

Sunday, January 5, 2025 (10am)

Second Sunday after Christmas

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop of Ohio
The Rev. Tom Furrer, Interim Rector

Jamie Shiell, Director of Music

Paul Keriotis, Director of Formation

Prelude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star – Neils Gade

AT THE PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR

The People stand for the Processional Hymn and remain standing through the Collect of the Day

Processional Hymn No. 118 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning – *Star in the East*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One
People **You come to your people and set them free**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

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.**

Song of Praise no. 96 (1&4)

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray together.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Reader
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

Quam dilecta!

- 1 **H**ow dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- [9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!]

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

Sequence Hymn No. 128 We the kings of Orient are – *Three Kings of Orient*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

 `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Tom Furrer

The Nicene Creed

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 truly human.

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.

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.*

Prayers of the People

God's son was sent into the world to live among us: let us pray in the confidence of our new life in Christ, responding:

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

Rejoicing in Christ's birth, we pray that the Church may be continually reborn...Let us share the humility of the manger, the adoration of the shepherds, and the love of the Holy Family, in the light of Christ who is the Light of the world.

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

Pity and pardon this world of conflict, deaf to the message of peace...Bring harmony where there is strife between nations and where people are divided by suspicion and bitterness...Heal those who have no peace within themselves.

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

We pray for the families and friends with whom we celebrate this happy time...Give us true love, unselfish desires and grateful hearts...We pray especially for the children, for their unclouded joy at this time...Create in us a pattern of human love that will lead them to the love of God whose son

was sent as a little child.

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

We pray for those who cannot feel the joy of Christmas, through the burden of sickness, bereavement or other distress...Comfort with your presence all who are separated at this time from those they love...Bring the light of Christ into their afflicted lives.

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

Have mercy on the departed who, having shared with Christ their human birth and infancy, have shared with him also the death of the body...Make their joy complete, in the place where there is neither birth nor death but abundant life without end.

Leader: O Jesus the Word made flesh.

People: **Let us know your presence now.**

Through Christ who is the hope of the nations and the joy of all people we make our prayers to God who is most wonderfully with us.

The Celebrant adds the concluding Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Offertory Beautiful Star of Bethlehem – Mattie Pearson Smith

Presentation Hymn 100 (v. 1 & 4) Joy to the world - *Antioch*

Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant God 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 him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 no. S 125

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

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, forever and ever. AMEN.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, Heavenly Creator, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ and you have fed us with spiritual food, in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of the God Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ, born of our sister Mary and of the Holy Spirit who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn No. 119 As with gladness men of old – *Dix*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude How Brightly Shines the Morning Star – Johann Pachelbel

Assisting with our Worship at 10 am:

The Parish Choir
Janet Schweitzer – Lector Fred Schweitzer – Lector/Chalice
Faith Scarmuzzi – Prayers/Chalice
Linda Day – Greeter/Name Tags
Dan Mason & Joe Yaksich – Ushers
MaryAnne Stefanick & Jeannine/Karl Morris – Bakers
Kathy Hughes & Kevin Knowlton – Altar Guild
Deb Murphy & Don Scarmuzzi – AV/Video

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH! We are happy to have you worship with us today! If you are a visitor or would like to know more about the life, work, and ministry of Christ Church, please fill out a “Connect Card” in the pew rack. You can drop the completed card in the offering plate or give it to a member of our staff, an usher, or a Vestry member following the service. We are glad you are here!

LESSONS & CAROLS: What a tremendous community event for Lessons & Carols. Over 200 people attended, and the performance was spirit filled!
A **HUGE** thank you is extended to all bakers, helpers to set up and take down the reception, and for clean-up. Many people made for lighthearted work! We even had some of the gals learn how to work the dishwasher!
Again, thank you from the deepest of hearts!

Sandee Skovran

PLEDGE ENVELOPES: If you did not get pledge envelopes and need them, please call the office and speak to Carole Lewis. She will help you with this.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: I wanted to apologize for leaving some names off the original Christmas flower list that was published on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I was off for some time due to my surgery and then getting pneumonia. As a result, some contributions to the flowers were submitted and I did not see them. Some of your loved ones were left off. In this bulletin you will find the updated list. Again, I am sorry about this.

Tiffany L. Fisher

THE WEEKLY WORKINGS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Monday Jan 6	Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM Boy Scouts 5 PM	Various Rooms
Tuesday Jan 7	AA 6 PM Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Parish Hall
Wednesday Jan. 8	10:00 AM “Growing Deeper” Bible Study, Prayer, & Fellowship 12 PM Deadline to submit Bulletin Announcements Office Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM	Chapel
Thursday Jan 9	Office Open 9 AM – 2 PM Cub Scouts 5 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6 PM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	Parish Hall Handbell Room Choir Room
Friday Jan 10	Office Closed	
Saturday Jan 11	Office Closed	
Sunday Jan 12	8 AM Holy Eucharist 10 AM Holy Eucharist Strings of Joy 1:00 PM	Chapel Main Sanctuary