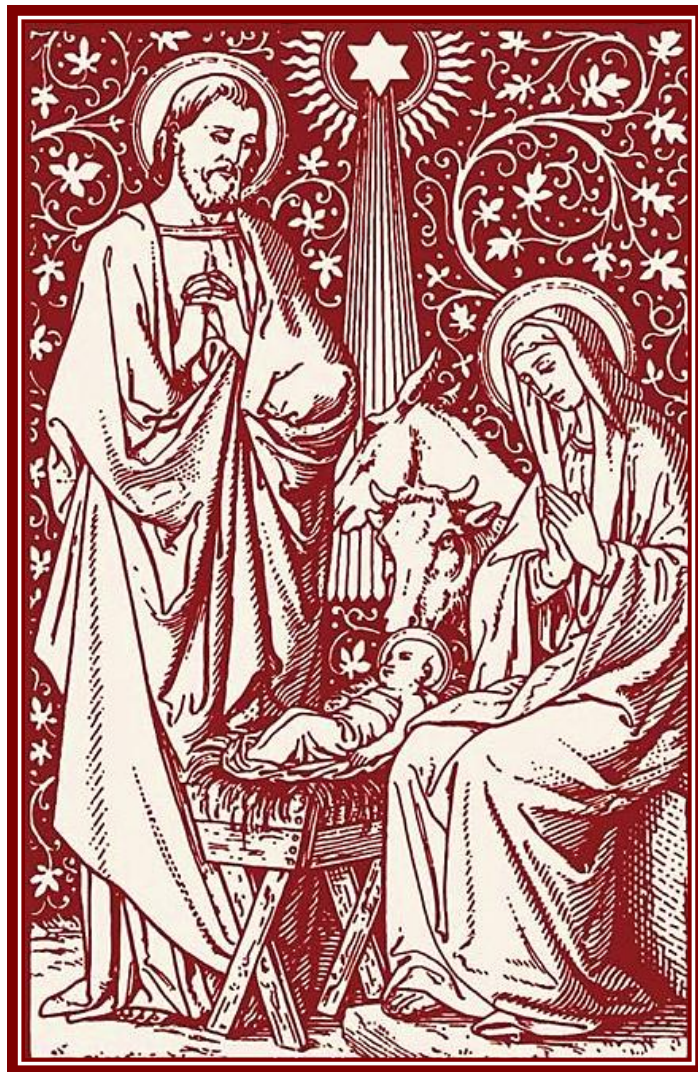


# CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

BORDENTOWN, NJ



## THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

*First Mass in the Night*

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24 DECEMBER 2025

# WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

We extend a welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us to-day. 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 in English and Latin. The Rood shows our Saviour, robed as a Priest, with the right hand in Blessing. The Chapel forms a quiet, restful place, where, before the Blessed Sacrament, one may kneel in supplication and reverence. We are proud of our worshipful Church and invite you to share in its benefit. Come in, rest, and 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, and 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 the main doors and entering the Parish House by way of the side office door. A **Baby Changing Station** is located in the accessible bathroom in the Parish House. A **restroom for small children** is located in the nursery at the far end of the Parish House.

**Pastoral Emergencies** such as sickness, hospitalization, or the death of a loved one, should be directed to Fr. Tucker – 732.859.5823. Father is happy to respond to your needs even if you are not a parishioner. Please do not hesitate to call. The **AED** is located to the left of the parish office door.

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## The Five Traditional Precepts of the Church

1. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year.
3. Reception of the Blessed Sacrament at least once a year.
4. Observance of the days of fasting and abstinence.
5. Providing for the needs of the Church.

## At Christ Church

1. Share the joy and strength in Christ with others.
2. Be present at the Mass unless prevented by travel, illness, or condition.
3. Support the Parish with time, talent and treasure.
4. Find community in the mission and ministry of the Parish.
5. Show Christ in the world by being of service to others.

## PROCESSION & SUNG MASS

11.00 pm

AT THE PROCESSION

℣. Let us proceed in peace.

℞. In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Adeste Fidelis*



O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the King of Angels:

*Refrain*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created:

*Refrain*

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

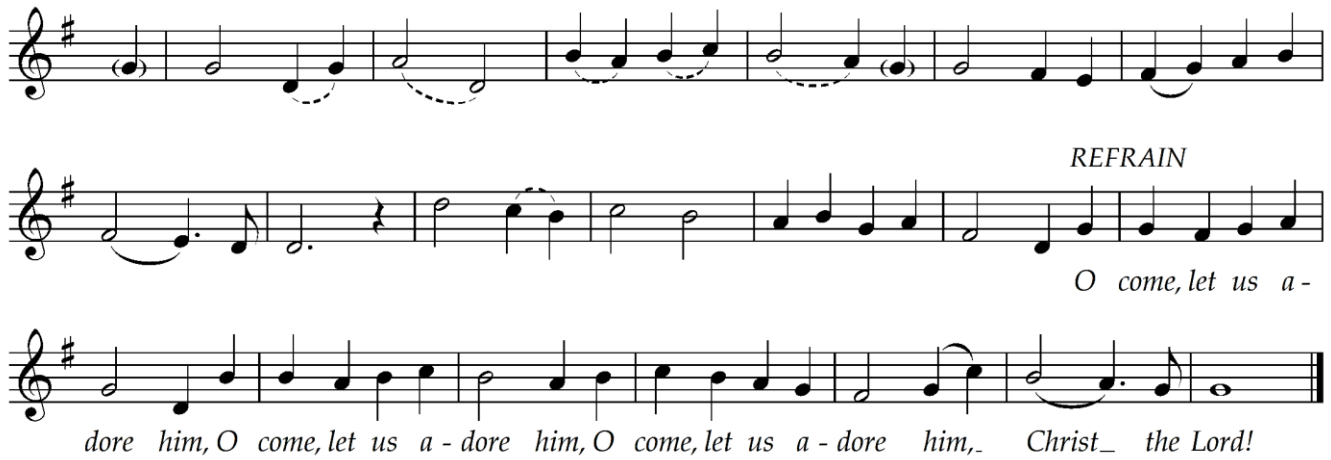
℣. Our help is in the Name of the Lord. ℞. **Who hath made heaven and earth.**

℣. The Lord be with you. ℞. **And with thy spirit.**

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who as on this night didst cause thine only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed and glorious ever-Virgin Mary for our salvation: vouchsafe, we beseech thee, so to hallow and bless this Crib, wherein are shown forth the wonders of that sacred birth; that all those who, beholding the same, shall ponder and adore the mystery of this holy incarnation, may be filled with thy benediction unto life eternal. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*§ The Procession continues...*



3. See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle.  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear:  
We too will thither Bend our joyful footsteps:  
dearly?

*Refrain*

4. Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:  
Who would not love thee, Loving us so

*Refrain*

5. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God In the highest:

*Refrain*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

*Refrain*

## AT THE MASS

### INTROIT

**D**OMINUS dixit ad me: Filius meus es tu,  
ego hodie genui te. *Ps. ibid., I.* Quare  
fremuerunt gentes: et populi meditati  
sunt inania? Gloria Patri... Dominus  
dixit...

**T**HE LORD said unto me: Thou art my  
Son, this day have I begotten thee. *Ps.*  
*ibid., I.* Why do the heathen so  
furiously rage together: and why do the  
people imagine a vain thing? Glory be to the  
Father... The Lord said...

### KYRIE – “Communion Service in E-flat”

*L.J. White*



### GLORIA

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, heav'nly King, God the Father Al-

migh - ty. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that tak - est a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. Thou that tak - est a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. Thou that tak - est a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive\_ our prayer. Thou that

sit - test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther have mer - cy up - on us.

For Thou\_ on - ly art Ho - ly; thou on - ly art the\_

Lord; thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high\_

\_ in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

COLLECT

℣. The Lord be with you. ℞. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who has 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 Ghost he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*§ The Congregation may be seated for the Lesson.*

**THE LESSON** *Isaiah 9, 2-4 & 6-7*

**T**HE 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 has 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.

*℣.* This is the Word of the Lord. *℟.* **Thanks be to God.**

*§ The Congregation stands for the Hymn and Gospel.*



**HYMN** – “The First Nowell”  
*Nowell*

*The First*





1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
     Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
 In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
     *Refrain*

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
     Shining in the east beyond them far;  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 And so it continued both day and night:  
     *Refrain*

3. Then let us all with one accord  
     Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
 That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,  
 And with his blood mankind hath bought:  
     *Refrain*

# THE HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2, 1-20*

℣. The Lord be with you. ℟. **And with thy spirit.**

℣. ✠ The continuation of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

℟. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**A**T THAT TIME: 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 clothes, 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 people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes 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 the 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.

℣. The Gospel of the Lord.   ℟. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

§ *The Congregation may be seated for the Sermon.*

SERMON

Fr. Tucker

§ *The Congregation stands for the Creed.*

NICENE CREED

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§ *The Congregation kneels for the Prayers and Confession.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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THE PEACE   *The Congregation may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*

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INTENSIONS OF THE MASS

℣. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

℟. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

℣. ✠ May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

℟. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY – “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”  
1926)

*arr. Charles Wood (1866-*

**D**ING dong! merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! verily the sky is riv’n with angels singing. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!* E’en so here below, below let steeple bells be swungen, and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sung. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!* Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

§ *The Congregation stands for the Offertory Hymn.*



# HYMN – “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

*God Rest You*

*Merry*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first two staves contain the main melody. The third staff begins the 'REFRAIN' section. The lyrics are: 'joy, com-fort and joy, O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.' The melody features a triplet of eighth notes in the fourth staff.

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray:

*Refrain*

2. From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:

*Refrain*

3. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:

*Refrain*

## SURSUM CORDA & PREFACE

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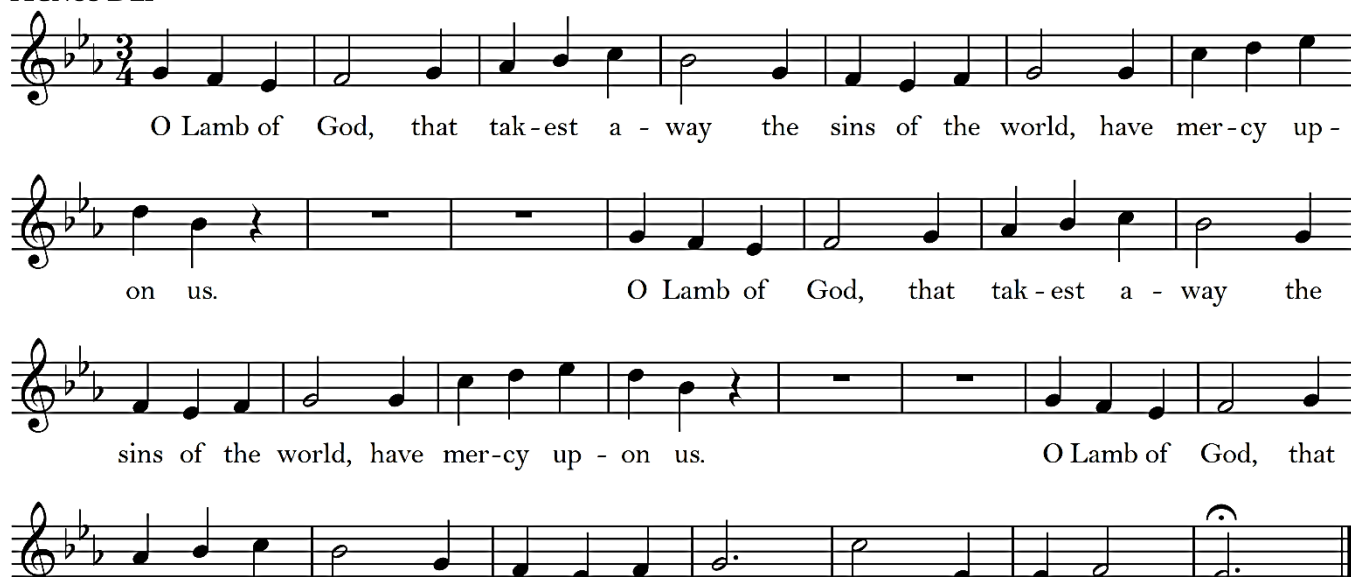
### SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

The musical score is written on four staves in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of hosts, heav'n and earth are full of thy glo - ry; Glo - ry be to thee, O Lordmost High. Bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is simple and hymn-like.

*§ The Congregation kneels for the Canon of the Mass.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God, that tak-est a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up -  
 on us. O Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the  
 sins of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a - way the sins of the world. Grant us — Thy peace.

## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

## COMMUNION

**I**N Splendoribus Sanctorum, ex utero ante  
 luciferum genui te.

**W**ITH an holy worship, the dew of thy  
 birth is of the womb of the morning.

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All those baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and who discern the substantial Presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. Others who, instead, wish to receive a blessing, may also come and kneel at the altar rail. The Priest will know to bless those who bow their heads and cross their arms over their chest.*

## MOTET – “Beata viscera”

*William Byrd (c.1543-*

*1623)*

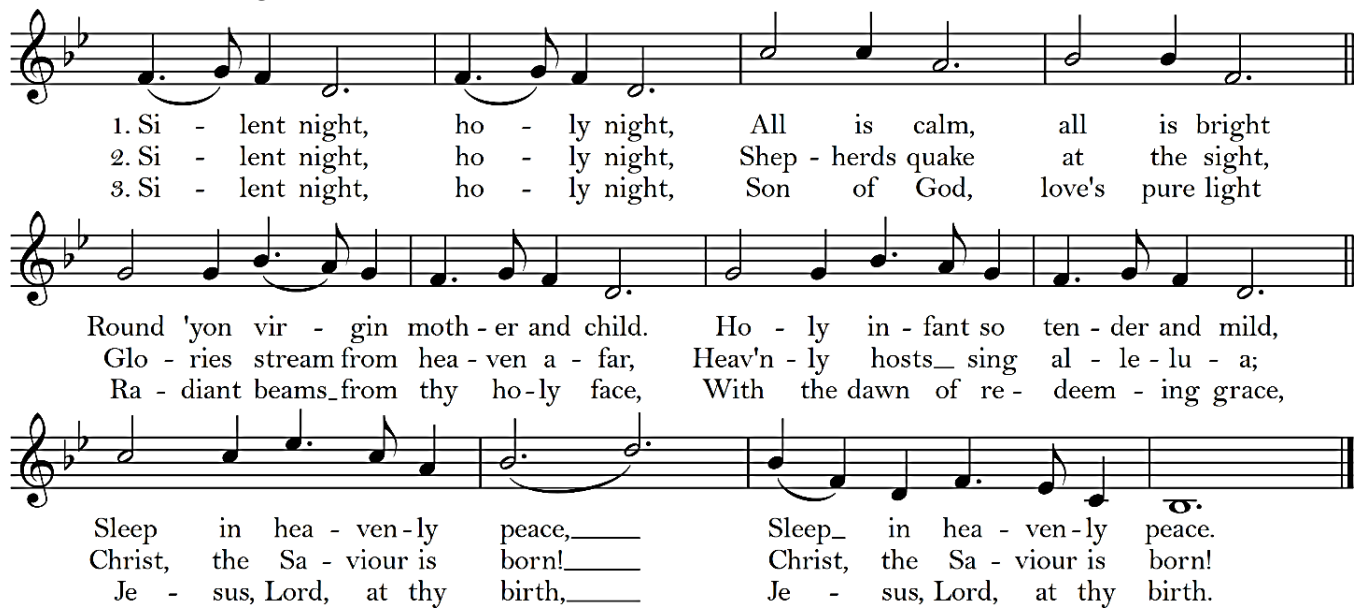
**B**EATA viscera Mariæ Virginis, quæ  
 portaverunt æterni Patris Filium. Alleluia.

**B**LESSED is the womb of the Virgin Mary,  
 which bore the Son of the eternal Father.  
 Alleluia.

## POST COMMUNION COLLECT

**G**RANT 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 unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## HYMN – “Silent Night”

*Stille Nacht*


1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright  
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight,  
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round 'yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - a;  
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sa - viour is born! Christ, the Sa - viour is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## BLESSING &amp; DISMISSAL

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THE LAST GOSPEL *John 1, 1-14*V. The Lord be with you. R. **And with thy spirit.**

V. ✕ The beginning of the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

**I**N 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 anything 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.

*(Here Genuflect)*

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH,

*(Arise)*

and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

R. **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Mendelssohn*

1. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing— Glo - ry to the new - born King:  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the e - ver - last - ing Lord,  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - cil'd:  
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off-spring of a vir - gin's womb:  
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings:

Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies,  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them se - cond birth.

*Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King.*

ORGAN – “Nöel Suisse”

*Daquin*



## PRAYERS & DEDICATIONS

*The flowers and greens that decorate the church this Christmastide are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of those listed in the Christmas Memorial Flowers.*



*The **Fritz-Weitzel Sacramental Candle** in the Lady Chapel is given in loving memory of Thomas Fisher II.*

**Of your charity, please remember in your prayers...**

***the sick:*** Grayson Porter, Robert J. Law, Bob Iero, Cindy Nahill, Alannah Aldea, Suzette Mansell, Amelia Sciortino, Fran Sutter, Christine Fritz, Bruce Kwietnieski-Casais, Reagon Condron, Russell Childs, Patty MacAllister, Scott O'Brien, John Miosz, Sharon Kedzierski, Daryl Albury, and Alexander Ounjian.

***and those who have long term illnesses:*** Richard Hebron, Anna McDuff, James Ferrell, Kevin Nelson, Marlene Barnhart, Vicky Barbos, The Rev. Donald Muller, Wendy Goldstein, Mark Goldstein Ryan Wiese Theresa Abitz, Robert Abitz, Walt Fell, Lisa Jones, Kathy Buckland, Ellen Murphy, Kimberlee McCafferty, Joseph Carson III, Sava Nedic Marlene Barnhart, Scott Evans, Tess Santos, Beatrix Kwiatkowski, Elaine Morrissey, Rick Sibley, Dennis Russell, Jeffrey McCafferty, Christiana Carty, Dawn Applegate, Barbara Sury, Paul Sootkoos, James Tucker, Caroline Tucker, Donna Fritz, Mark Casais, Christine Nicosia, Kevin Kintner, Anna Sury, Earl Reading, Dixon Leavers, Zachary Birnbaum, Shelly Eberhart, Gary Rutherford, Alice Ward Carriger, Ryan Murray, Justin McCafferty, Zachary McCafferty, Kelly Bergen, Hannah McNinch, Mackenzie Sutter, Daniel Applegate, Jennifer Vigh, Jonathan Okeson, Mary Dallmann, Bob Bernard, Pat Temple, Danielle Morgan, Jai Autar, Emma Burris, Gloria Jones, Kelley Gilger, Lori Forenson, Michael Chahanovich, Sister Angela, Dee Watkins, Marge Lee, Robert Fritz, Lynn Muller, Irene Fithian, Brianne Nicosia, Kathy Gabel, Sean Higgins, and Kelly Zsenak.

***and for those in military service:*** Cara Bradley, USN; Ben Skarzynski, USMC; Chris Neal, USN; Jacob Foerter, USAFR; Nickolas George, USMC; Kevin Preston, USAR.

***celebrating a birthday this week:*** Lawrence Nosari, Riley Fleming, Robert Bauer, Thomas Feuerstein, Riley Woodrick, and Dennis Brown.

***celebrating an anniversary of their nuptials:*** Joseph and Gayle Carson.

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*Anyone may contact the office with names of those who are ill and/or hospitalized for inclusion in our prayers. Names will remain on the list for a maximum of four weeks unless we are notified that they should remain for a longer period.*

*If you would like to remember a loved one in the Altar Flower or Sacramental Candle dedications, please contact the Church Office. The donation for flowers is \$50; the donation for the Sacramental Candle is \$10.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Dec 24 – 11pm: Sung Mass of the Nativity

Dec 25 – 10am: Christmas Day Mass w. Carols

Dec 28 – 7pm: Christmas Lessons & Carols

Jan 6 – 6pm: Sung Mass for the Epiphany

Jan 11 – 12pm: Luncheon for Donna Kirk

Jan 18 – 8.45am: HomeFront Meal Prep

Jan 25 – 11.30am: Parish Annual Meeting



**Make your Offering** online using this QR Code:

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**Vestry**

Ms. Kate Williamson, *Warden* (856.577.1334) ~ Miss Mary Ellen Carty, *Warden* (609.298.4337)

Mrs. Loris Johnson (609.291.5610)

Mrs. Anne Lyon (609.291.8077)

Mrs. Debbie Mallard (609.802.8929)

Mr. Dean Perry (609.758.3115)

Mr. Glenn Perry (609.758.3115)

Mr. Paul Smith (215.806.6687)

Ms. Colleen Suozzo (609.947.1304)

**Clergy & Staff**

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

**The Rev. David Snyder, *Pastoral Associate***

Mr. Greg Geehern, *Seminarian*

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

Mrs. Donna Kirk, *Parish Administrator*

Mrs. SueAnne Jones, *Treasurer*

Mr. Charles Reeder, *Sexton*

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH...

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**Wednesday, 24 December** – *Christmas Eve*

{Church Office Closed}

- ✕ A.A. Meeting – 6.00 pm
- ✕ Family Mass – 6.00 pm
- ✕ Sung Mass of the Nativity – 11.00 pm

**Thursday, 25 December** – *Christmas Day*

{Church Office Closed}

- ✕ Low Mass w. Carols – 10.00 am

**Friday, 26 December** – *S. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr*

{Church Office Closed}

**Saturday, 27 December** – *S. John the Apostle & Evangelist*

- ✕ Vigil Mass – 5.30 pm

**Sunday, 28 December** – *The First Sunday After Christmas Day (Holy Innocents)*

- ✕ Low Mass – 8.00 am
  - ✕ Sung Mass – 10.00 am
  - ✕ Coffee Hour – 11.00 am
  - ✕ Christmas Lessons & Carols – 7.00 pm
  - ✕ A.A. Meeting – 7.00 pm
- 

### CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

*A Parish of the Episcopal Church*

130 Prince Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505

Office Phone: 609.298.2348 / Email: [office@ccbtown.com](mailto:office@ccbtown.com)

Pastoral Emergencies: 732.859.5823







*A Blessed Christmastide to you and yours.  
From the Clergy, Vestry, and Staff of Christ Church Parish.  
Bordentown, NJ*

