CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

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.*

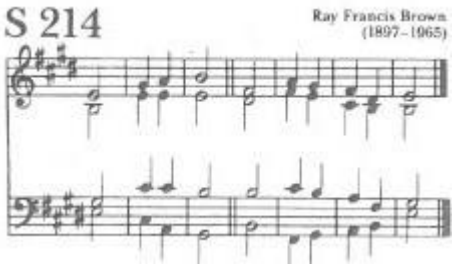
Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (64:1-9)

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 enthroned u/pon the cheru/bim.

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 Paul's First Letter 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." Optional parts of the readings are set off in square brackets.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon *"Season of waiting"* **The Rev. John Adams**

Ideas to ponder:

- What different kinds of waiting have you experienced?
- How do you wait for the Second Coming of Christ?

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.

The Prayers of the People *Standing or kneeling* BCP 328

Reader Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

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 Donald, our President, and all 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 *Sue, Julia, Mallory, Ginger C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A., Valerie B., LaRue, Jean, Nancy, Honore, James H., Chase I.,* and 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 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*.

Confession of Sin *Kneeling or standing* BCP 330

Celebrant 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.*

Celebrant
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 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.

Offertory Anthem *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Carl Schalk

The Doxology: *"Hymn 380 v. 3"* Old 100th

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.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer II *Standing Sung* BCP 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you. Hymnal S 112
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... evermore praising thee and saying, BCP 341

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... 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 chalicer 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 chalicer. 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 *"Redeemer of the nations, come"* Hymn 55

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people *Kneeling or standing* BCP 339

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 *"The King shall come when morning dawns"* Hymn 73

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Closing Voluntary *"Savior of the Nations, Come"* Andreas Nikolas Vetter

The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in love
& thanksgiving for my sisters,
Helen, Stephanie, and Jean
By Val Payne

The beauty of the Narthex Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Paul B. Toms, May Hooker Toms,
and Nathan 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 residents and staff of Westminster Canterbury, their chaplain, The Rev. William Deal and their president, Sean Huyett. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

Upcoming Deadlines – details listed below.

- Angel Tree CHECKS, MADE PAYABLE TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, are due in the Church office by or before Monday, December 7
- Angel Tree GIFTS turned into the Church office or put under the tree in the Narthex by or before Monday, December 14
- Christmas poinsettia orders in the office by or before Monday, December 14
- ALL stock pledge payments for 2026 or 2027 are due by or before Monday, December 14
- If you have children or grandchildren who would like to sing during the Christmas service, please let Will Zimmer know (wilzim61@yahoo.com) by or before Friday, December 18
- Reading a part for Lessons & Carols, names to John by or before Monday, December 21
- 2026 pledge payments or donations turned in by or before Monday, December 28
- 2027 pledge cards, turned in as soon as possible for budgeting purposes.

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 red form 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
$15.00 for EACH person or couple honored or memorialized.

ALL orders are due in the Church office no later than Monday, December 14th.

Angel Tree

Christ Church is again partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of The Blue Ridge in the annual Angel Tree Ministry to provide Christmas gifts for children in need. We are blessed with this opportunity for our congregation to serve our community by brightening the holidays of needy children and their families.

There are two methods by which members of the congregation can participate. One: Take an angel card from the tree and purchase a gift for a specific child (or children) Two: Write a check payable to Boys and Girls Club with a notation "For the Angel Tree Ministry." Checks are due in the church office no later than Monday, December 7.

Detailed instructions on both methods are available in printed form near the Angel Tree in the narthex or from the office. If you would like to participate by providing a gift or gifts AND by writing a check, that would be wonderful! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help wrap and/or deliver the gifts to the various schools, please call the church office.

End of the Year - 2026 or 2027 Pledge Payments or Donations
Please have all pledge payments or donations into the Church office **no later than Monday, December 28th**. All stock transfers for 2026 or 2027 need to be made by **Monday, December 14th**. **NOTE: Charles Schwab is our broker. Contact the Church office for trading information. Please email the office with all information for stock transfers at office@christchurchmvl.org.**

Christmas
Our Christmas service will be at **5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24**. During the service, Will Zimmer will lead an anthem during the offertory, and he invites any children who will be present to join him. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to sing, please let him know (wilzim61@yahoo.com) by **December 18**.

Christmas Lessons & Carols – January 3
Our **10:30 service on Sunday, January 3**, will be the Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols. This is an opportunity to hear the fullness of the Christmas story from 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 by December 21**.

Vestry Membership
At our Annual Meeting on November 15, we elected Gus Barber, Ben Lewis, Val Payne, and Dawn Stone to three-year terms on the Vestry expiring at the end of 2029. They join continuing members Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet, Michael Hodges, and Steve Keyser (2027) and Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, and Ron Probst (2028). Many thanks to Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman, LaRue Powers, and Bob Weatherall, whose terms expire at the end of this year, for their three years of dedicated service on the Vestry.

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for **November thru December: Saltine Crackers (box). For November: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items.** As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by 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.**

2026 St. Nicholas Appeal
This year's St. Nicholas Appeal will support the Diocesan Youth Summer Pilgrimage Program taking place in Summer 2027 in New Orleans. This pilgrimage will help our youth discern who they are becoming as people of faith by giving them a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal, cultural enrichment, and community. Donations may be made at the Diocesan website (www.dioswva.org) or by sending a check made out to the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia (with "St. Nicholas Appeal" in the memo) to PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams
Reader: Ann Gardner
Chalists: Dawn Stone, Tom Webster
Ushers: Dan Cahill, Ben Lewis
Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner
Chorister/Cantor: Raul West
Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir
Camera Operator: Natalie Coleman
Counters: Steve Keyser, Jay Dickens
Nursery:
Altar Guild Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

2026 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers, Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden
Year 2: Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges; Secretary, Steve Keyser
Year 1: Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, Ron Probst