**The Nativity of our Lord**

**December 24th, 2023 at 7 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. There is no one “right” way to worship, so do what is comfortable for you at any given time in worship.

All Baptized Christians are welcome at Christ’s 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. Michelle know.

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

When you enter a Christ Episcopal Church worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Finally, if you are a visitor, please fill-out a *Welcome Card* on the back of the pew, so we can add you to our weekly information email the NewsNote.

**The Holy Eucharist Rite II**

PRELUDE: Estudio in E minor, O Christmas Tree Medley, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a Manger,

Good King Wenceslas Medley, We Three Kings Medley, Greensleeves, Angels We have Heard on High, and

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

**OPENING HYMN**: “O come, all ye faithful Hymnal 83

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

GLORIA  **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.** Hymnal S278

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.***

Ô Dieu, en cette nuit sainte, tu fais briller la Lumière véritable : à nous qui connaissons le mystère de cette Lumière sur la terre, accorde-nous également d’en profiter parfaitement au ciel, où il vit et règne avec toi et le Saint-Esprit, un seul Dieu, dans la gloire éternelle. ***Amen.***

**THE LESSONS**

**THE FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,   
the rod of their oppressor,   
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood   
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

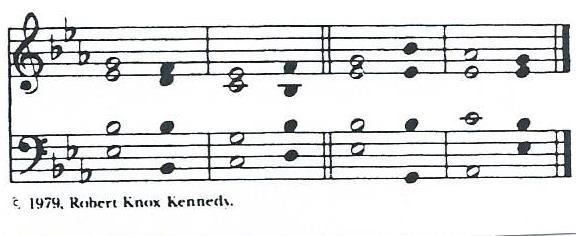
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE PSALM 96

1 Sing to the Lord a new **song; \***  
sing to the Lord, all the whole **earth.**

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his **Name; \***proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to **day.**

3 Declare his glory among the **nations \***  
and his wonders among all **peoples.**

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be **praised; \***  
he is more to be feared than all **gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but **idols; \***but it is the Lord who made the **heavens.**

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his **presence! \***Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanc**tuary!**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the **peoples; \***  
ascribe to the Lord honor and **power.**

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his **Name; \***bring offerings and come into his **courts.**

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of **holiness; \***  
let the whole earth tremble before **him**.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is **King! \***he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with **equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in **it; \***  
let the field be joyful and all that is **therein.**

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he **comes, \***when he comes to judge the **earth.**

13 He will judge the world with **righteousness \***and the peoples with his **truth.**

**THE SECOND LESSON**  **Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** “Hark the Herald Angels sing” Hymnal 87

**GOSPEL**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (**Luke 2:1-20**).

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sermon The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard*

**THE NICENE CREED SYMBOLE DE NICÉE**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,** Nous croyons en un seul Dieu, le Père tout-puissant,

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,** Créateur du ciel et de la terre,

**seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord,** De toutes les choses visibles et invisibles.

**Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,** Nous croyons en un seul Seigneur, Jésus Christ,

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,** Le Fils unique de Dieu,

**Light from Light, true God from true God,** Endgendré du Père avant tous les siècles,

**begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.** Dieu né de Dieu, Lumière née de la Lumière,

**Through him all things were made.** Vrai Dieu né du vrai Dieu, Engendré, non pas crée,

**For us and for our salvation he came down** Un seul être avec le Père, Et par lui tout a été fait.

**from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit** Pour nous et pour notre salut,

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,** Il est descendu des cieux,

**and was made man. For our sake he was** Il s’est incarné par le saint-Esprit en la Vierge Marie,

**crucified under Pontius Pilate;** Et s’est fait homme. Crucifié pour nous sous Ponce Pilate,

**he suffered death and was buried.** Il a souffert la Passion,

**On the third day he rose again in accordance** Il a été mis au tombeau,

**with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven** Il est ressuscité le troisième jour, selon les Écritures ;

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.** Il est monté aux cieux,

**He will come again in glory to judge the living** Il siège à la droite du Père,

**and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.** Il reviendra dans la gloire pour juger

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,** les vivants et les morts,

**the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father,** Et son règne n’aura pas de fin.

**and the Son. With the Father and the Son he** Nous croyons en l’Esprit saint,

**is worshiped and glorified, He has spoken** Qui est Seigneur et qui donne la vie,

**through the Prophets. We believe in one holy** Que procède du Père et du Fils,

**catholic and apostolic Church.** Avec le Père et le Fils, il reçoit même

**We acknowledge one baptism** adoration et même gloire; Il a parlé par les Prophètes.

**for the forgiveness of sins.** Nous croyons en l’Église une, sainte,

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,** catholique et apostolique.

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.** Nous reconnaissons us seul baptême pour

le pardon des péchés.

Nous attendons la résurrection des morts

Et la vie du monde à venir. Amen.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In peace, we pray to you Lord God. Congregational responses are in **bold.**

*Silence*

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. In the Northwest Region cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Paul’s, Greenville; St. Margaret’s, Trotwood; St. Christopher’s, Fairborn, and Trinity, London.

**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. Bless Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Wayne, our provisional diocesan bishop; Kristin, Bishop-elect, and Michelle, our rector.

**Lord Jesus, come and dwell among all church leaders.**

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 nation wisdom and hearts for peace.

**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. We pray for the ministries this church supports, especially Springfield Farmer’s Market, Project Woman, Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools, The YMCA, and Jefferson St. Oasis Garden. In the

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you came and dwelt among us, taking on our flesh, and inhabiting both the pains and the joys of this life. We celebrate with those who have birthdays, especially David Reichel, Marty Smith, Joanne Harris, and Chris Durrenberger, and anniversaries.

**Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our moments of joy.**

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. We pray for Jody Gatten, Anita Beardsell, Bill Everingham, Don Rode, Diana DeVoe, Sandi Eyman, Margaret Mattox, Joy Bartenstein, Dodi Holmes, Martha Chaney, Charlene Schreiber, Alice Kelly, Barb Kelly, and Traudie Milleck; and any others we may now name, silently or aloud.

**Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our disease 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.

**Lord Jesus, come and dwell in our memories of those whom we have lost.**

**Grant peace and light to those who have died.**

*The celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERTORY:** “What Strangers Are These?” - Forrest

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTSHymnal 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**

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 S125

**heaven and earth are 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, Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,**

**hallowed be thy name, Que ton nom soit sanctifé;**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, Que ton règne vienne ; que ta volonté soit faite**

**on earth as it is in heaven. Sur la terre comme au ciel.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. Donne-nous aujourd’hui notre pain de ce jour.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, Pardonne-nous nos offenses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us. Comme nous pardonnons aussi À ceux qui nous ont offensés.**

**And lead us not into temptation, Et nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,**

**but deliver us from evil. Mais délivre-nous du mal.**

**For thine is the kingdom, Car c’est à toi qu’appartiennent le règne,**

**and the power, and the glory, La puissance et la gloire,**

**forever and ever. Amen. Pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD Hymnal S161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**COMMUNION HYMN:** “It came upon a midnight clear” Hymnal 89

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION- Celebrant and people together

**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.**

**HYMN AFTER COMMUNION: “**Silent night, holy night” Hymnal 111

***Please switch your battery-powered candle on at the beginning of this hymn, hold it up, and turn it off after the hymn is over. After the service, place the candle back in the basket as you leave. Thank you!***

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen****.*

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Go, tell it on the Mountain” Hymnal 99

THE DISMISSAL Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**  “Joy to the World Medley.”

**Announcements from Christ Church**

**Pastoral emergencies**

If you need to reach Rev. Michelle for a pastoral emergency, the number is (937) 505-0141. For

non-emergencies, you can call the office at (937) 323-8651 or email Rev. Michelle at [mboomgaard@christspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christspringfield.org).

**“Stepping out into the Vision”**

Thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards. If you haven't, it's not too late! If you need another pledge card, or want to send in your pledge via email, please contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com) or 323-8651. Your pledge makes a difference! Thank you.

**Christ Church Food Pantry**

The January Drive-thru Food Pantry will be on **January 17th, 2024.** Volunteers are needed to help unload food, pack food and help with customer service at approximately 8:15 am. Please contact either Brian Shelburne at [bshelburne@wittenberg.edu](mailto:bshelburne@wittenberg.edu), Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com), or Anne Randolph at [annejrand@aol.com](mailto:annejrand@aol.com) to volunteer.

**Upcoming Food Pantry opportunities:**

**January 3rd, 2024***-* the first food **pick-up** at approximately **8:00 am**

January 10th, 2024 -the second food **pick-up** at approximately**8:00 am**

January 11th, 2024 - grocery bagging day - start time at **9:00 am**

January 17th, 2024 – Food Pantry Day! start time at **8:15 am**

**Opportunity For Baptism**

**January 7th** is the Baptism of our Lord; if you want to be baptized or you know someone who would like to be baptized, please contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org.

**Christ Church has an option for online giving through the church’s website.**

* Go to christspringfield.org or use the QR code
* Go to the tab in the upper right-hand corner marked “Online Giving”
* Click on the online giving link in blue
* Fill in the amount you would like to give
* Next, use the drop box **2023-P for a Pledge or 2023-OG for other giving**
* If you choose 2023-OG, there is another memo drop box for the type of giving-choose one
* Fill out the rest of the form
* Press Continue
* On the next page, press **continue**
* Then enter your billing information
* Thank you!- If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com.

**Christmas Flowers 2023**

In loving memory of Jim Beardsell by Anita Beardsell

In memory of Mike Fields by Sue Allender

In memory of Hank Roberts by Martha Chaney

In memory of Ben Schwartz and Dennis Sullivan by Sally Schwartz

In loving memory of Denny Wells by Sharon Wells

In loving memory of Joseph Strothman by Anne Strothman

In memory of Donna Swafford and Bryan Swafford; and in thanksgiving for Madison Smith and Reilly Smith by Lori Swafford

In memory of Dariel Fahnestock, Russ and Audriel Mumford and Bernice Harbaugh and Keith Harbaugh by Carol Harbaugh, Larry & Linda Hupp and their families

In memory of Don and Dorothy Wiegel by Julie Wiegel Brust

In memory of Sarah Albright Healy and Clarence Albright by Joann Albright

In memory of Helen &Paul Krott, Alice & Bill T. Hicks, Bettie Hicks, John Hicks and Jed Collins by Bill and Gretchen Hicks

In memory of Evelyn Stinnett Reed and in thanksgiving for Don and Charlotte and Babs by Fred Reed

In thanksgiving for Katie Sharp and Wes Sharp by Steve and Denise Sharp

In memory of Woody and Sally Summers, Leigh Dunn, Rob Boblitt, and Ellie Fessler; and in thanksgiving for Lyndsey Bernadette and Andy Dunn by Ann Summers

**Ministers for December 24th, 2023**

**Altar Guild:** Joan Hurley and Anne Strothman

**Lectors:** Judy Johnson and Anne Strothman

**Prayers of the People:** Kay Koeninger

**Chalice:** Mary Allardyce

**Ushers:** Angus Randolph, Bill Hicks, and Dan McGregor

**Videographer:** Truss Inc.

**Guest Musician:** Christina Darding; classical guitar

**General Information**

**Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

**Senior Warden**: Scott Yeazell

**Junior Warden**: Steve Sharp

**Treasurer**: Ken Bladh

**Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller

**Vestry at Large**: Joy Meyers, Kay Koeninger, Linda Mortensen,

Bill Hicks, Lori Swafford, and Rick Everingham

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

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

**Facility Manager**: Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox



**Christ Episcopal Church**

**409 East High Street**

**Springfield, Ohio 45505**

**937-323-8651**

**www.christspringfield.org**