

CHRIST & SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 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:

Veni, Emmanuel

Raymond Haan

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Russell Ronnebaum

Jeff Phelps, cello

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Advent Wreath Prayers

Malcolm Archer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:

To you be praise and glory for ever!

Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;

Grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image

And prepared like her for the coming of your Son,

Who is the Lord and Savior of all. Blessed be God for ever.

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

HYMN 56 v. 1-4: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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 S 86

David Hurd

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

AGAIN the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 (*sung by all*)

Robert Knox Kennedy



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a | flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the | cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Malnasseh, *
 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 away 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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

HYMN 265: The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Gabriel's Message

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

NOW the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Jared Grant

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: O Radiant Dawn

James Macmillan

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

Please stand as the Celebrant approaches the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 367

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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.

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 MUSIC : *Divinum mysterium*

Raymond Haan

Jeff Phelps, cello

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *Ave Maria*

Robert Parsons

*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.*

COMMUNION HYMN 268: *Ye who claim the faith of Jesus*

Julion

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 56 v. 5-8: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

THE DISMISSAL

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Fugue on the Magnificat*, BWV 733

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 Anglican Church of Burundi.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Martin's, Williamsburg, Christ Church, Halifax, St. John's, Halifax.

All those facing illness, surgery, injury or adversity, especially: John Bradshaw, Nancy Hoffman, Elmer Morales-Torres, Clay Shelton, Autumn Vandehei, and Ann Voight. We pray for all who are deployed, especially Michael Ortiz. We also continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and for sustained 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 Baldridge, Ron Baldridge, Ryker Bellamy, Marian Butler-Shaw, Brittany Clark, Ellen Coffman, Joseph Graif, Calvin Horsley, Dean Kershaw, James Kilavey, Henley Lanphere, Wesley Lupo, Leslie Pugh, Mavis Stapleford, Christine Szeligowski, Auris Torres, and Carl Welch.

This week's Birthdays: Dec. 22-28

Michaela Bonner, Pamela Goodwin, Sterling Hancock, Anders Nolan, and Jan Williams.

This week's Anniversaries: Dec. 22-28

Melissa & Ron Hopkins & Barbara & Gary Laws.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGY & MUSIC

Blue Christmas Service – Today, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

The Season of Christmas is a joyous time. However, it is not always easy to participate in that joy in the ways we might want. For those wrestling with grief and loss, with anxiety and uncertainty, and for those whose experience of the holidays brings up challenging memories, it can feel overwhelming to have to try to embody the joy of the season. The Blue Christmas Service is designed to be a space of quiet rest and contemplation, where we can bring the entirety of being - the good, the unpleasant, the broken, the hopeful - and hold ourselves in the goodness of God's love. Join us on this evening for a service incorporating silence, music, and space for reflection. The chapel will open at 5:30 p.m. for silent prayer.

FORMATION

Advent Adult Forum: Sacred Word & Sacred Image – Final session today, 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. Today, we're looking at passages from Wisdom of Solomon and the Gospel of John. Adult Forum will resume in January 2026.

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

***Please note: There will be no children's formation next Sunday, December 28. Childcare is available at 9:00 a.m.**

- 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.

ADMINISTRATION

Church Offices Holiday Hours

Offices will close Christmas Eve, December 24 at 12:00 p.m. and reopen on Monday, December 29. Offices will also close New Year's Eve, December 31 at 12:00 p.m. and reopen on Friday, January 2, 2026.

Additional Parking for Christmas Eve services

Additional parking for our Christmas Eve services will be available at the following locations and times. You may park in any space not marked "Reserved." We are grateful for the kindness of neighbors.

- Ohef Sholom Temple, located at 530 Raleigh Ave., *both services, beginning at 3:00 p.m.*
- Ghent United Methodist Church, located at 531 Raleigh Ave., *10:00 p.m. service only.*

Stewardship Campaign Update

If you pledged for 2025, we need for you to complete your payments by December 31 — you can even drop the payment off in church. Meanwhile we have officially exceeded both our total amount pledged and our total number of pledgers compared to last year, for 2026. Currently, we have raised \$1.252 million, which puts us approximately 96% of the way toward our \$1.3 million goal. We are just \$48,000 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. Help us close that final gap and reach our goal! If you have questions about pledging, please visit the CSL website and review our FAQs about giving.

FAITH IN ACTION

Elizabeth River Project Tour – Tuesday, January 13, 5:00 p.m., Ryan Resilience Lab

You're invited to join Caring for Creation on a guided tour of the Elizabeth River Project's Ryan Resilience Lab, located at 4610 Colley Avenue Norfolk, VA 23508, highlighting innovative resilience and restoration work happening right here in our neighborhood. We hope you'll join us for this inspiring opportunity to learn more about creation care and our parish's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. Reach out to Brad Robinson (robinson.bradley.g@gmail.com) with questions.

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CHRIST & ST. LUKE'S

Sunday, December 21

Blue Christmas Service – 6:00 p.m.

(Chapel open for silent prayer at 5:30 pm.)

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant - 4:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with Full Choir and Brass - 10:00 p.m.

(Prelude begins at 9:30 p.m.)

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

The Feast of the Nativity - 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 28

Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist - 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

(Childcare available beginning at 9:00 a.m.)



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 Setnický, Associate Organist
Kathy Hanna, Director of Family, Youth and Children's Ministry
Judie Belka, Director of Parish Operations
Matthew Davis, Communications Director
Stephen Irock, 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.

