction Anthem:

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Distribution of Gifts

*The celebrant then says the following invitation: The Gifts of God for the People of God.
The people come forward to receive Holy Communion. Those on the right side fill in the rail from right to left (back to front). Those on the left side also fill in the rail from right to left (front to back).*

**Communion Hymn: # 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness *Schmücke dich*
Communion Hymn: # 462 The Lord will come and not be slow *York***

Post Communion Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 365

After Communion, the Celebrant and People have been strengthened to stand and pray,
**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 celebrant blesses the people.*

Closing Hymn: # 56 (vs. 1-6) O come, O come, Emmanuel *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

The Dismissal*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 366*

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Fantasy on “Veni Emmanel”

Alec Rowley



Thank you to James Mellichamp, our guest organist today.



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Ave Maria - Words: from Luke 1:28 and Luke 1:42 Music: Rihards Dubra (b. 1964) ©1994 Musica Baltica

There is No Rose - Words: anon. 15th Century Music: Philip Stopford ©www.philipstopford.com. ICS.
ARR

Service Music: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Our Prayers

Thanksgivings

Please share with Fr. Furman any graduations, marriages, births, adoptions, or other special life events if you would like us to include them verbally in our thanksgivings during The Holy Eucharist.

We give thanks for: the people & ministries of Christ Episcopal Church

Healing

Please share your name with Fr. Furman if you are preparing for, or recovering from, surgery or other therapies and would like to be remembered verbally during The Holy Eucharist.

We pray for all those who are sick or suffering, or in any need or trouble, including:

Kaitlyn Booth	Jeffrey Smith, cousin of Kaitlyn Murray
Capers Cross	Sharron Huza, friend of Kaitlyn Murray
Charles Farmer	Brenda Beaudry, aunt of Dylan Murray
Bill Hill	Yvonne Dickson, mother of John Dickson
Jack Jansta	Michael Tate, nephew of Nancy Reynolds
John Legun	Elee Bassett, friend of Jennie Scudder-Levin
Margaret Passailaigue	Molly Begle, granddaughter of Caroline Gendelman
Carly Wilkins	The Rev. Chris Huff, friend of Fr. Furman
Keith Cox, relative of Anne Kilpatrick	Anna Clifford, friend of the Buchanan family
Ted Smith, brother of Claire Burt	Carol Stephens, sister-in-law of Taylor & Judy Stephens
Sandy Hobbs, friend of Carolyn Moon	Katy Jurkiw, daughter of Suzy & Allyn Jones
Carrie Davis, friend of Cheri McCusker	Sarah Paxton, daughter of Ralph and Andrea Knupp
Jon Andrew Allan, father of Julie Allan	Charlie & Malinda Tulloh, friends of Marianna MacIntyre
Marty DeWitt, friend of Suzy Jones	Jeanie Bane, mother-in-law of Danielle Bane
Sherry Blatt Hooper, friend of Lee Early	Emogene Bane, daughter of Danielle Bane
Mayur Shah, relative of the Buchanans	Joan Forsyth, sister-in-law of Linda Smith
Elizabeth Davis, friend of Jo Hethcox	Nicole Foster, cousin of Cheri McCusker
James Huffman, friend of Jo Hethcox	Olivia Nachman, cousin of Natalie Bily
Tom Whanger, father of Dave Whanger	Caitlin Jester, sister of John Daley
Beverly Lacy, mother of Anne Lacy	

Repose

Please share with Fr. Furman the names of any relatives or friends who have died, and we will include them in our verbal prayers for repose during The Holy Eucharist.

We pray for those who have died, including:



Christ Episcopal Church
MOUNT PLEASANT

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Rector - The Rev. Furman Buchanan: rector@christepiscopalmt.org

Assoc. Rector for Children, Youth & Families - The Rev. Dr. Brooks Boylan: associate@christepiscopalmt.org

Director of Music/Organist - Dr. Jo Hethcox: choir@christepiscopalmt.org