

Christ The King Episcopal Church

40 Charleston Road, Willingboro, New Jersey 08046

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023. 9.30am



The Reverend Father Vernal Savage
Priest-In-Charge

Welcome to Christ the King Episcopal Church

Welcome to Christ The King Episcopal Church in Willingboro, NJ, a vibrant and growing Episcopal parish in Willingboro, Burlington county, New Jersey. Over the past 60 years, the fabric of Christ the King has been woven by the Spirit from the lives and gifts of diverse people; their desire to live their faith through worship, service, study, and stewardship; and the ever-evolving life of Burlington County itself.

Our parish is guided by its mission to share God’s love for all people. Together, we seek to build relationships with one another and with our neighbors, to cultivate compassion, to deepen our knowledge and spiritual practices, to work for justice rooted in essential human dignity, and to live as conscientious contributors to the life of our city and the Anglican Communion worldwide. As we grow together in service and love, we know ourselves, first and foremost, as followers of Jesus.

We are delighted to welcome you today; thank you for the gift of your participation and prayers. If you are new to Christ the King, please introduce yourself to a member of the clergy or one of the Ushers.



About This Service

Blue Christmas – During the service on Sunday, December 17th we will have in the 3rd Sunday in Advent a time to acknowledge all who have died. These deaths would include those prior to Covid, during the period of Covid, deaths after Covid, recent deaths, and those affected by the losses made worse by the season of the year. After the sermon we will have a reading from scripture, and prayers. Persons are invited to come forward and light candles in remembrance of their loved ones. Kindly note the following: -

- The names of the person who died will be announced during that time.
 - There will be a signup sheet in the narthex/ entrance of the church prior to the start of the service.
 - One candle is to be lit for each family.
1. Please take along a photograph of the person (persons) if it is at all possible.

I am also asking you to invite someone you know that this may be of benefit to at this time.

CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH OFFICIALS			
	TITLE	NAME	TERM ENDING
	Priest-In-Charge	Reverend Vernal Savage	
	Senior Warden	Emerson Cooper	2023
	Junior Warden	Jermaine Smith	2023
	Vestry Member	Marcelle Arthur	2023
	Vestry Member	Helen Baylock	2025
	Vestry Member	Carolyn Booker	2025
	Vestry Member	Joan Burke	2025
	Vestry Member	Catherine Edwards	2024
	Vestry Member	Dan Gunning	2024
	Vestry Member	Nathan Roberts	2024
	Vestry Member	Maxine Harvey	2024
	Vestry Member	Kenneth Mallory	2023
	Clerk of the Vestry	Regina Lamptey	2023
	Secretary	Annette Grubbs	
	Ambassador to Vestry	Debra Adkins	
	Treasurer	Daniel Lamptey	2023

Worship Plan for Sunday, December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent | The Holy Eucharist Rite One | Blue Christmas

At the sound of the bell, please stand.

MEDITATION:

ENTRANCE HYMN *Rejoice, the Lord is King (Gopsal) (H 481)*



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore! Mor -
 2 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and



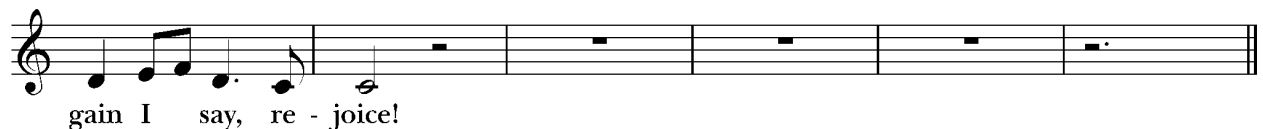
tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove. Lift
 keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
 take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.



up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a - gain I say, re -



joyce! up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joyce! a -



gain I say, re - joice!

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 319)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 319)

All kneel.

The Celebrant says

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE (BCP p. 324)

The following is sung, all standing

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

[Maxine Harvey]

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The 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;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I 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.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 126

[Maxine Harvey]

Remain seated.

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
³Then they said among the nations, *
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
⁴The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
⁵Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
⁶Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND READING: 1Thessalonians 5: 16-24

[Regina Lamptey]

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Jesus Is All the World to Me* (LEVAS 77)

All stand.

1. Je - sus is all the world to me, My life, my joy, my
2. Je - sus is all the world to me, My friend in tri - als
3. Je - sus is all the world to me, And true to Him I'll
4. Je - sus is all the world to me, I want no bet - ter

1. all; _____ He is my strength from day to day, With -
2. sore; _____ I go to Him for bless - ings, and He
3. be; _____ Oh, how could I this friend de - ny, When
4. friend; _____ I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when Life's

1. out Him I _____ would fall: _____ When I am sad, to
2. gives them o'er _____ and o'er; _____ He sends the sun - shine
3. He's so true _____ to me? _____ Fol - low - ing Him I
4. fleet - ing days _____ shall end: _____ Beau - ti - ful life with

1. Him I go. No oth - er one can cheer me so;
 2. and the rain. He sends the har - vest's gold - en grain.
 3. know I'm right. He watch - es o'er me day and night;
 4. such a friend. Beau - ti - ful life that has no end;

1. When I am sad He makes me glad, He's my friend.____
 2. Sun - shine and rain, har - vest of grain, He's my friend.____
 3. Fol - low - ing Him by day and night, He's my friend.____
 4. E - ter - nal life, e - ter - nal joy, He's my friend.____

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

[The Reverend Vernal Savage]

All stand.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
 ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
 as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing

desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us. Thank you for the gift each of these persons has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again, when we are all in your presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. Comfort us, for we only feel hollowness and emptiness. God of sorrowing, draw near! Amen.

Leader: This is our prayer Lord to remember we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

All: God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.

Leader: This is our prayer Lord to remember those who experience a loss of direction in their lives.

God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

All: God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.

Leader: This is our prayer Lord to remember the hope that the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

All: O God whose spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way. Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 332)

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

PEACE HYMN *Just a Little Talk with Jesus* (LEVAS 83)

I once was lost in sin but Jesus took me in
And then a little light from heaven fill my soul
He bathed my heart in love and He wrote my name above
And just a little talk with Jesus makes me whole

Now let us have a little talk with Jesus
Let us tell Him all about our troubles
He will hear our faintest cry
And He will answer by and by

And when you feel a little prayer wheel turnin'
And you will know a little fire is burnin'
Find a little talk with Jesus makes it right

I may have doubts and fears
My eyes be filled with tears
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night
I go to him in prayer
He knows my every care
And just a little talk with Jesus makes it right

Now let us have a little talk with Jesus
Let us tell Him all about our troubles
He will hear our faintest cry
And He will answer by and by

And when you feel a little prayer wheel turnin'
And you will know a little fire is burnin'
You will find a little talk with Jesus makes it right
Now let us have a little talk with Jesus

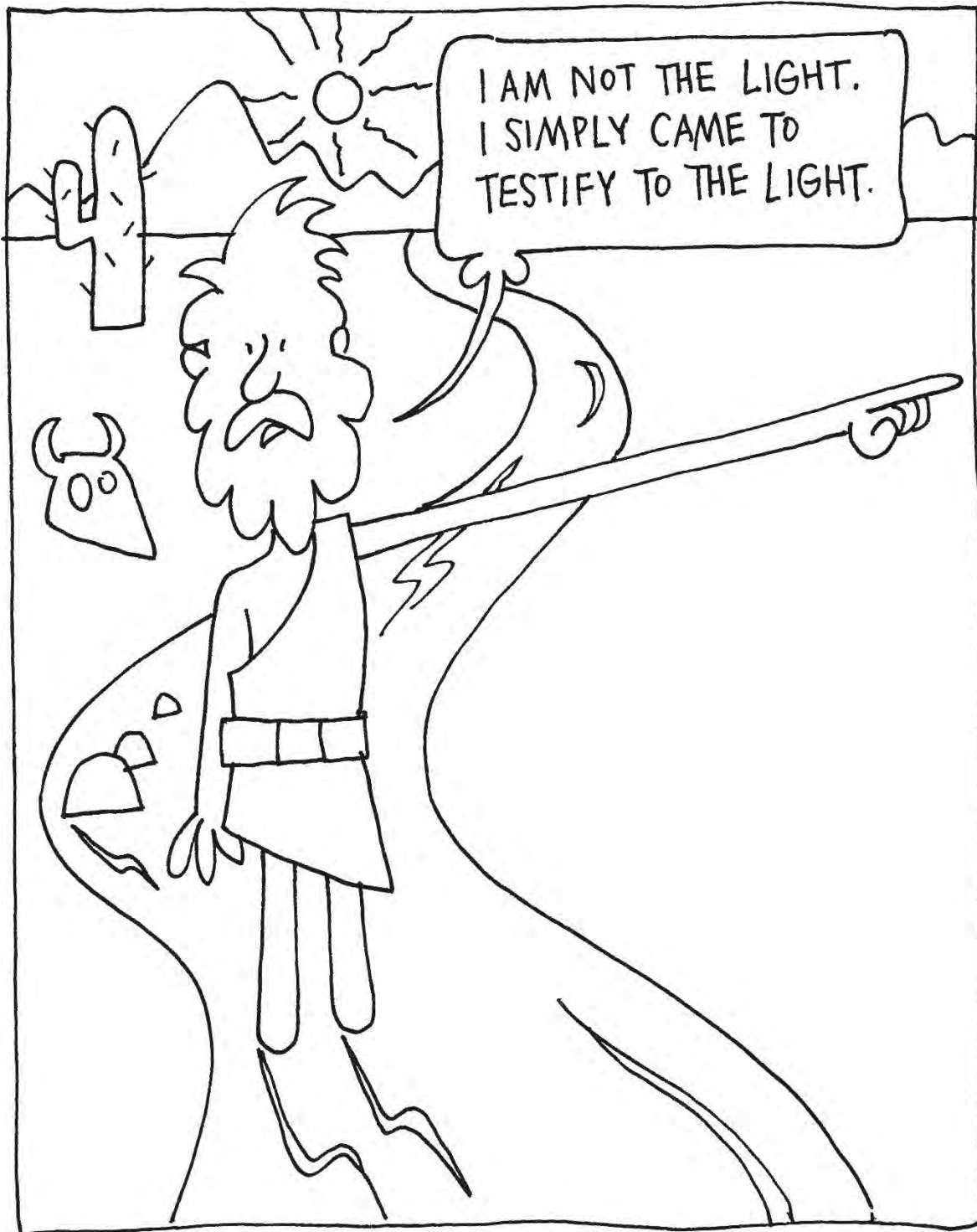
Let us tell Him all about our troubles
He will hear our faintest cry
And He will answer by and by

And when you feel a little prayer wheel turnin'
And you will know a little fire is burnin'
You will find a little talk with Jesus makes it right
Right, right, right

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[By Maxine Harvey]

Announcements, not to exceed 150 words, are to be submitted to ctk@christthekingnj.org by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday preceding the Sunday you wish the announcements to run.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 343)

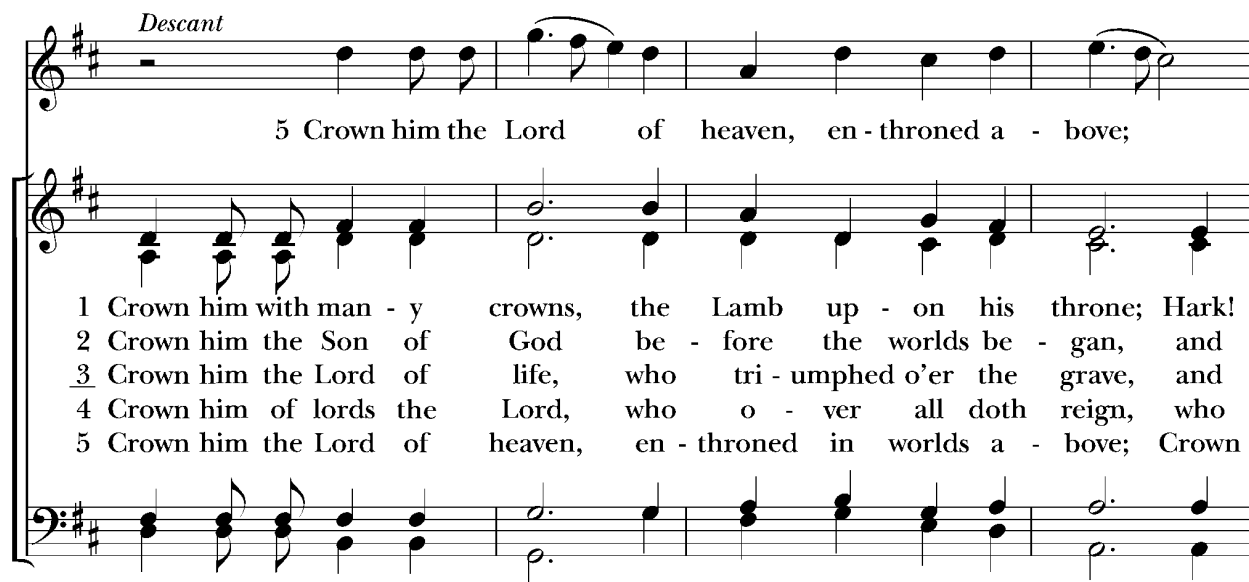
The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

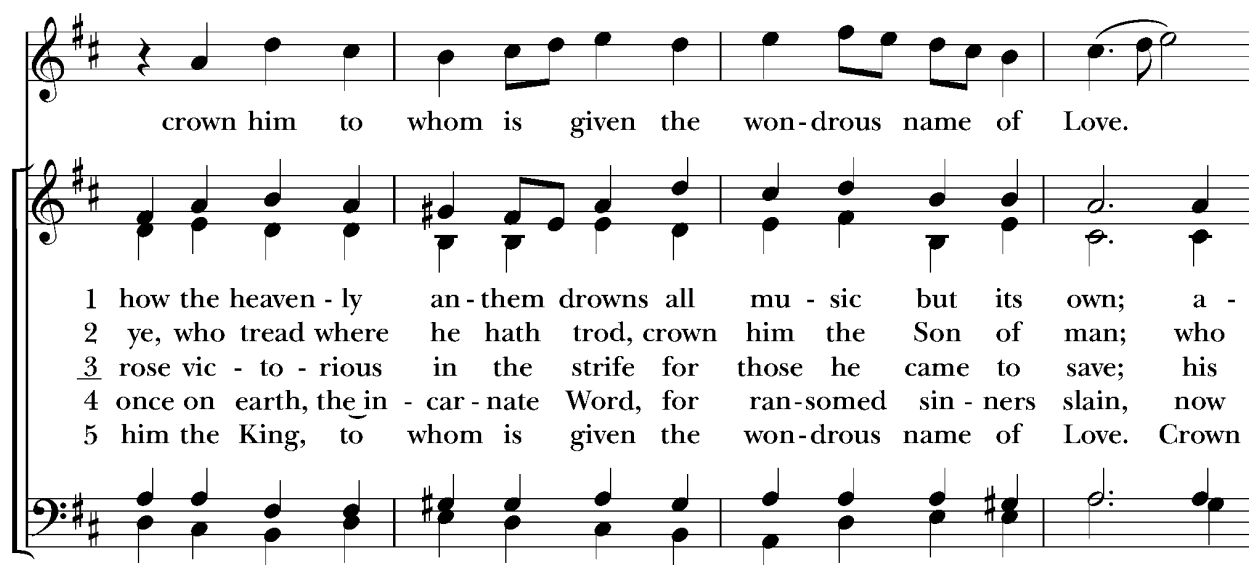
OFFERTORY HYMN *Crown him with many crowns (Diademata)* (H 494)

Descant



5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned a - bove;

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown



crown him to whom is given the won - drous name of Love.

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran - somed sin - ners slain, now
5 him the King, to whom is given the won - drous name of Love. Crown

Crown him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu-man breast, and
 3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
 4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
 5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him fall, crown

fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.

1 hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
 5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 340)

The People remain standing.

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy spirit.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 341)

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS (BCP p. 341)

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 341)

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (LEVAS 260) *We remember His Death*

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "We re - mem - ber His death, — We pro - claim His re - sur - rect - ion, — We a - wait — His com - ing — in glo - ry. — We re - glo - ry. —". The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final line of lyrics and includes a first ending (marked "1.") and a second ending (marked "2.") for the piano accompaniment.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM [LEVAS 268] *Christ Our Passover*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

SANCTUS: [LEVAS 269] *Lamb Of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP p. 337)

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

INVITATION (BCP p. 338)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 338)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

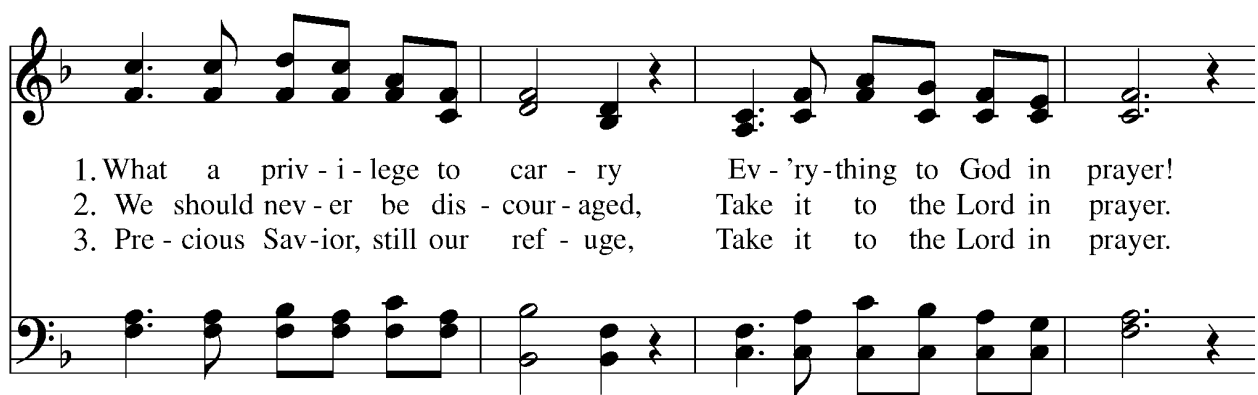
The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

COMMUNION HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (LEVAS 109)



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum-bered with a load of care?



1. What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 3. Do thy friends de-spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 2. Je-sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

ABLUTION SONG: “Hallelu”

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
 O Lord We Praise Your Name
 All the Glory, All The Praise,
 O Lord We Praise Your Name”*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 339)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer

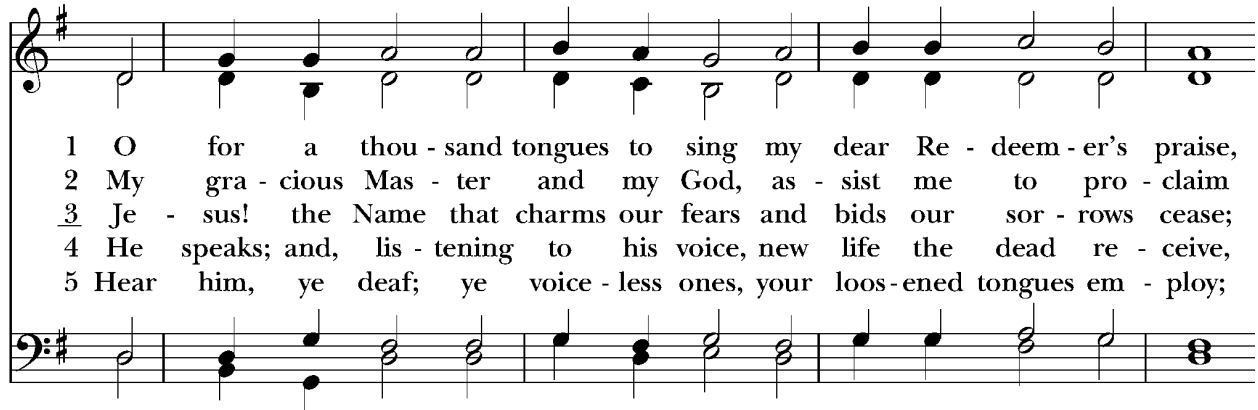
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 339)

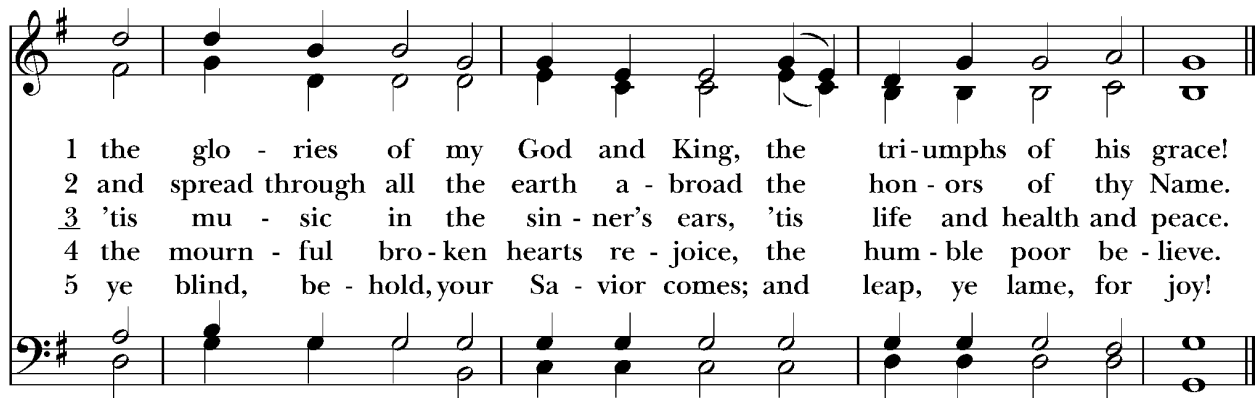
The priest blesses the people, saying

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN O for a thousand tongues to sing (Azmon) (H 493)



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 340)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Thank You, Lord* (LEVAS 232)

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2 Been so good, been so good, been so
 3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my

Lord, _____ I just want to thank you, — Lord.
 good, _____ I just want to thank you, — Lord.
 friend, _____ I just want to thank you — Lord.

FINAL PRAYER: *By Priest or Deacon*

Date	WORSHIP LEADER	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	YOUTH LEADER	USHERS	COUNTING
Sunday December 17	Maxine Harvey Regina Lamptey			Diane Staten Ransolina Roberts	Nathan Roberts Helen Baylock
Sunday December 24	Joan Burke Linda Anderson			Patricia Mitchell Regina Lamptey	Emerson Cooper Dan Gunning
Sunday December 31	Sarah Smith Olin Mitchell			JoyAnn Lambert Marcus Gales	Catherine Edwards Carolyn Booker
Sunday January 7				Hubert Lambert Janette Webster	
Sunday January 14				Gloria Davies Beatrice Ogboukiri	
Sunday January 21				Olin Mitchell Judith Richards	
Sunday January 28				Diane Staten Ransolina Roberts	
Sunday February 4				Patricia Mitchell Regina Lamptey	
Sunday February 11				JoyAnn Lambert Marcus Gales	
Sunday February 18				Hubert Lambert Janette Webster	
Sunday February 25				Gloria Davies Beatrice Ogboukiri	

Christmas Service Dates –

- a) Advent 4 – 2023 December 24th in the morning at 9:30am
- b) Christmas Eve Service – 2023 December 24th at 7:00pm (Carol singing at 6:30pm)
- c) New Year’s Eve – 2023 December 31st - Service in the morning at 9:30am
- d) New Year’s Eve Watchnight Service – 2023 December 31st at 10:00pm (Carol singing begin at 10:00pm)

PRAYERS

To add names to the prayer list, email ctk@christthekingnj.org or call 609.877.2992. Names are kept on the list for a month and can be added again upon request.

Contact the Church Office for contact information of the names on the prayer list

Our Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need. We humbly beseech thee to behold, visit, and relieve thy sick servants below for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of thy mercy; comfort them with a sense of thy goodness; preserve them from the temptations of thy enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In thy good time, restore them to health, and enable them to lead the residue of their life in thy fear, and to thy glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ of Lord. Amen.

PRAYER LIST

Josie Howard	Josephine White
Marion Cannon	Freda Oasin
Ted Cannon	Jean Thomas
Angela Cannon	Edythe Munson
Marilyn Capehart	Margaretta McDougal
Eustace December	Gloria Davis
Yvonne December	Carolyn Booker
Billie Miller	John Booker
Melvina Berry	Olin Mitchell
Basil Mitchell	Patricia Mitchell
Mildred Bailey	Florence James
Nathaniel Evans	Victor Medina
Glenda Evans	Christiana Trivigno
Ryan Kerr	Emmanuel Ogbuokiri
Jada Jackson	Sherman Clahar
Judith Jackson	Mark Lockett
Tracey Lewis	Robyn Lockett
Eleanor Williams	

BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES

The Church Building Fund is set up to track the donations and expenses of improvement of the church's buildings. In addition, the fund maintains an ongoing building fund in order to have money available for emergency repairs to existing buildings. The Building Fund Envelope is the source by which parishioners can contribute to the fund. The fund has about \$19,250 which is far below our projections due to numerous improvement that needs undertaken. We urgently urge all Parishioners to contribute generously to the fund by using their Building Fund Envelopes. *Thanks,*

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

All parishioners wanting to add an emergency contact to the church's directory, please write the contact's name and number and put it in the collection plate. This information will be kept PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

MEN OF CHRIST THE KING MONTHLY MEETING

The MoCTK monthly meeting is held the second Saturday of every month at 10.00am on Zoom. All the Men of Christ the King are members of this group and are expected to attend. Next meeting is January 13th, 2023, at 10.00am

Office Volunteers – I do have persons offering themselves to serve in the office. I would like to have a pool of about four (persons). They would be required to do diocesan training in Safe Church, and other checks. Also, they would be trained internally to use all the equipment in the church office. A schedule would be done for the date that is convenient for them to serve.

Life Group Ministries

The Women's Life Group has resumed meetings on Thursdays, 3:00-4:15 PM We invite any women interested to call with questions or for information. Carolyn Booker 412-337-2576.

Give Easily from Here

Click here [Give Now](#) to make a donation or make your contributions to Christ the King Episcopal Church. Willingboro, New Jersey at any time, even if you are on vacation. You will receive an email confirmation for your transaction.

BIBLE STUDIES - TUESDAYS

Bible Study Every Tuesday at 7:00pm over Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374035494?pwd=R3lrV1ZMTG5pUE9zZnllZDgyNTZTdz09> Meeting ID: 863 7403 5494; Password: 007431;

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Join us on Wednesday Night Bible Study on Zoom at 7:15pm. Wednesday Prayer Meetings is now on Zoom (Using the Church Zoom Link) **On Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374035494?pwd=R3lrV1ZMTG5pUE9zZnllZDgyNTZTdz09> Meeting ID: 863 7403 5494; Password: 007431;

By Linda Anderson

LOOKING TO JOIN THE ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY?

We are looking for new volunteers; men and women, to join us in preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services. All are welcome to come and learn about this labor of love! **Please call Linda Anderson at 609-760-1050 for more information. Thank you!**

VOLUNTEER NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Priest-In-Charge are seeking volunteers for the Nomination Committee for the next vestry members. Contact the Priest In Charge or Senior Warden if you wish to volunteer.

December Birthdays

1 st – Ida Godwin	21 st – Joseph Stewart
1 st – Gloria Davis	24 th – Orya Pollard
6 th – Ransolina Robert	
7 th – John Booker	24 th – Diane Staten
10 th – Nathaniel Evans	26 th – Shelton Radix
12 th – Ted Canon	29 th – Kingsley Chukwuocha
13 th – Debra Stewart	30 th – Linda Anderson
17 th – Desiree A. Mentis	30 th – Dan Gunning

Order Your Calendars for 2024

Cost is \$3 each. Please reserve via church secretary or calling Linda Anderson at 609.760.1050
Thanks so much!,

Christ The King Choir Announcement

We are recruiting new members for the Choir.

If you are interested in singing with us please contact Linda Anderson for more information.

From the Priest

I also wanted to share with you the following: -

2. **Bible Study (reminder)** will be held on Tuesdays of each week at 7:00pm. The change takes effect this week, but we will not have bible study because of my attendance at the clergy conference.
3. **Day off (reminder)** has been changed from Fridays of each week to Mondays beginning in the season of Advent. This becomes effective the week of December 10th.
4. **Office Volunteers (reminder)** – I do have persons offering themselves to serve in the office. I would like to have a pool of about four (persons). They would be required to do diocesan training in Safe Church, and other checks. Also, they would be trained internally to use all the equipment in the church office. A schedule would be done for the date that is convenient for them to serve.
5. **Christmas Service Dates** –
 - a) Advent 4 – 2023 December 24th in the morning at 9:30am
 - b) Christmas Eve Service – 2023 December 24th at 7:00pm (Carol singing at 6:30pm)
 - c) New Year's Eve – 2023 December 31st - Service in the morning at 9:30am
 - d) New Year's Eve Watchnight Service – 2023 December 31st at 10:00pm (Carol singing begin at 9:30pm)
6. Birthday Party for Jesus - Sponsored by the Commission on Black Ministry. All youth are invited to attend the event to be held on Friday, December 29th, 2023 at 4:00pm on ZOOM. The ZOOM meeting ID 965-136-9748 and the password 859 488.



CTK voices of praise will be sharing some Christmas Joy with residents of Dorothea D. Campbell Senior Housing Center, 55 Sunset Road, Willingboro, New Jersey on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 11:30 am

Please feel free to join us as we help celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

Any questions please see Martha Johnson or Helen Baylock

Dec. 16—Summary of the Special Meeting of the Convention: By Bishop Sally French

Dear Friends,

Last Saturday morning (December 9), we gathered online as a diocese for a Special Meeting of the Convention to consider and pass the budget for 2024. When we gathered for the 239th Diocesan Convention back in March, Bishop Stokes observed that, with an upcoming transition in the episcopate, it did not make sense to pass a preliminary budget at that time. This was the right decision and I am grateful for his wisdom in naming it. Over the past few months, it has become increasingly clear to me and others that the budget for 2024 will be very different from the current year's budget, and from what would have been proposed (and likely passed) nine months ago.

Saturday's Special Meeting of the Convention went well. We began with Morning Prayer, including my Address to Convention ([watch and read here](#)), and continued with the business section of the meeting. The preliminary budget passed with a clear and strong majority (391 in favor, 10 opposed) and we

have a mandate to go forward with a budget that anticipates decreased expenditures of more than \$600,000 relative to the current (2023) figures. To get to this level of spending reduction, we've taken some significant steps as a diocese:

1.
 - o Staffing is being restructured in ways that both increase staff support for our congregations, clergy, and lay leaders, and reduce costs by more than \$50,000.
 - o The Board of Missions funding for mission congregations is being reduced by almost \$100,000 from the 2023 figure. The decrease comes primarily from eliminating funding for several congregations that were using the monies to engage full-time clergy to support very tiny congregations (for example, a full-time priest for fewer than 20 people). In these instances, we were able to arrange for new or additional employment to be offered to those clergy whose positions were impacted by these decreases in funding. At the same time, our staff restructuring will increase our capacity to walk alongside these congregations as we discern together how God may be calling them forward. As well, we maintained our commitment to support our congregations of color and to invest in growth in mission and ministry.
 - o We are requesting relief from the Episcopal Church. Each year, the national church asks us to pay an assessment based on our income as a diocese, and there is a process in place for relief of this obligation when it represents a significant financial hardship. We are requesting \$300,000 of relief of our annual assessment (50%), with plans to return to normal rates of giving over the next few years. While this is not a step we undertake lightly, our current financial realities require that

we take serious steps to diminish the overdraw on our reserves and endowments and this is an appropriate request at this time.

We recognize that it is not enough simply to decrease our spending for a short time. Over the next year, we will be beginning to take steps to increase our reserves and our income, to enhance our stability as a diocese and equip us for mission. There is a lot to be hopeful about here. As a diocese, we have many strengths, and I am confident that we are moving in a good and faithful direction.

I am grateful for all those whose work enabled our Special Meeting of the Convention to go so smoothly. In particular, I thank our staff, especially John Conte, Chris Briegs, Steve Welch, Mirelle White, and Canon Phyllis Jones, our Treasurer, Mr. Jonathan Gloster and the Finance and Budget Committee of the diocese, our Chancellor and Secretary of Convention, Canon Paul Ambos, esq., the Board of Missions, especially the Rev. Bruce Montgomery (chair) and Canon Paul Wolfgang (Diocesan Council liaison), Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee, and all those who prepared reports and joined in behind the scenes. Finally, I give thanks to God for each of you, for the clergy and convention deputies from each congregation who participated in Saturday's Special Convention, and for our lay leaders and members who continue to support God's work here in the Diocese of New Jersey. God bless you all.

Faithfully yours,

Bishop Sally French

The Right Reverend Sally French
Bishop of New Jersey