

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY ♦ DECEMBER 20, 2020 ♦ 9:45 AM



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

[www.christchurchtomsriver.org](http://www.christchurchtomsriver.org)

# **HOW TO LISTEN IN TO THE LIVE TELE-SERVICE**

**DIAL: 712-770-5505**  
**ACCESS CODE: 189853 #**

**WELCOME! AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FROM YOUR HOME FOR TODAY'S SERVICE!**

**WHILE WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PHYSICALLY COME TOGETHER TODAY FOR WORSHIP, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SPIRITUAL PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THIS SERVICE.**

**WE THEREFORE INVITE YOU TO REPLICATE MANY OF THE SAME PRACTICES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN A SUNDAY WORSHIP. FOR EXAMPLE, WE INVITE YOU TO SPEND SOME TIME IN QUIET PRAYER TO PLACE YOURSELF BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

**DURING THE SERVICE, WE INVITE YOU TO PERFORM THE SAME GESTURES THAT YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO IN CHURCH (SIGN OF THE CROSS, BOWING, ETC.).**

**ALSO, IN THOSE PLACES IN THE SERVICE WHERE THE PEOPLE WOULD NORMALLY SAY A PRAYER (SUCH AS, THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING) OR RESPONSE (SUCH AS, "AND ALSO WITH YOU"), PLEASE SAY IT ALOUD.**

**YOUR PHONE IS MUTED BUT OUR VOICES WILL RISE TOGETHER IN AFFIRMING OUR FAITH. THANK YOU.**

## **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**CALL HOST:** Joanne Gwin

**PRIEST:** The Rev. Ryan Paetzold

**DEACON:** The Rev. Ted Foley

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Polly Moore

**ORGAN/PIANO:** Andrew Van Buskirk

**CHOIR PARTICIPANTS:** David Corbitt, John Jowett, Cathy O'Neill, Helene Phillips,  
Eileen Schilling

**LECTOR:** Jeff Genthe

**INTERCESSOR:** Cathy O'Neill

## **PRELUDE**

*The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

John A. Behnke

John A. Behnke, organ

## **OPENING HYMN**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56, vs. 1,3-6

*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!*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny;  
That trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

*The people standing, as able, the Priest says*

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

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

*Priest* 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.

*People* Amen

*Please remain standing as able for the following*

## **THE TRISAGION**

*Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.*

*Holy God, Holy Compassion, Holy Abundant One,  
Have mercy upon us.*

*Holy God, Holy and Gracious, Holy Beautiful One,  
Have mercy upon us.*

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* *And also with you.*

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

*The following is read by the Intercessor; said by all*

## **THE COLLECT OF WELCOMING**

*All* Almighty and gracious God, we are your church, serving your mission. Lead us forth beyond our walls to seek out all people in our community, to invite and love them as Jesus would. Empower us to welcome to Christ Church all who are hurting or in need, all who are searching for you or for answers to life. Open our eyes to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. Transform us all into disciples of Christ. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The following is read by the Lector; said by all*

## **PRAYER FOR THE SELECTION OF A RECTOR**

*All* Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for Christ Church that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The people sit as the following is read by the Lector*

## **THE FIRST READING**

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. The Word of the Lord.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

*The following is read by the Deacon; said by all*

**PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26**

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations.’”
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant;  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him,  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him,  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

*The following is read by the Lector*

**THE SECOND READING**

Romans 16:25-27

A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

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

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

*Deacon* In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## **REFLECTION**

The Rev. Ryan Paetzold

## **HYMN**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Hymnal 265

King's College Choir

- 1. 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!*
- 2. "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!*
- 3. 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!*
- 4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say-- "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*All stand, as able, as the Priest says the following*

## **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 man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* "catholic" here means the universal Church across time and place

*The "Leader" is the Intercessor; the voice of the "people" is the Lector*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Deacon* Let us pray for the church and the world.

*Leader* With all of our hearts and with all of our minds, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness." .....Gracious God, give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, and help us to show our love to others. Make Christ Church an example of your love and mission. Let us pray...

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Leader* We pray for justice and peace among all peoples. Give us strength to work for justice in our own communities. We pray for all terrorists and anyone contemplating acts of violence and murder. We pray for all the leaders of our country, especially Donald our President, Joe our President-Elect, Phil our Governor, for all leaders of the world and all those who are standing in the gap for our protection. Let us pray...

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Leader* We ask your mercy and justice for all who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, oppressed, in prison, or in any kind of trouble. Let us pray...

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Leader* God of healing, we pray for all those affected by natural and man-made disasters; for those who are sick and suffering; for those who struggle to care for a loved one; for those who are in pain or distress; for those who are serving our country; for those listed on our parish prayer list, especially Betty Halleran, Maria, Jane & Jeff Fabach, Paula Sturm and for those we name at this time..... Let us pray...

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Leader* We pray for all who have died in the hope of rising again, especially for John Halleran, David, for those who died serving our country, and those we name at this time ..... Let us pray,

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Leader* We thank you, God, for the blessing of this beautiful earth, for the spiritual gifts you have given us, for those blessings we now name...(wait)..., and for all the blessings in our lives. Let us pray...

*People* *Come, Lord Jesus, be our light in our darkness.*

*Priest* Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  
(BCP 820)

*Priest* Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP 826)

*The Priest may add an additional closing collect.*

**THE CONFESSION** *The people kneel, as able.*

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*To be read by the Intercessor; said by all*

*All* 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.

*Priest* 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.*

*Please listen to the following prayer read by the Deacon.*

**PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.



Be with all essential workers. Be with all emergency responders, law enforcement, and medical professionals who seek to help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of all people, particularly those who are poor and most vulnerable. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

*Adapted from prayer written by Kerry Weber, America Magazine*

*The following is read by the Priest; said by all*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*\*We use the modern translation of Lord's Prayer because it is closer to the Greek original text; particularly for the verse, "Save us from the time of trial" since God does not deliberately lead us into temptation.*

*The ministries of Christ Church "thank you" for your continued giving during these times of uncertainty.*

*Your generous donations and pledges keep Christ Church moving forward.*

*Please continue to mail to Christ Episcopal Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753) or set up with your individual bank, a bill pay, to be directly submitted to Christ Church.*

*Please contact the Church Office via phone or email with any questions or concerns.*

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*The Priest invites the following prayer to be said by all:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please also read "Parish News" beginning on page 10 of this bulletin for additional information and news.*

### **THE BLESSING**

*The Priest blesses the people*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Hymnal 66

St Luke's Ordinariate Parish

1. *Come, thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.*
2. *Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*
3. *Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*
4. *By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Ttne all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Deacon dismisses the people*

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

## POSTLUDE

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (Wachet Auf)*

Philipp Nicolai, arr. Robert A. Hobby

Robert A. Hobby, *organ*

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## PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

**THANK YOU FR. RYAN FOR BEING TODAY'S PRIEST!** "Rev. Paetzold is a passionate social justice advocate and public theologian who has been a featured speaker at multiple events on issues of healthcare and immigration justice. Rev. Ryan Paetzold lives in Marlton, NJ with his art-educator wife, Katie, and son, Asher; their rather feisty, yet adorable cockatoo, Peach; as well as two very energetic Pomsy puppy sisters - Yuki and Nutmeg. Rev. Paetzold has led two nonprofit organizations, and has been a featured speaker at multiple events on social issues, including events on healthcare and immigration justice. He is pleased to be worshipping virtually with Christ Church this morning."



**LET'S SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS!** Christ Church will host a Christmas Carol Sing Along from the safety of our cars on Sunday, December 20th at 3:30 PM in the church parking lot. A list of Christmas Carols and their lyrics will be provided onsite, there will be an event/music director... we just need your voices to make this complete! Please sign up using this link (copy/paste in to your web browser) <https://signup.com/go/KEmZoHn> so we now how many cars to expect. When you arrive, please follow the parking lot attendant to the next appropriate parking space and remain in your vehicle. Let us safely Come together ...let us be Merry and Rejoice! in the birth of Christ our Savior. Festive hats and decorated vehicles welcome! No rain/snow date.

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES:** The Rev. Petrina Pyatt will officiate Christmas Eve and Day services. Please be on the look out for a Special Email Announcement next week with details of how you can join us from the safety of your home. Bulletins for each service will also be included in the announcement.

**DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** Reflecting on the importance of Mary's relationship with her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, author Kate Moorehead wrote, "I cannot stress enough the importance of companionship along the spiritual journey. This is more important than books or knowledge or creeds. Walking with someone, praying with someone, being truly honest with someone enables us to follow Christ. None of us can do this alone."

The **CHRISTMAS "GIVING" TREE** gift card collection is during the month of December. Christ Church hopes to collect additional gift cards so we may help more families in need during the Christmas holiday season. If you missed the Thanksgiving collection or wish to donate again, please mail or drop off to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753). For Christmas, suggested stores are Walmart and Target (please no Visa, etc.) as the majority of need is to provide a gift for a child or teen.

If you are currently not shopping at stores for health safety and still would like to contribute, checks payable to Christ Church with "Giving Tree" in the Memo are gladly accepted.

This Christmas will be different for each of us in various ways, as this very different year comes to a close. Many families in our church and community annually rely on other family and friends to have a "Merry" Christmas... due to Covid-19, such travel and larger gatherings will not be possible...and for many families, the loss of their job or the loss of their spouse who was the financial provided in the home, will make gift giving to children difficult or even impossible. Your gift card donations will help Christ Church provide Christmas blessings to such families in need this year. We "thank you" for your continued generosity this Christmas.

**THE FOOD PANTRY** (updated 12/18/20) is going strong and remains open to anyone in need every Tuesday from 9:30am - 12pm. We have a few more items we're in need of at the Food Pantry now. The following are items asked for that we are currently out of now: Tomato Soup — Canned Chicken — Canned Spam — Beets — Vegetable Oil — Sugar — Juice. If you would like to donate, please leave items on the table marked 'Donations' outside the lower door during Food Pantry open hours. Any questions, please text or leave a message for Claire at (732) 600-5709. Thank you! Please share and encourage any individual or Family in desperate need of food to visit us. **The Food Pantry will be Closed on December 29.**

**WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!** If you are able to help 1,2 (or more) Tuesday mornings per month, please also contact Claire. She is happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you!

**WEEKLY FINANCES:** During the year 2020, we have budgeted \$5,635 to come from pledges and loose offerings each week. For the week ending December 11, we received \$10,989.34 in pledges.

**2021 PLEDGES & OFFERING ENVELOPES:** To date, we have received 72 pledges for 2021, totaling \$155,204.84. Thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge cards. Offering envelopes for those of you who requested them on your pledge cards will be available for pickup at the door next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (December 21-23) between 9AM and 12noon.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2020** must be received by the Church Office on or before Sunday, January 3, 2021 in order to appear on your 2020 Contribution Statement. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Church.

## **CURRENT SCHEDULE OF CHRIST CHURCH SERVICES:**

### **SUNDAYS, 9:45 AM — LIVE WORSHIP TELE-SERVICE \***

*Recordings of this Service are posted on the Church Website and Facebook page for listening at your convenience. The bulletin for this service is emailed weekly.*

### **WEDNESDAYS, 10:00 AM — LIVE HEALING PRAYER TELE-SERVICE \***

*The bulletin for this service is emailed weekly.*

### **FRIDAYS, 7:00 AM – LIVE MORNING PRAYER TELE-SERVICE \***

*This service can be followed on page 80 of your Book of Common Prayer or at <https://www.bcponline.org/>*

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 3:00 PM — LIVE TELE-SERVICE \***

*A Service of Remembrance & Hope, for those who find holiday rejoicing especially difficult this year. The bulletin for this service was emailed on 12/17.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 7:00 PM — LIVE VIRTUAL SERVICE**

*Special email announcement early next week with specific details of how you can watch or listen to this service. The bulletin for this service will be emailed.*

### **CHRISTMAS DAY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 9:45 AM — LIVE TELE-SERVICE \***

*Stay tuned for more details. The bulletins for these services will be emailed.*

**FOR THOSE WHO PREFER LISTENING IN SPANISH,** The Sunday Gospel Reading, a Reflection and Prayers are available weekly on our Facebook page or WhatsApp. To join the WhatsApp group of Christ Church contact Deacon Jose: [jmcantos5@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcantos5@hotmail.com)

### **\* TO LISTEN TO A LIVE TELE-SERVICE:**

(It is suggested that you call-in a few minutes prior to the start time of a service)

Dial: 712-770-5505 and Enter Access Code: 189853#

If you have any difficulty, please email or call the church office (leave a voicemail).

**PHONE ANGEL MINISTRY** - The pandemic is presenting us many challenges. One particular challenge that people may be struggling with is a sense of isolation. Although Christ assures us that we are never alone, sometimes we need just to hear a familiar voice. Christ Church is forming the ministry of Phone Angels to be that familiar voice. Phone Angels will be calling people in the parish to make those connections and see how you are coping. If you are interested in becoming a Phone Angel please contact Deacon Ted or the Church office. Those who are interested will meet early in January to kick things off.

**2020 YEAR IN REVIEW:** Dear Parishioners & Friends, As I was reflecting upon the past year, I had an idea about putting together a kind of anthology with pictures, poems, stories even limericks about what we have all been experiencing during these very strange but unique times. I'm thinking about this project as a way to connect with one another by sharing some of our personal experiences. Feel free to offer anything that feels right. Pictures of a zoom bingo or of something you have painted or crocheted or created or of masked events you have participated in...Just think of this as a way to share with each other how we have all been coping through these many months. No pressure either. Our submissions are for us alone. Your story does not need to be a literary jewel. No grades will be handed out. For those of us who continue to be involved in various ministries, a picture or a story about how we continue to "be the church" in and for our community, would be a perfect offering. (garden, food pantry, cafe, trunk or treat, worship offerings, parking lot yard sale, IHN) ... our project will need a name. Please include ideas for naming this "thing" we are going to create. Finally, I'd like to put this altogether to share sometime in January, so if you can submit anything you'd like by December 21, that would be awesome. Please send written stories as a pdf if possible. My email is [dalechant@ymail.com](mailto:dalechant@ymail.com)  
Blessings and peace to all, Dale

**CONVERSATION & COMPLINE** continues every other Saturday (12/26, 1/9 ) at 7pm via Zoom.

In this sharing, interested members of the parish chat about a given topic, such as what books you're reading, TV shows you particularly enjoyed, or any blessings or challenges which unfolded for you in the last week... and then end the evening with compline. We would love to see you (and your favorite beverage!) at this virtual fellowship. The Discipleship Team also offers **BIBLE STUDY, FOLLOWED BY COMPLINE**, is every other Saturday (12/19, 1/2) at 7:00pm on Zoom. This is the same group that brings you "Conversation and Compline" (mentioned above) on alternate Saturdays. Now we will get together every Saturday and alternate between the two activities. event. **To Join the above mention Saturday Zoom Meetings:**

1. via internet with (option of both audio and visual) click use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87001507163>

**AND ENTER PASSCODE: 123963**

2. by telephone (audio only) Dial: 1-646-558-8656 AND enter **Meeting ID: 87001507163 and Passcode: 123963.**

Any questions, please contact Gail Miller [gailkeatingmiller@gmail.com](mailto:gailkeatingmiller@gmail.com) or 732 814-8357.

### **WEEKLY MONDAY EVENING VIRTUAL "COFFEE HOUR" FROM 7-8PM\***

Join this Zoom Meeting Here! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94333201452> AND ENTER PASSCODE: 169772

OR Dial by Phone (audio participation only): **1 646 558 8656**

And then enter the Meeting ID: **943 3320 1452 AND THEN ENTER PASSCODE: 169772**

For those not familiar with ZOOM, it is a video chat room/meeting space. If you have a phone or computer with video/camera functions, you will be able to join in and SEE the faces of your Church Family as well as show us your face. If you are not interested in being visible, having your video off is an option.

If you do not have or are not comfortable using a computer or internet, you can still participate by calling in on your phone. You will still be able to listen and speak to everyone else participating (but you will not have a visual).

We look forward to "seeing" your faces in these virtual Coffee Hours as we take this opportunity to say "Hello!" and "How are you?" If you need any help, please let us know!

**COVID-19 DISCRETIONARY FUND:** The COVID-19 Fund Committee has been considering the situation of low income families and the possibility of virtual, remote or hybrid learning this year. We want to make sure that all students have the resources to create a healthy and productive learning environment. If you know of a child that has a need for any such items (computer, high speed internet access, books, office supplies, etc.) please contact one of the clergy or leave a message at the church office. \*

While everyone's life has been impacted by the coronavirus, we have become aware of several people in our parish who have already lost their jobs and income and are in dire need of emergency assistance. Also, as this disaster continues, we expect that more jobs will be affected. For this reason we are setting up a Coronavirus Discretionary Fund. This fund will provide emergency assistance to people affected by this disaster. If you are in need of emergency assistance, please contact one of the clergy (Mother Petrina, Deacon Jose, or Deacon Ted). If you are able to contribute to this fund, please send a check to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753) with "Coronavirus Fund" in the memo. A restricted account has been established specifically for this purpose. May God bless us all. We will get through this together. \*\*As of December 10, the COVID-19 Fund stands at:

Contributions: \$23,155.50; Disbursements: \$15,279.64

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**415 Washington Street Toms River, New Jersey 08753**  
**[www.ChristChurchTomsRiver.org](http://www.ChristChurchTomsRiver.org)**