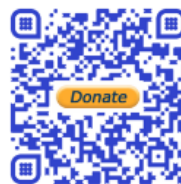


# THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST DECEMBER 17, 2023



## ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & ADVENT

Christians have offered plays and pageants around the major events in Jesus' life and the Scriptures for centuries. The two most popular events are the Birth of Jesus Christ and the Passion of Jesus Christ, and at Christ Church we offer dramatic presentations every year: our Children's Christmas Pageant in December and dramatic narrations of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Our current Christmas Pageant was first debuted in 2020 during the Pandemic, was written by Father Matt, and has been tweaked a bit each year. Our director is Evan Felicetti who is assisted by Carla Caroll. Our readers are members of the Confirmation Class and our actors are all members of the Sunday School. Many thanks to our families for supporting the pageant this year!

Advent is the season in which the Christian Church waits and watches for the coming of Jesus Christ. Through scripture, song and silence we hear again the story of God's people who longed for a Savior. Living in the reality that Jesus Christ has indeed come, that he has died and that he has risen, we await for his coming again in glory. Blue vestments are worn at Christ Church throughout Advent, and the Advent Wreath, which is hung above the sanctuary, marks each passing week with an additional lighted candle. Throughout the Sundays of Advent *Gloria in excelsis*, "Glory to God in the highest," is suppressed as the opening song of praise, in its place is *Kyrie eleison*, "Lord, have mercy." The Episcopal Church offers four blessings for the season of Advent, one for each Sunday; these blessings are from the *Book of Occasional Services*. The new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent: we are now in Year B; the gospel reading appointed most Sundays in Year B is from the Gospel according to Mark.

## WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer (known as Christ Church) is the Episcopal Church in Pelham, New York. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion which is made up of 85 million people in over 165 countries and is the third largest Christian denomination in the world. Christ Church was founded in 1843 and is the first house of worship in Pelham. This building was consecrated on September 15, 1843, the original church building was expanded in 1910, and the sanctuary was reconstructed in 1968 to allow for the current, more intimate worship space. Our congregation draws primarily from Pelham, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, and the Bronx, and includes people from diverse denominational and cultural backgrounds. Whether you are new to Christ Church or a long-time member, you are invited to pray in our sacred spaces, join in our services of worship, and take an active role in the life and leadership of the parish. We give thanks and praise to

God for your presence with us this morning! Children of all ages are always welcome in church. A great place for children to see, hear and participate is in the front pews of the church. Also, childcare is available in the Nursery every Sunday during the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. Sunday School is offered during the academic year from September until June. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM each Sunday. After the children’s service and Sunday School activities, the children join the rest of the congregation for the Holy Communion.

If you believe God may be calling you to a new relationship with him through Jesus Christ we want to be of help. Whether you want to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, receive the laying on of hands by the bishop in the sacramental rite of Confirmation, or transfer your membership from another church or denomination, joining Christ Church is easy, just speak to Father Matthew Mead, Deacon Chisara Alimole, or our Administrator, Ms. Marie Main. After the service concludes please feel free to join us for Coffee Hour, a reception which generally includes coffee, other refreshments, and lasts about an hour and is a great opportunity to meet members of the congregation. All hymns and service music reprinted in this leaflet are either in the public domain or reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net license A-713125.

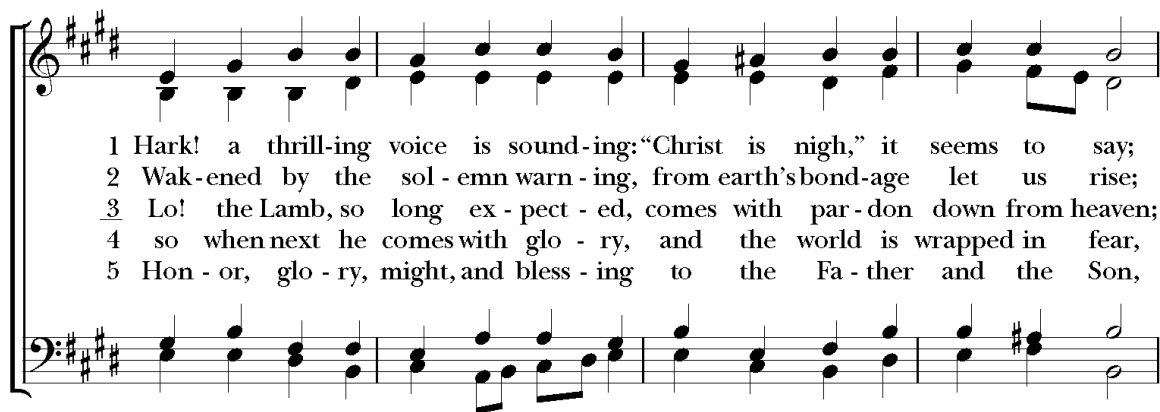
**Today we welcome the Rev. Canon Patricia Mitchell as our Celebrant.**

## ORGAN PRELUDE

8. Chorale-prelude on “Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen,” *from* 11 Chorale-Preludes, Op. 122 *by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN (59)

*All stand and sing the hymn as the ministers and Pageant actors enter.*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."  
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.  
 Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)

## OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

*All remain standing.*

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

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*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.

*All* **Amen.**

## KYRIE ELEISON & COLLECT OF THE DAY

*All* **Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1, 10

*All are seated as the lesson is read.*

*Reader*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN (#101, VS .3)

*All stand and sing the hymn.*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

**Words:** Traditional carol

**Music:** *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

*All remain standing for the Gospel.*

*Deacon*



The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Deacon*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What

then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## 'T'WAS THE PAGEANT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*Please be seated for our Christmas Pageant.*

*The People are asked to join in singing the Carols  
marked in Bold Type.*

*Our Readers are members of our Confirmation Class.*

*Our Actors are members of our Sunday School.*

*Directed by Evan Felicetti and assisted by Carla Carol.*

# THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*The People remain seated and sing the Carol as Gabriel and Mary process to the Altar.*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

**Words:** Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

**Music:** *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

*A member of the Confirmation Class reads the story of the Annunciation.*

*Reader*            'Twas nine months before Christmas, when Gabriel was sent  
From heaven by God to Nazareth he went.  
Glad tidings of great joy for all of the world  
Beginning with Mary as the prophets foretold.

“Hail Mary, full of grace”, the angel proclaimed,  
“The Lord is with you, and God has ordained  
That you will conceive and bear God’s own Son,  
Bringing Peace on Earth; God’s Kingdom Come.”

“But how?”, Mary asked, “since I’ve not known a Man?”  
The Angel replied, “That was all in God’s plan!  
Nothing’s impossible for God’s Holy Spirit.”  
“Ok”, Mary said, “I’ll be God’s servant.”

# SAINT JOSEPH THE DREAMER

*The People remain seated and sing the Carol as Gabriel visits the slumbering Joseph.*

'Twas Mary, Virgin pure of holy Anne,  
That brought into this world the God made man.  
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them.  
Venite, adoremus Dominum,  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

Saint Joseph, too was near to tend the child,  
To guard him, and protect his mother mild:  
The angels hover'd round, and sang this song:  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.  
Venite, adoremus Dominum,  
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

**Words:** Source unknown, 19th cent.

**Music:** *Venite adoremus*, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

*A member of the Confirmation Class reads the story of Joseph's Dreams.*

*Reader* Saint Joseph was nestled all snug in his bed;  
When visions of Gabriel filled up his head;  
The Angelic host made such a clatter,  
He sprang from his bed to see what was the matter.

The angel explained the whole situation  
How Mary affirmed the Annunciation  
How the prophets of old had this story foretold  
And that this was the way that salvation unfolds.

Saint Joseph believed when he heard this Epistle;  
And away Gabriel flew like the down of a thistle.  
He married the Blessed Virgin right quick and soon,  
And they waited together for the child in her womb.

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IN BETHLEHEM

*The People remain seated and sing the Carol as Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem.*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

**Words:** Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

**Music:** *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

*A member of the Confirmation Class reads the story of the Birth of Jesus.*

*Reader*           And it came to pass from Caesar Augustus  
That taxes and a census were levied amongst us.  
So Joseph and Mary saddled their [donkey]  
And journeyed to Bethlehem to pay off the tax.

They arrived at the inn of the city of David  
Only to find that no guest room awaited.  
So they stayed with the cattle and slept till the morn,  
And on Christmas Day Jesus Christ was born.

The baby was swaddled and placed in a manger;  
Kept safe and snug and away from all danger.  
The night was holy, silent, and calm  
As Jesus slept peacefully next to his Mom.



## SHEPHERDS & ANGELS VISIT THE HOLY FAMILY

*The People remain seated and join in singing the Carol as Gabriel and the Angels bring the Shepherds to visit the Holy Family.*

**From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

**“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan’s power and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

*A member of the Confirmation Class reads the story of the Angels & Shepherds.*

*Reader*      Out in the fields were shepherds abiding  
watching their flock, awaiting glad tidings.  
And, lo, the angels came from the heavens,  
Singing the songs they sing in God’s presence.

The song that they sang shattered the silence:  
“Glory to God above in the highest,  
Peace on the earth, good will towards men.  
Seek out the savior in Bethlehem!”

Leaving their sheep, they hastened away.  
In the middle of the night before it was day,  
They found the virgin mother with her infant child,  
And they glorified God and worshipped a while.

# THE MAGI WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING

*The People remain seated and join in singing the Carol as the Three Magi from the East follow the Star so they can worship Christ the King. The parts of each magi are sung by soloists.*

**All**            **We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

*Soloist*        Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign.

**All**            **O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

*Soloist*        Frankincense to offer have I:  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God Most High.

**All**            **O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

*Soloist*        Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**All**            **O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

*A member of the Confirmation Class reads the story of the Epiphany.*

Reader           Magi were led from the East by a star  
                      Seeking the King of the Jews from afar.  
                      To Herod the King they initially went,  
                      Then to Bethlehem with their gifts they were sent.

                      And, lo, the star, which they saw in the East,  
                      stopped over the place where the child was asleep.  
                      They saw the baby boy with Mary his mother,  
                      and fell down, and worshipped him, one after another.

                      They opened their gifts, presenting him treasure;  
                      gold, frankincense, myrrh without measure.  
                      They knelt and worshipped the young Prince of Peace.  
                      And avoiding King Herod, they returned to the East.

                      God bless you this Christmas, and be of good cheer,  
                      We're thrilled you could join us; we're happy you're here.  
                      We've got one more song to sing for you here.  
                      We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*The Children sing We Wish You A Merry Christmas after which applause is appropriate! Please feel free to come up and take photos for the next few minutes or two while a short Carol is sung.*

## CAROL DURING PHOTOS OF THE PAGEANT

*Please feel free to come up and take photos for the next few minutes or two while a short Carol is sung.*

### *Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

### *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.

### *Refrain*

3 Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

### *Refrain*

## THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.



## WELCOME & OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*All are seated for a brief welcome and announcements from Father Matthew Mead. The announcements conclude with the following or some other offertory sentence.*

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.



**venmo**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*All are seated. The choir sings the anthem Magnificat from Evening Service in G, Op. 81, by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924). During the anthem, the gifts of bread and wine are prepared at the altar and an offering is taken. The soprano soloist is Jeanmarie Lally.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden:

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel :

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end.

Amen.

– *The Book of Common Prayer (1662)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN (#56, VS.1)

*All stand and sing the hymn as the offering is brought to the altar and blessed.*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Words:** Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

**Music:** *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890);  
acc. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

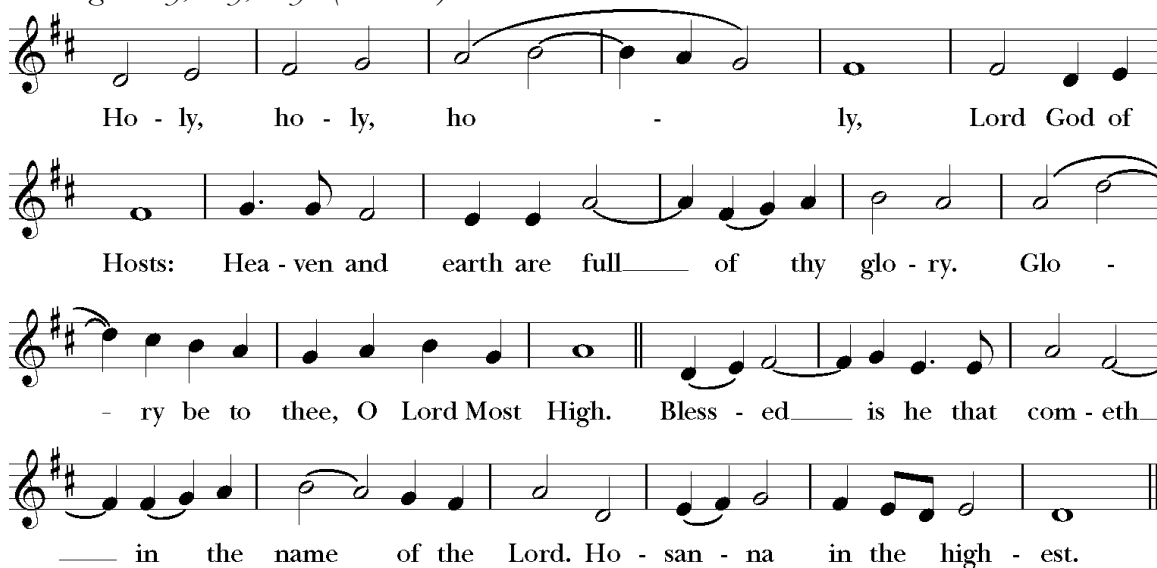
**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your 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 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:

*All sing "Holy, holy, holy" (#S 114)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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*Celebrant*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father.  
**We remember his death.**  
**We proclaim his resurrection.**  
**We await his coming in glory.**

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite ✠ us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever.

*All*

**AMEN.**

*Celebrant*  
*All*

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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All remain standing and sing "Lamb of God" (Hymn #S 158)*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion saying this or some other invitation.*

*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.]

*All baptized persons, including children, are full members of the Body of Christ and are invited to participate in every aspect of the service and receive the Holy Communion. Members of other Christian churches who are baptized are also invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Persons who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are also invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing (cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you want a blessing and not Holy Communion).*

## COMMUNION MOTET

*During the ministrations of Holy Communion, the choir sings the motet Advent Moon by Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951).*

Let the coming of the One  
who arranges Orion and the Pleiades  
begin in darkness.  
Let the night be cold, with drifts of snow.  
Let there be one lily blooming,  
and whispered messages, and kneeling.

The fierce earth spins in expectation  
beneath the long night's moon, Advent moon.  
Like the restless fox crossing frosted meadows,  
the silvered owl in focused, silent flight,  
each of us is hungry.  
In rooms of untold longing,  
we sing our seasoned carols,  
watch, and wait.

Let the coming of the One  
who kindles fires of hope,  
whose faithfulness runs far beyond our sight,  
be like the coming of a child.  
Let there be milk, forgiveness, quiet arms.  
Come quickly, Love, our dearest deep  
and sweetest dawning.  
Come, fill us with your light.  
– Angier Brock (*b.* 1947)

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*All kneel as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **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.**

## BLESSING

*Celebrant* May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you.

*People* **Amen.**

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN (#72)

*All stand and sing the hymn as the ministers process to the back of the church.*

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950;  
desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

## DISMISSAL & ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Deacon*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

*If you are staying in your pew for the Voluntary, please be courteous to those who are listening to the music by remaining quiet.*

V. Toccata (on “Conditor alme siderum,”) from Cycle de Noël, No. 1 [Dominica III Advent] *from* L’Orgue mystique (1995) *by* Charles Tournemire (1870-1939).

(V. Toccata on the plainchant “Creator of the Stars of Night” for the Third Sunday of Advent *from* The Mystical Organ).

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING AT THE BOLTON ALTAR

*Following the Eucharist every Sunday prayers for healing with the anointing of Holy Oil are offered by Deacon Chisara or Father Matt. Come to the altar and tell the priest or deacon what you want to pray for.*

*The Trees on the Altar are given to the Glory of God*



## ABOUT THE MUSIC

*Choral selections:*

**Charles Villiers Stanford** (1852-1924) was one of the most distinguished and influential composers of the late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century in British music, was born in Dublin to a patrician and musical family. His musical education, like that of many British composers, began in the Anglican church and cathedral, and he studied piano, violin and organ at a young age before matriculating at Queens College, Cambridge University in 1870.

While still an undergraduate, Stanford distinguished himself as the Assistant Conductor of the Cambridge Music Society, and he was appointed organist of Trinity College, Cambridge in 1873. From 1875 until 1893, he served as the Conductor of that ensemble following an interval he spent studying composition in Leipzig, Germany with Karl Reinecke and Friedrich Kiel. In 1883, he was made Professor of Composition at the

Royal College of Music and in 1888, he was appointed Professor of Music at Cambridge. He held both positions simultaneously with numerous conducting appointments for many years, and his influence on the subsequent generation of composers, many of whom were his students, is immeasurable. Among them are the beloved composers Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst.

Although today he is known primarily for his many fine contributions to the Anglican choral repertoire, Stanford composed in virtually every genre, including chamber music, art songs, symphonic works, and operas, as well as much music for the organ. Perhaps taking a cue from the spinning motif in Franz Peter Schubert's lied "*Gretchen am Spinnrade*" (the art song "*Gretchen at the spinning wheel*"), in his *Evening Service in G*, Stanford accompanies a jubilant soprano soloist singing the text of the *Magnificat* with a *perpetuum mobile* spinning accompaniment in the organ, as the choir provides interjected ritornelli as the harmonic backdrop to this glorious melody.

**Cecilia McDowall** (b. 1951) is one of the foremost British composers of her generation. McDowall holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a Master of Music from London's Trinity College, she is primarily known around the world for her choral compositions. One of her recent commissions was the 2021 new carol for Daniel Hyde and King's College Cambridge's annual Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, "*There is no rose.*" McDowall is the visiting composer for Dulwich College in London. Her 2013 Advent carol "*Advent Moon*," was a collaboration with the Virginia poet Angier Brock which was premiered at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia on December 1, 2013. This richly evocative piece is a meditation – with handbells (played by a member of our choir on digitally sampled handbells) – on the mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord.

#### *Organ selections:*

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) lived the first half of his life in the compositional shadow of Ludwig van Beethoven, not completing his first symphony until his 40<sup>th</sup> year. His output for the organ is only a small portion of his entire oeuvre: a handful of preludes and fugues and 11 chorale-preludes (short preludes based on popular Lutheran hymntunes). "Es ist ein Ros' enstprungen" is one of these short chorale-preludes, in which Brahms treats the well-known tune for "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" to a loving, sumptuous, and unmistakably Brahmsian harmonization on the quieter stops of the organ.

**Charles Tournemire** (1870-1939) was a French organist and composer. Born in Bordeaux, he was a keyboard prodigy at a young age and appointed organist for Bordeaux's church of St. Peter (St. Pierre) at only 11 years of age. In his teen years, he moved to Paris in adolescence, where he studied organ with Cesar Franck and Charles-Marie Widor at the Conservatoire de Paris. He received the conservatory's top prize in organ performance in 1891. He also studied composition with Vincent D'Indy at the Schola Cantorum, a conservatory for church musicians, also in Paris.

A man of deep faith and commitment to the Roman Catholic Church, Tournemire was appointed organist for the Basilique Ste-Clotilde (the Basilica of St. Clotilde) in 1898 as successor to Gabriel Pierné. Prolific as a composer in large forms in his early years – he composed eight symphonies and four operas in addition to a body of chamber music – he is best known today for his magnum opus, *L'orgue mystique*, a cycle of 51 suites for organ solo based on the Gregorian chant propers for Sunday Eucharists in the Roman Missal and intended to cover the entire church year. Each of these suites is comprised of five movements: *Prélude a l' Introït*, *Offertoire*, *Élévation*, *Communion*, and *Pièce terminale* (a prelude at the entrance of the choir and clergy, an offertory, a piece for the the elevation of the elements at the consecration – which was a very long period of time according to the liturgical custom of the day – a piece to be played during communion, and a final voluntary or terminal piece). Tournemire conceived of this grand cycle as a response to J. S. Bach's organ output for the Lutheran liturgy, and, in fact, in its entirety it is over 15 hours' worth of music.

The last movement of the suite for the Third Sunday of Advent, which begins *L'orgue mystique*, is a quiet toccata on the plainsong melody “Conditor alme siderum” (“Creator of the stars of night”), which also appears in *The Hymnal* 1982. The text for this hymn is very evocative of the mysteries of the cosmos, and Tournemire gives us a fantasy setting of this melody which paints a picture of twinkling stars interspersed with an angelic hymn-like setting of portions of the tune. Tournemire's prescribed registration makes much use of the quiet stops on the organ: the strings, celeste, and solo flutes.

– Jeffrey Hoffman

# CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

## Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*  
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole  
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*  
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*  
Mr. Evan Felicetti, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Vergers and Sexton*  
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

## Wardens & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*  
Mr. Jeff Bodenmann, *Senior Warden*  
Ms. Etta Gumbs, *Junior Warden*  
Ms. Allison Bodenmann, *Treasurer*  
Mr. John Fox, *Assistant Treasurer*  
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Ms. Jennifer Hawks Bland	Mr. John Fox
Mr. J.D. Calder	Mr. Jack Kraft
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Mr. Stephen Dolan	Ms. Courtney McGrory
Ms. Barbara Zambelli	

***The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.***  
***Morning Prayer is read on, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom***

† A Parish of the Diocese of New York †

## Christ Church

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***Christ Church Pelham is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition.***  
***As members of the Body of Christ, we are dedicated to spiritual growth***  
***and committed to serving God through worship and***  
***service to our community and the world.***