

CHRIST & SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

*All page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal 1982.
Service music, marked with an 'S', may be found in the front portion of the hymnal.*

PRELUDE: Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

Georg Böhm

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: People look east

arr. Barry Rose

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

-Eleanor Farjeon

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

HYMN 65: Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för herran

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

p. 355

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

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

KYRIE ELEISON: Hymnal S86

David Hurd

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A SHOOT shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Light one candle

Natalie Sleeth

Sung by the Junior Choir

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

WHATEVER was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all

joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN 54: Savior of the nations, come!

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

IN those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Hannah Anderson

THE NICENE CREED

p. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the

third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and redeemer.

That God may bring in God's kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations a reign of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

The priest adds concluding prayers and the following collect.

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*please kneel*)

People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE (*please stand*)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Daughter of Zion

George Frideric Handel

Daughter of Zion, shout for joy! Shout aloud, Jerusalem!
Lo, the King now comes to thee, yea, He comes, the Prince of Peace.
Daughter of Zion, shout for joy! Shout aloud, Jerusalem!
Hail, hosanna, David's Son, be Thou by Thy people blest!
Thine eternal kingdom come! Praise be sung to Thee on high!
Hail, hosanna, David's Son, be Thou by Thy people blest!

Please stand as the Celebrant approaches the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 367

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People. The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant. The fourth staff is for the People.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS: Hymnal S 124

David Hurd

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. 368

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues...

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is
yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Hymnal S 119 (*sung by all*)

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM: Hymnal S 161

David Hurd

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion at Christ & St. Luke's:

- At the indication of the usher, please move to the center aisle and proceed up the altar rail. Move to the open spot filling in from the center of the rail to the wall.
- Kneel as you are able and place one hand over the other, palms up, to receive the bread.
- To sip from a chalice to receive the wine, consume the bread leaving your palms empty.
- To intinct (dip) your wafer into the wine, hold it between your thumb and forefinger.
- Once the chalices have passed, exit out the side and back down the side aisles to your pew.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the priest know you require one. If you prefer not to receive the bread or wine but would like a blessing, gently cross your arms across your chest.

A standing station is also available in front of the pulpit.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

Ave Maria

Simon Lindley

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

*Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,*

now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Magnificat in C minor

George Dyson

For text, see BCP p. 65

COMMUNION HYMN 462: The Lord will come and not be slow

York

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray. (*please stand or kneel*)

People Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 67: Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

THE DISMISSAL

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGY & MUSIC

Welcome Hannah Anderson – Today, December 7, 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Known for blending deep theological insight with personal storytelling, author Hannah Anderson joins us this morning, as preacher at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. Hannah will also lead Adult Formation on the theme of “**Rediscovering the Heart of Advent.**” Following the 10:15 a.m. service, be sure to stop by Lloyd Hall for a special *coffee hour lunch* brought to you by the CSL Lunch Ministry.

The Virginia Chorale: Sing We Nowell – Today, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

Welcome the holidays with the Virginia Chorale as we celebrate four beloved composers with milestone birthdays in 2025: Arvo Pärt (90), John Rutter (80), Bob Chilcott (70), and Giovanni da Palestrina (500). Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at vachorale.org or at the door.

FORMATION

Advent Adult Forum: Sacred Word & Sacred Image – continues Sunday, December 14 & December 21, 9:15 a.m.

Christ & St. Luke's is now the steward of the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John's Bible*. This Advent, we will take advantage of this wonderful gift and use it to help reflect on some of the passages central to our understanding of Advent. Using the words of Scripture, and the beautiful illuminations in *The Saint John's Bible*, we'll spend some time reflecting together on this season of waiting and anticipation. This forum series will be participatory, with attendees' input being central to our study process. We'll be aided by our Christ & St. Luke's docents of *The Saint John's Bible*, who will help unlock some of the rich meaning woven into each illumination.

Advent Devotionals

This Advent we have a number of devotional resources available. One we recommend is the book *Heaven and Nature Sing* by Hannah Anderson, our guest today. We have secured a few used copies of this book, which are available for free from the church (first come, first served!) or you can purchase it online. This devotional will also serve as the selection for the December Rector's Book Club on Friday, December 19, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Childcare, Children's Formation, and Children's Chapel Fall Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. - *Children up to 3 years old* gather in the blue room in the Parish House at the end of the hallway before the stairs for childcare if their parents are attending adult formation or sing in the choir.
- 9:00 a.m. - *Children's Formation for children 3-8 years old* gather in the meeting room (the gold room) for what was formerly known as "Sunday School." We will explore scripture and the traditions of the Episcopal church through stories, music, and art response.
- 9:00 a.m. - *Children's Formation for children 9-12 years old* gather in Lower Lloyd for discussion of scripture, the Episcopal Church, and Christ & St. Luke's. Participants are invited to join their families for the 10:15 a.m. service.
- 9:00 a.m. - *Formation for youth ages 12-16* gather in the Mezzanine office, up the parish house stairs.
- 10:15 a.m. - *All children through 8 years old* participate in developmentally appropriate worship during Children's Chapel in their respective rooms. Older children will be brought into church to rejoin their families at the Peace. If you would like your child under 3 to join you at the Peace, please come to the Children's Room at that time to sign them out.

Women of Wisdom – Tuesday, December 9, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., the Gold Room

Women of Wisdom meets on to continue the discussion of *Rediscovering Christmas* by AJ Sherrill, from *Chapter 7* to the end. Please join us for lively discussion and warm fellowship. You do not have to read the book to join us! *Please note the time change this month.*

CSL Youth Christmas Morning – Sunday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Lower Lloyd

It's Christmas morning for all CSL Youth on Sunday, December 14! All are invited for Caroling and Cocoa at 3:00 p.m. and CSL Youth Christmas Morning will begin at 5:00 p.m. Christmas breakfast will be served and reindeer games and crafts will appear. We will meet in Lower Lloyd. Wear your Christmas pajamas or favorite Christmas sweater. Bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit!) for our gift swap. Please note that these gifts are for fun! Our revels should be finished around 7:00 p.m. Contact Kathy Hanna (kathy.hanna@christandstlukes.org) with questions.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Campaign Update

We have incredible news to share! We have officially exceeded both our total amount pledged and our total number of pledgers compared to last year. Currently, we have raised \$1.25 million, which puts us approximately 96% of the way toward our \$1.3 million goal. We are just \$50,000 short of fully funding our vision for the coming year. We know there are still several members who have indicated they plan to pledge. If you have received a follow-up call or email, we would deeply appreciate a response — even if it is to let us know that you are unable to pledge this year — so that we can finalize our budget planning. If you have questions about pledging, please visit the CSL website and review our FAQs about giving.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

We invite you to participate in a cherished Christ & St. Luke's tradition by dedicating Christmas Altar Flowers in memory of the departed or in thanksgiving of loved ones this Advent season, a contribution that supports our flower ministry for the year. Christmas Flower envelopes will be available in the pews today until Sunday, December 14; but we encourage you to submit your contributions online on our giving page. Be sure to select "Christmas Flowers" in the drop-down box. Your contributions of \$12.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple will be mentioned by name in our Christmas bulletin. Please note the deadline: *the last day to order flowers will be Sunday, December 14*, so we can ensure the list is prepared in time for the Christmas bulletins.

Christmas Ushers Needed

We are in need of ushers for our Advent and Christmas Services. If you are interested in being an usher for a day, please contact Judie Belka (office@christandstlukes.org) and she will add you to the schedule.

FAITH IN ACTION

Volunteer Opportunity - Worship Bag Assembly

Have you ever noticed those canvas bags many CSL children are holding on Sunday mornings? These worship bags are full of fun activities and are carefully assembled each week. If you'd like to help with worship bag preparation, please reach out to Rachel Welch (rachel.welch@christandstlukes.org). This task generally takes 30-60 minutes and can be completed at your convenience at church.

Recognition by The Elizabeth River Project

We are thrilled to celebrate that Christ & St. Luke's has been recognized by the Elizabeth River Project as a ***Sustained Distinguished Performance River Star Business***, driven by three major new efforts: Our revitalized garden, stormwater improvements, and our new composting program. The stormwater efforts include permeable pavers, rain gardens, and "Grasspave" installation to filter runoff and mitigate flooding. We revitalized the Lychgate Garden using predominantly native species and registered our Community Garden as a Monarch Butterfly Waystation. Now we've successfully implemented a composting program through Tidewater Composting (sign up online today!), and obtained a series of environmental resolutions passed by the vestry. This achievement recognizes our dedicated efforts to advance environmental stewardship. Congratulations to our Caring for Creation ministry and thanks to all involved in securing this important recognition!

Save the Date - Norfolk Winter Shelter: March 8-15

The Norfolk Winter Shelter begins soon! This important ecumenical ministry helps provide emergency shelter for those experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year. This year's "NWS" runs from December 21 – March 22. Christ & St. Luke's is teaming up with Freemason Baptist to host a week of the NWS from March 8 – 15. Please save the date, and keep an eye out for the volunteer registration form, which will open soon. We need your support to make this vital ministry possible.

FELLOWSHIP

Free Art Tour – Today, December 7, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., The Chrysler Museum of Art

CSL Art Guild member and Chrysler Museum docent, Natalie Henry, will be leading a guided art tour. Come learn about "Art History 101: Late 20th Century Art." There is no cost to you and no need to RSVP (what a gift!), simply meet Natalie by the museum front desk at 2:00 p.m.

Caroling and Cocoa, Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dress in holiday garb and we will regale the neighborhood with Christmas carols. After caroling, we will have hot cocoa and cookies (feel free to bring your favorite Christmas cookies!) and fellowship in the Main Reception area.

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

If you would like to be added to the Prayer List, please contact a member of clergy or BJ Taylor, Facilitator for Pastoral and Congregational Care (taylorasc@aol.com).

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Bangladesh.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Emmanuel, Franklin and St. Thomas', Freeman.

All those facing illness, surgery, injury or adversity, especially: Nancy Hoffman, Elmer Morales-Torres, and Autumn Vandehei. We pray for all who are deployed, especially Michael Ortiz. We also continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for a sustaining peace in the Holy Land.

Those who ask for our continuing prayers: Carter Bernert, David Black, David Durica, Marilyn Gindroz, Valerie Harrington, Gary Hecht, Frank Kirchner, Wayne Lundie, Ceil McCoid, Mary Helen McCoy, Leon Parham, Allen Shaffer, William Swan, Jake Tobin, and Marie Ward.

Our loved ones needing continuing prayers: Mary Baldrige, Ron Baldrige, Ryker Bellamy, Marian Butler-Shaw, Brittany Clark, Ellen Coffman, Joseph Graif, Heather Hayes, Calvin Horsley, Dean Kershaw, James Kilavey, Henley Lanphere, Wesley Lupo, Lesney Miller, Shawn Morlock, Leslie Pugh, Mavis Stapleford, Christine Szeligowski, Auris Torres, and Carl Welch.

This week's Birthdays: Dec. 8-14

Kedar Harrington, Steve Prescott, Jeff Russell, Clare Smith, Brian Wheeler, and Dan Zimmerman.

This week's Anniversaries: Dec. 8-14

Elmer Morales-Torres & Brian Wheeler.



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

560 West Olney Road
Norfolk, Virginia 23507
(757) 627-5665 info@christandstlukes.org

WORSHIP SERVICES AND FORMATION

Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum & Children's Formation
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Church)
Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Chapel)

The Reverend Noah Van Niel, Rector
The Reverend Jared Grant, Associate Rector
The Reverend Vince Connery, Assisting Priest
Kevin Kwan, Organist & Director of Music
Marjorie Setnicky, Associate Organist
Kathy Hanna, Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry
Judie Belka, Director of Parish Operations
Matthew Davis, Communications Director
Stephen Ipock, Facilities Manager
Michelle Sturges, Business Administrator
Rachel Welch, Administrative Assistant
Will Lee, Media Specialist
David Roberts, Sexton for Security

If this is your first time, welcome! Scan this QR code for our digital guest information or visit christandstlukes.org/guests.

To make a one-time gift online, or a pledge to Christ and St. Luke's, please visit: christandstlukes.org/give or text to give by texting "GIVECSL" to 73256.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the Church.

