


CHRIST *Episcopal* CHURCH 
WARREN - OHIO

Sunday, December 8, 2023 (10am)

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop of Ohio

The Rev. Tom Furrer, Interim Rector

Jamie Shiell, Director of Music

Paul Keriotis, Director of Formation

Prelude Savior of the Nations, Come! (*Leipzig Chorales*) – J. S. Bach

Introit Get Ready!

AT THE PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR

The People stand for the Processional Hymn and remain standing through the Collect of the Day

Processional Hymn No. 59 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding – *Merton*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One

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

The Celebrant says the 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 WLP 899 Glory to God in the highest – Carl Haywood

(Refrain)

*Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.*

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

**Lord God, heav'nly 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, *(Refrain)*
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. *(Refrain)***

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray together.

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

Please be seated.

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made
low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah (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.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

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.**

Sequence Hymn No. 54 Savior of the nations, Come! – *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Gospeller 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 Iturea 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.'"

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

Sermon The Rev. Tom Furrer

Affirmation of Faith for Advent (from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, Church Publishing 2014)

Please stand as you are able and together say

**We believe in God, Creator of all:
 The two-legged, the four-legged, the winged ones,
 and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.
We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
 Our Brother Jesus born in humility,**

who lived and died for us
and who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding,
upholding us and showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Reader: John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." As we prepare to celebrate his first advent in Bethlehem, we prepare for his second coming in glory. Making room in our hearts for him to come more fully, let us pray for ourselves, for one another and all in need saying,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus.**

Reader: That the Church may comfort the people with words of healing and peace while challenging the faithful to prepare the way of the Lord in their lives and in the world. For this we pray,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: That all in authority in this and every nation may speak peace to their people that all may flourish and the land will yield its increase. For this we pray,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: That all who live in this community may be found by him at peace. We pray for the innocent victims of wars in Ukraine, Sudan, Israel, Palestine, and Azerbaijan. For this we pray.

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: That the many people who call on the one name of our Lord Jesus Christ and yet live divided by that same faith may be gathered together as lambs in his arms that there will be one flock and one shepherd. For this we pray,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: That the homeless, the jobless, the friendless, and all who live in want may find the wholeness that comes from your peace alone, and that the sick, the suffering, and the dying may be assured by your comforting presence. For this we pray,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: That all the faithful departed may know the joy of the new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home. For this we pray,

***People:* Come Lord Jesus**

Reader: The prayers and thanksgiving of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation, then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Merciful God, as we prepare for your coming, we offer these prayers and praises trusting that in your mercy and goodness, you will answer the cries of our hearts not as we wish, but as you know to be best for us and for all we pray. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory Anthem: Every Valley – John Ness Beck

Offertory Hymn No. 56 (verse 1 only) O come, O come, Emmanuel – *Veni Emmanuel*

**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!

Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant God 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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus no. S 129

setting: Robert Powell

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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, forever and ever. AMEN.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-155

Alleluia! Christ our Passover – Gerald Near

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, Heavenly Creator, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn No. 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry – *Winchester New*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come! (*Orgelbuchlein*) – J. S. Bach

Assisting with our Worship at 10 am:

The Parish Choir
The Children's Choir, Amanda Beagle – Director
Laurie Jones - Piano
Kevin Knowlton–Lector Karen Andrus – Lector//Chalice
Faith Scarmuzzi – Prayers/Chalice
Gris & Therese Hurlbert- Greeters
Sam Heakin & Jim Crofford - Ushers
Kathy Hughes & Tess Crofford - Altar Guild
Becky & Steve Watts – Coffee Hour
Deb Murphy & Don Scarmuzzi – AV/Video

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH! We are happy to have you worship with us today! If you are a visitor or would like to know more about the life, work, and ministry of Christ Church, please fill out a “Connect Card” in the pew rack. You can drop the completed card in the offering plate or give it to a member of our staff, an usher, or a Vestry member following the service. We are glad you are here!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to place poinsettias as a memorial or thank offering during Christmas, fill out the form in this bulletin and place it in the offering plate or in the church office on or before **December 19th**. Any donations received after the deadline will not be listed in the bulletin. Call the office with any questions. There will also be forms in the Chapel and Narthex if you need them.

Please make checks payable to Christ Church, memo: Altar Flowers

ARTS ON ATLANTIC: December is a busy month for the Arts on Atlantic. Bring the whole family and enjoy the music.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Sunday, December 15 at 6 pm

Please join the Parish Choirs of Christ Church and St John's Church (Youngstown) for what has become one of Warren's treasured Christmas traditions. This service is patterned after the famous “*Lessons and Carols from King's*”, King's College, Cambridge, England, which is heard across the world on Christmas morning. The story of Christ's birth is told through old and new testament readings interwoven with the most beautiful carols and choral music of the season.

A CHRISTMAS MADRIGAL FEAST

TAPESTRIES OF OHIO

Friday, December 20 at 7 pm

Christ Church Chapel



Join us in the intimate space of Christ Church Chapel for an evening full of the sights and sounds of merry olde England. The concert will feature music, stories, and poems from Medieval and Renaissance periods and other Christmas favorites.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24 at 4 pm

Main Sanctuary

All are invited to join us for Christmas Eve worship. Music of the season will be sung by the Parish Choir and Soloists. The children will present a brief pageant. Holy Communion will be offered. A Homily by Rev. Tom Furrer and Silent Night by candlelight.

LINCOLN SCHOOLS: The wintery weather has started. This morning the community liaisons advised Linda they had given out their last winter coat. The school needs size 6 through small adult jackets. Currently the pantry is bare. If your child or grandchild has outgrown a jacket and it's gently worn, we would love to have it. If you are out and about and see a sale on coats, please do what you can. Thank you in advance for all the help in winterizing the students of Lincoln.

CHRIST CHURCH BAKERS Attention all Bakers of Christ Church, we need a large amount of holiday cookies for the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15th. We expect this year's Festival to be the biggest yet! Put on your thinking/baking caps!

This is a parish wide community event, and we need a lot of helpers. This is your contribution to the church and we are so thankful to those of you who can help. This is what we need in addition to the cookies:

- 1) Friday, Dec 13, people to set up and decorate in the parish hall. This will be at 9:30 AM.
- 2) People to Tray cookies after both 8 am and 10 am services on the 15th.
- 3) During the reception we need people to man punch bowls and replenish cookies as needed
- 4) Cleanup after the reception. If you are able to help, please call the office, call Tiffany 330-883-2856, or call Sandee Skovran 330-719-1557 and let us know.. Thank you for all you do!!!

THE WEEKLY WORKINGS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Monday Dec. 9	Boy Scouts 6 PM Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Parish Hall
Tuesday Dec. 10	AA Meeting 6 PM Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Parish Hall
Wednesday Dec. 11	10:00 AM “Growing Deeper” Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12 PM Deadline to submit Bulletin Announcements Office Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Chapel
Thursday Dec. 12	Handbell Choir Practice 6 PM Choir Practice 7 PM Cub Scouts 6 PM Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Handbell Room Choir Room Parish Hall
Friday Dec. 13	Office Closed	
Saturday Dec 14	Office Closed	
Sunday Dec, 15	8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist Strings of Joy 1:00 PM Lessons & Carols 6:00 PM	Chapel Main Sanctuary