

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

BORDENTOWN, NJ



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

24 DECEMBER 2020

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

We extend a welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us today. Christ Church is truly a beautiful edifice, erected and appointed to the Greater Glory of Almighty God. Herein you find all things in their proper place; everything focused toward the Altar, the center of our worship. The windows in the Nave depict some of the fathers of the early Church, both English and Latin. The Rood shows our Savior, robed as a Priest, with the right hand in Blessing. The Chapel forms a quiet restful spot where, before the Blessed Sacrament, one may kneel in supplication and reverence. We are proud of our worshipful Church and invite you to share its benefit. Come in, rest, pray apart from the world. Surely God is in His Holy Temple.

All who confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, have been baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, are repentant of their sins and believe the Blessed Sacrament to be the true Body and Blood of Christ are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. We hope that you will enter fully into worship by joining in the prayers, responses and hymns. Because our worship may be unfamiliar to those not raised in the Episcopal Church, feel free to ask the assistance of those around you in following and participating in the liturgy. If you are in search of a church home, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship and service. Please sign the guest register at the church entrance so we may have a record of your visit.

Restrooms are located in the Parish House, and are accessible through the double doors by the pulpit or by exiting through main doors and accessing the Parish House by way of the side office door.

Pastoral Emergencies such as sickness, hospitalization, or the death of a loved one should be directed to Fr. Matt at 732.859.5823. Father is happy to respond to your needs even if you are not a parishioner, so please do not hesitate to call.

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Low Mass 8pm

INTROIT - *Dominus dixit*

The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. *Psalms 2*. Why do the heathen so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The Lord saith unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-4;11-12

1 O Sing unto the Lord a new song; * sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 **Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; * be telling of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his honour unto the heathen, * and his wonders unto all peoples.

4 **For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; * let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.

12 **Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; * then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL *S. Luke 2:1-20*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant ☒ The continuation of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Congregation **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And 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.

Congregation **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON Father Matthew Tucker

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church Militant here on earth.

The Congregation kneels for the Prayers

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Blessed Mary Ever Virgin and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

THE PEACE *The people may greet one another in the Name of the Lord, with a bow or a wave, and then be seated.*

THE INTENTIONS OF THE MASS

THE OFFERTORY

AT THE MASS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

Congregation **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Congregation **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children. Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

✠Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Congregation kneels for the Canon of the Mass; the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, **THIS IS MY BODY**, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for **THIS IS MY BLOOD** of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, & be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant We do not presume

Congregation **to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to Thee. And since I can not now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate Thee from me. May I live and die in Thy love. Amen.

The Congregation kneels for the Prayer through the Dismissal

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Grant to us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God: that we who in these mysteries draw near with gladness unto the Nativity of Jesus Christ our Lord; may by godly conversation be found worthy to attain unto his fellowship: Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation rises for the Last Gospel

THE LAST GOSPEL

Celebrant. The Beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John.

Congregation **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US;

and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

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*The Clergy, Wardens, and Vestry of Christ Church Parish
wish you a very merry Christmas*

Christmas Letter, 2020

This may be needless to say, but we have entered into this Advent season in a manner unlike I ever imagined. This is the first time – and hopefully the last time – that on the First Sunday of Advent I wasn't sure what the Christmas schedule would look like. It's disheartening.

But I do not lose hope. And that's the whole point of Advent, right? To prepare, with hope, for the joy of the coming of the Christ Child. The activities of Advent and Christmas will surely be different, but our hope hasn't changed. Our happiness may be a bit more fleeting, but our joy remains, for the joy found in the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ being among us cannot be taken away.

It is up to us to remember that joy, to visit that joy, especially in times of anxiety and uncertainty. It is probable that many of us will not be able to see loved ones or make merry with friends like we usually do this Christmas, and as Covid-19 case rates continue to rise, we will be surrounded by sickness and death. The holidays can already be a difficult time for many, and these holidays will be difficult for many more.

And so it is that we must make our way, in any way that we can, to Bethlehem, to the manger, to lay our eyes on the Word made flesh. I pray that we can do that together in our beautiful and sacred space, but it is possible that we will be forced to make other arrangements.

Two schedules are included on the back of this letter. The one on top is the schedule of services if our buildings are open; the one on bottom is if indoor public worship is still suspended.

This Advent, please pray for those suffering in this crisis, for their loved ones, for our first responders and health care workers, for those who mourn, and for each other. And pray that despite the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found.

Right Onward,

--MT+

PRAYERS & DEDICATIONS

Flowers and greens which decorate the church and chapel in celebration of the Nativity are given in memory of the many loved ones listed in the Christmas Memorials brochure, copies of which may be found on the table at the entrance of the church.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

the sick: Darrell Vigh, Karen Kwietnieski-Casais, Earl Reading, Fran Sutter, Reagon Condron, Jim Baker, Russell Childs, Jennifer Millar, Lisa Jones, Ryan Kochie, Patty MacAllister, Alma Poksay, Evelyn Montalvo, Benjamin Kniss, Delmar Fenton Jr., Edward Lavelle, Dawn Matthews, Corey Walton, Gene McHugh, Maureen Rees, John Kochie, Stephen Turgyan, Lucy Janicelli, Claire Horyn, Anthony Petresilli, Scott O'Brien, Zachary Birnbaum, Shelly Eberhart, John Miosz, Robert Geneski, Kathy Pietsch, Karen Clifford, Mary Koch, Sava Nedic, Bunny Colby, and Dana Mirabelli, Aimee Kurtis, Walter Easley, Frank Corbo, Josephine Corbo, Kathy Gabel, Janice Foster, Susan O'Malia, David Kochie, Louise Kafer, Ron Augustyn, Alanna Bellflower, John Haney, Lorraine Sickles, Sharon Kedzierski, Thomas Fisher, Ed and Marie Nyul.

and those who have long term illnesses: Patrick Moscatiello, Anthony Apicelli, Stephen Vigh, Mark Casais, Dixon Leavers Kevin Kintner, Robin Kintner, Gary Rutherford, Jane Humble, Charles Martin, Alice Ward Carriger, Carla Douglas, Ryan Murray, William Sweeney, Justin McCafferty, Zachary McCafferty, Kelly Bergen, Hannah McNinch, the Rev. Ted Anderson, R. Loraine Burke, Mackenzie Sutter, Daniel Applegate, Roberta Cash, Jennifer Vigh, Jim Tranter, Jonathan Okeson, Mary Dallmann, Patricia Dixon, Jeanette Poole, Bob Bernard, Pat Temple, Danielle Morgan, Jai Autar, Emma Burris, Gloria Jones, Kelley Gilger, Emma Carver, Maria Stout, Lori Forenson, Michael Chahanovich, Rita Haney, Sue Kelly, Sister Angela, Sister Gussie, Dee Watkins, Marge Lee, Michael Slaper, Robert Fritz, the Rev. Son Xuan Nguyen, Lynn Muller, Holly Jones, Irene Fithian, Cheryl Kranz Bach, Brian Nguyen, Rob Mendez, Christine Nicosia, Brianne Nicosia, Karen Schweppenheiser Lospinoso, Sister Pat, Carl Hasson, Susan Sizetz, Frank Clebock, Ron Clebock, Helen Marie Burns, and Thomas Zoccali.

those in military service: Ben Skarzynski, USMC; Chris Neal, USN; Jacob Foerter; USAFR; Samuel Manion, USA.

celebrating a birthday this week: Zachary Neal, Lawrence Nosari, Robert Bauer, Thomas Feuerstein, and Riley Woodrick.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH ENVELOPES FOR 2021 are available for pickup on the front table outside the church office. If you don't find a box with your name on it and would like envelopes, please call the church office at 298-2348 or email office@ccbtown.com.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

A Parish of the Episcopal Church



Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Fr. J. Matthew Tucker, *Rector*

The Rev. Canon Dr. Alan K. Salmon, *Honorary Associate*

Mr. Stephen C. Bearse, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Mrs. Donna Kirk, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Charles Reeder, *Sexton*

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947-1304 Mrs. Loris Johnson (609) 291-5610 Mr. Dave Mohr (609) 468-4208

Schedule for the Days following 24 December

Thursday, 24 December

The Vigil of the Nativity

10:00 a.m. Low Mass

(Advent Feria – Facebook)

6:00 pm Candlelight Mass of Christmas

(in the Churchyard by the Lychgate)

8:00 pm Low Mass of Christmas

(Facebook)

Friday, 25 December

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Low Mass of Christmas

(Facebook)

Saturday, 26 December

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday, 27 December

Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist

9:00 a.m. Low Mass

Monday, 28 December

The Holy Innocents

Tuesday, 29 December

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury