**The Nativity of our Lord**

**December 24th, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**



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**INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS: WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!**



Our motto is true whether you're here for the very first time

or you've been a member for decades –

**There is a place for you at God's Table!**

The worship service has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word, which includes Scripture readings and a sermon, and the Liturgy of the Table, which is also called Holy Eucharist or Communion. You will notice moments in the service when people stand, kneel, bow, and make the sign of the cross -- all of these are completely optional. You are encouraged to participate in every aspect of worship, according to your comfort level.

All who seek Christ are welcome at His Table for Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and request a blessing. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please notify the ushers. And if you need a gluten-free wafer, just let Rev. Maggie know.

If you have not been baptized, or if you have questions about Holy Baptism, please talk to Rev. Maggie and/or Deacon Rick after the service -- the people of Christ Church would love to walk with you to your baptism and beyond!

**THE WORD OF GOD**

(\*please rise as you are comfortable)

PRELUDE: *Go Tell it on the Mountain, I Saw Three Ships, God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Carol of the Bells, The Holly and the Ivy, In the Bleak Midwinter, The Coventry Carol, Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella, What Child is This, I Wonder as I Wander*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Once in royal David’s city” Hymnal 102

\*OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

\*COLLECT FOR PURITY

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. **Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE: “Joy to the world!” Hymnal 100 vs. 1-2, 4

\*COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen*.**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,   
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



### \*THE RESPONSE Psalm 98

1 Sing to the Lord a new **song, \***  
for he has done marvelous **things.**

2 With his right hand and his holy **arm \***  
has he won for himself the **victory.**

3 The Lord has made known his **victory; \***  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the **nations.**

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of **Israel, \***and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our **God.**

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you **lands; \***  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and **sing.**

6 Sing to the Lord with the **harp, \***  
with the harp and the voice of **song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the **horn \***  
shout with joy before the King, the **Lord.**

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is **in** **it, \***  
the lands and those who dwell there**in.**

9 Let the rivers clap their **hands, \***  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the **earth.**

10 In righteousness shall he judge the **world \***  
and the peoples with **equity.**

THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: “Good Christian friends, rejoice” Hymnal 107

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-14

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON  The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

GOSPEL HYMN: “The first Nowell” Hymnal 109

THE NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of**

the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

**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,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who 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

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, showing us the glory of the Father. Let that glory be manifest in our churches. Give us the will to be united as You prayed we would be.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell within all churches.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, serving others and not seeking your own glory. Inspire church leaders, that they may be examples of willing service.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell among all clergy.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, giving us an example of true power, which lies in holiness. Direct government leaders into wise decisions that will bring forth righteousness. Give the leaders of the nations wisdom and hearts for peace.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in all government leaders.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, choosing the company of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, and the sick, of widows and orphans, and of sinners. Help us to reach out in lovingkindness to those who are in any need or trouble.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our acts of mercy.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, taking sickness and suffering into your own hands and transforming them. Have mercy on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Give special grace and power to all those who spend this holiday season working with the sick and the dying.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our dis-ease and make us whole.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, weeping at the death of those whom you loved. Comfort all those who have lost loved ones, and bless those departed.

***R: Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our memories of those whom we have lost. Grant peace and light to those who have died.***

*\**THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

**Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*.***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

**All: 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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution.*

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Celebrant*: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

THE OFFERTORY: “What Strangers Are These?” – Dan Forrest

\*PRESENTATION HYMN: “O come, all ye faithful” Hymnal 83

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

*Celebrant* 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 God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,** Hymnal S130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,** (front section of the Hymnal)  **heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

**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 Hymnal S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.** (front section of Hymnal)

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:**

**give us your peace, give us your peace.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: “What child is this?” Hymnal 115

“It came upon the midnight clear” Hymnal 90

“Silent night, holy night” Hymnal 111

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

\*THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant pronounces God’s blessing over the people. The people respond:* ***Amen.***

\*CLOSING HYMN:“Angels, from the realms of glory” Hymnal 93

\*THE DISMISSAL *Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE: “Go, Tell It On The Mountain” – Traditional Spiritual/arr. John Carter

*If you leave during the postlude, please do so quietly, so that others may enjoy the music. Thank you!*

*Merry Christmas!*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**UPDATE: Financial Support Pledged for 2020**

As of December 16th, we have received 75 pledges of financial support for next year, totaling $187,823.44. This includes 9 new pledging units, and 22 established units who increased their pledge amounts. THANK YOU to all who have pledged to support Christ Church in 2020! We still have not reached our pledge goal of $213,000; so if you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so to support your church and its ministries. Extra pledge cards are available in the east entrance.

**Church Office Closed**

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Church Office will be CLOSED from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd. Your staff will be enjoying some much-needed vacation time. The office will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

**Sunday, December 29th**

Join us next Sunday, December 29th for a Combined Rite service of Morning Prayer with carols at 9 am. We’ll return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday, January 5th.

**Christmas Flowers 2019**

In loving memory of Jim Beardsell by Anita Beardsell

In thanksgiving for Sarah Healy and Lucy Albright and in memory of Clarence Alright by Joann Albright

In memory of Ben Schwartz and Dennis Sullivan by Sally Schwartz and family

In memory of Cal, Merlene and Scott Warren by Kay Koeninger and David Warren

In memory of Henry Roberts by Martha Chaney

In memory of our parents and in thanksgiving for our family by Denny and Sharon Wells

In thanksgiving for our daughters Katie and Barbie and their families by Scott and Cathy Yeazell

In memory of Donna Swafford and Jean Smith and in thanksgiving for Madison & Reilly Smith by Lori Swafford and Rand Smith

In memory of Martin C. Hawkins III, Eugenia Nola “Lovey” Williams Ray, and in thanksgiving for Rob, Harrison, Henry, Hamilton, and Jesse by Molly Young

**Ministers for December 24, 2019**

**Altar Guild:** Joan Hurley and Joanne Harris

**Acolytes:** Ben Hasecke and Will Hasecke

**Chalice Bearers:** Brian Shelburne and Ed Hasecke

**Lectors:** Anne Strothman and Judy Johnson

**Prayers:** Fred Bartenstein

**Ushers:** Alan Ladd and Chris Wells

**Special Musicians:** Jeff Carter and Joy Carter

**General Information**

**Rector:** The Rev.Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**Deacon**: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**Senior Warden**: Dawn Ivy

**Junior Warden**: John Richardson

**Treasurer**: Ken Bladh

**Vestry at Large**: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke,

Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, Denise Sharp, and Chris Wells

**Parish Administrator & Program Coordinator**: Kelly Zeller

**Director of Music**: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Youth Teacher:** Abby Glass

**Nursery Attendant**: Jerushia Knox

**Facility Manager**: Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox

**Christ Episcopal Church****409 East High Street Springfield, Ohio 45505 / 937-323-8651/ www.christspringfield.org**