



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • [www.christchurchmvl.org](http://www.christchurchmvl.org)  
*We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.*

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The First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023  
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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*Please silence your electronic devices.  
Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

The Opening Voluntary      *Savior of the Nations Come*      J. S. Bach  
Processional Hymn      *"Lo! He comes, with clouds descending"*      Hymn 57

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

*People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Kyrie eleison**    *Sung, standing*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Reader**      A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (64:1-9)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**      *Qui regis Israel*

- 1    Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph /like a /flock; \*  
     shine forth, you that are en/throned upon the /cherubim.
- 2    In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, /and Ma/nasseh, \*  
     stir up your /strength and come to /help us.
- 3    Restore us, O /God of /hosts; \*  
     show the light of your countenance, /and we shall be/ saved.
- 4    O Lord /God of /hosts, \*  
     how long will you be angered  
     despite the /prayers of your /people?
- 5    You have fed them with the /bread of /tears; \*  
     you have given them /bowls of tears to /drink.
- 6    You have made us the derision/ of our/ neighbors, \*  
     and our enemies/ laugh us to /scorn.
- 7    Restore us, O /God of /hosts; \*  
     show the light of your countenance, /and we shall be/ saved.
- 16   Let your hand be upon the man of /your right /hand, \*  
     the son of man you have made /so strong for your/self.



17 And so will we never turn a/way from /you; \*  
give us life, that we may /call upon your /Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord /God of /hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, /and we shall be/ saved.

**Reader** A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth (1:3-9)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord

**People** *Thanks be to God*

**Sequence Hymn**

*"Rejoice! Rejoice believers"*

**Hymn 68**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark (13:24-37)

**People:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. John Adams**

**The Nicene Creed**

*Standing*

**BCP 327**

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.**

### A Litany of Healing

*Standing or kneeling*

<i>Reader</i>	God the Father, thy will for all people is health and salvation;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>We praise thee and thank thee, O Lord.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	God the Son, thou camst that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>We praise thee and thank thee, O Lord.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	God the Holy Spirit, thou makst our bodies the temple of thy presence;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>We praise thee and thank thee, O Lord.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Holy Trinity, one God, in thee we live and move and have our being;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>We praise thee and thank thee, O Lord.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Lord, grant thy healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, especially <i>Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Tom, Linda, Leandra, Austin, Ann, Mike, Michael, Cathie, Betsy, Tom, Steve, Ann, Haley, Ben, and Mary Ruth</i> that they may be made whole;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Grant to all who seek thy guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of thy will and an awareness of thy presence;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i></b>
<i>Reader</i>	Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of thy Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i></b>

Reader Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;  
 People *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Reader Thou art the Lord who does wonders:  
 People *Thou hast declared thy power among the peoples.*

Reader With thee, O Lord, is the well of life:  
 People *And in thy light we see light.*

Reader Hear us, O Lord of life:  
 People *Heal us, and make us whole.*

*All may offer their prayers at this time, aloud or in the silence of their hearts, after which the Celebrant offers a concluding collect.*

*Celebrant Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.*

*Celebrant and people*

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses in body, mind, and spirit, and our need for thy strengthening touch. We confess that some of what ails us stems from our own fault, while some is beyond our control. We turn to thee, source of life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in thee. Amen.

*Celebrant May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Those desiring laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing of themselves or others may come to the altar rail at this time, or those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, who will tell the Celebrant to come to you. Please whisper to the Celebrant your name or the name of the person for whom you are praying so he may pray for the appropriate people.*

The Peace *Standing*

*Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.*  
*People And with thy spirit.*

*The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may sit for announcements. During the announcements, the Celebrant will invite those who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this week (or whose recent birthday or anniversary has not yet been prayed for in church) to come forward so we may pray for them.*

Offertory Anthem *Savior of the Nations Come* Carl Schalk

The Doxology: *"Hymn 380 v. 3"* Old 100<sup>th</sup>  
 All: 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.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

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

*Celebrant*

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 send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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** *Sung*

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 people kneel or stand.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and

bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

### *The Great Amen*

*Hymnal S 118*

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

### *Celebrant and people*

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 Sung*

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.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Breaking of Bread**

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalice will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalice. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.*

### **Communion Chant**

*Let the skies pour down righteousness*

**Isaiah 45, Psalm 19**

### **Communion Hymn**

*"People Look East"*

**Besancon Carol**

*Once all have received, the celebrant says*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

*The celebrant blesses the people.*

Recessional Hymn

*"Come, thou long expected Jesus"*

Hymn 66

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary

*Savior of the Nations Come*

Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Albert C Haas, Ursula B Haas  
A. C. "Red" Phillips, Jr. and Kathryn C Phillips  
by James and Phyllis Phillips Haas*

*The beauty of the Narthex flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Paul B. Toms and May Hooker Toms  
By the Family*

*The Advent wreath is Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Rives S. Brown, Jr., Lucy Brown Coleman,  
Betty Meade Cullinane and Richard A. Walmsley  
By Mr. and Mrs. James Coleman, Jr.*

*The Advent wreaths on the front doors are  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Virginia S. & William R. Windle and Margaret W. & Thomas C. Webster, MD,  
by Tom, Stuart, Win, Jessica, Evans, and Clay Webster*

*The Nativity Scene is given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
R. B. McCutcheon, Finley S. McCutcheon, and R. B. "Cutch" McCutcheon, Jr.  
By the Family*

Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to St. Mark's, Fincastle. Pray for the people of St. Mark's, Fincastle and their rector, the Rev. Willis Logan. The People of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop. The Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

### Sunday Bible Study

Our Sunday Bible Study is reading and discussing the Gospel according to John. We meet in the Parish House at 9:30 a.m., and all are invited to join the conversation.

Sunday services at **10:30 a.m.** - Rite II, w/HE Rev. John Adams presiding.

## **Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Booklet for Families**

Pattie Ames, Canon for Christian Formation of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, has prepared a booklet of information and activities for families with children ages 3-10. Copies are available in the Narthex

## **Advent Meditations**

The Diocese is offering Advent Meditations on Monday, Dec 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. These meditations will include music, scripture, prayers, art, and a brief meditation from Rev. Sarah Lusk, Rev. Tray Light, and Rev. Tom DuMontier. Please register using this link and each week the meditation will be recorded and available online.

Read more: <https://conta.cc/3uggLPr>

## **Christmas Poinsettia Memorials**

If you wish to give Christmas flowers for the decoration of the Church as a memorial or in thanksgiving, please complete the **attached form or the red form in the racks in the Narthex** and mail it to the church office, put it through the Church office mail slot or place it in the collection plate along with your check.

Checks should be made payable to Christ Episcopal Church, clearly noted "Christmas Flowers," and the cost is \$11.50 each, for each person or couple honored or memorialized.

**ALL orders are due in the Church office no later than Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Monday Night Study – The Sermon on the Mount**

On Monday nights this Fall, we are studying the Sermon on the Mount, the extensive collection of Jesus' teachings found in Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel according to Matthew. We meet in the Parish House for an hour beginning at 7:00 pm; at our **December 4** session, we will conclude this series by discussing Jesus' thoughts about those who follow what he has taught compared with those who don't (Matthew 7:13-29). All are invited to attend; no homework is necessary, and each session will be accessible to both regular and occasional attendees.

## **Kings Grant Eucharist**

Fr. John celebrates the Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be on **December 7 and January 4.**

## **Angel Tree**

All the angels from the angel tree have been claimed. The Angel Tree Committee wants to thank each and every one who participated.

Please have the gifts wrapped, **with angels attached**, in the **office no later than Monday, December 11.** The members of the committee will be happy to shop and/or wrap if requested **before the due date.** Please contact one of the members or the Church office if you need any assistance.

Thank you! Angel Tree Committee

Natalie Coleman, Bob Bushnell, David Cole, Beverly Lyle

### **Public Theology**

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, December 13**, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). This month, Martha Woody will be sharing with us the story and traditions of Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday juxtaposed with Christmas in our popular culture. This month our food will be a **Potluck** beginning at 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00; **please bring a dish to share as we celebrate the holiday season together.**

### **Blue Christmas**

In a season often marked by joyous anticipation, Blue Christmas is a service recognizing that many of us experience grief around the holidays as we remember lost loved ones. Fr. John will be joining Pastors Ryan Ware and Faith Weedling in a Blue Christmas service at 4:00 pm on December 17 at Smith Memorial United Methodist Church (2703 Daniel's Creek Rd, Collinsville), and all are welcome to attend.

### **Christmas Services**

On Sunday, December 24, we will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent at our usual 10:30 am service, with our festive Christmas Eucharist (including singing Silent Night by candlelight) at 5:30 pm. If you have children who would be interested in participating in a Christmas Pageant at that service or are an adult willing to help organize the Pageant, please let Fr. John know ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294) **by December 7**. Note that, in addition to the Christmas Eve service, we would expect to do a rehearsal (either before the service that same day or some other time in the week before, depending on folks' availability).

### **Christmas Lessons & Carols – December 31**

Our 10:30 service on Sunday, December 31, will be the Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols. This is an opportunity to hear the fullness of the Christmas story from the Holy Scripture and to sing more Christmas carols than we can on Christmas Eve. If you expect to attend and are willing to read a lesson (even and especially if you are not part of the regular reading rotation), please contact Fr. John ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294) **by December 18**.

### **Bishop's Visit**

Bishop Mark Bourlakas will be visiting Christ Church on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received (which is to say, affirming the Baptismal Covenant and formally becoming a member of the Episcopal Church generally and Christ Church specifically), **please let Fr. John know by December 18**.

### **End of the Year - 2023 Pledge Payments or Donations**

Please have all pledge payments or donations into the Church office **no later than Thursday, December 28th**. All stock transfers for 2023 need to be made by Tuesday, December 26th. Please email me with the information for all stock transfers at [office@christchurchmvl.org](mailto:office@christchurchmvl.org).

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, the office **will be open Wednesday, December 27 through Friday, December 29 only**. Fr. John will be on vacation from December 25 through January 2; there will be no Wednesday Eucharist on December 27.

## 2024 Pledges

To this point, we have received 40 pledges totaling \$151,795 for 2024, compared to 58 totaling \$211,713 for 2023. If you've not yet done so, we ask that you take some time to pray about your giving to Christ Church next year and submit your pledge as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and from the Church office.

## 2024 Vestry

At our Annual Meeting on November 12, we elected Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman, LaRue Powers, and Bob Weatherall to three-year terms on the Vestry expiring at the end of 2026. They join continuing members, Ben Beeler, Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, and Andy Williams (2024) and Pat Bondurant Russell, Betty Budde, Natalie Coleman, and Will Zimmer (2025). Many thanks to Hank Long, Ruby Stultz, Rebin Titus, and Pat Walmsley, whose terms expire at the end of this month, for their (more than three) years of dedicated service on the Vestry.

## Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for December: **flour or pancake mix**. For the month of December: **bath soap, dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. *Grace has been experiencing a large increase in clients needing food, household, and hygiene items.* As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

## Warming Center Volunteers

The Warming Center in Martinsville, housed at the Salvation Army, provides a warm place to sleep for those who would otherwise be stuck outside on cold winter nights. Christ Church's Mission Committee supports the Warming Center financially, and we have the opportunity to volunteer our time and presence by serving the evening meal or otherwise helping. The link to the sign-up is available on our website or in the weekly email, or you can talk to Beverly Lyle.

## St. Nicholas Day Appeal 2023

Each year in Advent and Epiphany, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia encourages us to share with others during this season of giving by answering a financial appeal inspired by St. Nicholas of Myra, who worked for "the welfare of children, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief." This year's appeal is designated for the Princess Basma Centre ([www.basma-centre.org](http://www.basma-centre.org)), a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Located on the Mount of Olives, the Centre provides treatment and rehabilitation for children with disabilities, from infancy to age 15. Donations may be offered at [www.dioswva.org](http://www.dioswva.org) or by check (payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "St. Nicholas Day Appeal" in the memo and mailed to PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009).

## Archives

Christ Church has a long history dating back to 1841. Over the years, members of Christ Church have volunteered as archivists so that our collective memory is preserved. Susan Critz and Melinda Penn are seeking help from long-tenured members to identify people in pictures and sort through papers we have received recently. If you are willing to help, please contact Susan at [susancritz@gmail.com](mailto:susancritz@gmail.com) or 276-732-3491.

## **Sacred Ground**

Sacred Ground is an 11-part series built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. The Roanoke Convocation is offering Sacred Ground small groups over Zoom and in-person beginning January 7; if you are interested in participating, or if you have questions, please contact Virginia Sweet ([virginiasweet2010@gmail.com](mailto:virginiasweet2010@gmail.com)). **Registration deadline is December 31.** Register on the following link:  
<https://cec1101franklin.wufoo.com/forms/m50arlq0rfwwcs/>.

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Trippi Penn

**Chalicer:** Nancy Spilman, John Swezey

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Chorister/Cantor:** Raul West

**Christ Church Choir:** St. Christopher's Choir

**Acolyte:** Pete Scouras

**Ushers:** Ben Beeler, Rives Coleman, Dan Cahill

**Camera Operator:** Andy Williams

**Counters:** Beverly Lyle, Will Zimmer

**Altar Guild: Team #5** – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, David Cole,  
Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell

**Nursery Attendant:** Emily Williams

### **2023 Christ Church Vestry**

**Year 3:** Hank Long, Senior Warden; Ruby Stultz; Rebin Titus; Pat Walmsley

**Year 2:** Ben Beeler; Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, Treasurer; Andy Williams, Junior Warden

**Year 1:** Pat Russell, Betty Budde; Natalie Coleman, Secretary; Will Zimmer