

# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY ♦ DECEMBER 6, 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. Petrina Pyatt

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Polly Moore

**ORGAN/PIANO:** Andrew Van Buskirk

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

**LECTOR:** Polly Moore

**INTERCESSOR:** Dale Chant

## PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Claude Goudimel

## OPENING HYMN

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Hymnal 75

The Schola Cantorum of St. Peter's in the Loop

- 1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!*
- 2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their king.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish, the works of men decay,  
The power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.*
- 3. But the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong;  
He stands in the midst of nations, and He will right the wrong.  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold;  
To pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.*

## 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* Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and 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**

Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The Word of the Lord.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*

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

**PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

*The following is read by the Lector*

**THE SECOND READING**

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand as able and face the Gospeler.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 1:1-8

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

*Priest* The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean

countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## **REFLECTION**

The Rev. Petrina M. Pyatt

## **HYMN**

*You Are Near*

Lift Every Voice & Sing 16

Dan Schutte, *vocals and guitar*

*Refrain:*

*Yahweh, I know you are near, standing always at my side.  
You guard me from the foe, and you lead me in ways everlasting.*

- 1. Lord, you have searched my heart, and you know when I sit and when I stand.  
Your hand is upon me protecting me from death, keeping me from harm. Refrain*
- 2. Where can I run from Your love? If I climb to the heavens You are there;  
If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea, still I'd find You there. Refrain*
- 3. You know my heart and its ways, you who formed me before I was born  
in the secret of darkness before I saw the sun in my mother's womb. Refrain*
- 4. Marvelous to me are Your works; how profound are Your thoughts, my Lord.  
Even if I could count them, they number as the stars, You would still be there. Refrain*

*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**

*Priest* 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 for Art & Judy Stevens, Elaine, 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 Alice Epps, Gail Naia, Maude Voigt, 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.*

*Priest* 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 Lector*

**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**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Hymnal 65

- 1. Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*
- 2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in ev'ry place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Priest dismisses the people*

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

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

## POSTLUDE

*March from Idomeneo*

W.A. Mozart

+ + +

## PARISH NEWS

(Titles in Red indicate a New or Updated Item)

**THANK YOU MOTHER PETRINA FOR BEING TODAY'S PRIEST!** Here is a brief bio on the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, Long-Term Supply Priest at Christ Church: "I was born in NYC and have been a cradle Episcopalian ever since. I am the eldest of two sisters and a brother, am widowed with two daughters and two granddaughters. I worked on Wall Street with a Securities Exchange Department. I then attended and graduated General Theological Seminary with a M. Div. degree. Following this I was ordained and became a hospice chaplain for several years in New Jersey. At this same time, I served as Assistant Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, NYC. Next, I was Rector of Our Merciful Savior Church in Penns Grove, NJ, from which I retired in January 2017. I have had a love affair with God and the Episcopal Church since I can remember, and have been involved in many church ministries: Altar Guild, Vestry member and warden, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Chalice Bearer, Lector, Sunday School teacher, home-bound visitor, and an outreach coordinator. And now, I am happily serving here at Christ Church and as a Supply priest where needed. I am still in love with God and the Church and pray this affair remains



**CHRISTMAS "GIVING" TREE:** As many of you know, during the month leading up to Christmas, Christ Church hopes to collect local store gift cards so we may help families in need during the holiday season. If you are able to provide any dollar amount gift card to one of the suggested stores for a potential family in need, please mail or drop off to Christ Church (415 Washington St. Toms River, NJ 08753). Here are the suggested stores: Shop Rite, Stop n Shop, Walmart, Target, Wawa, Quick Chek (please no Visa, etc.) 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 appreciated. 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 will make gift giving to children difficult or impossible. Your gift card donations will help Christ Church provide Christmas blessings to anyone in need this year. We "thank you" for your continued generosity this Christmas.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS TELE-SERVICE:** Christmas is not always a happy occasion, especially for those who have lost a loved one or who have suffered a tragedy of some kind. Life may look much different this year from last year. Loss of any kind is so difficult to handle during the holiday season, not to mention during a pandemic when you cannot safely be with others and receive hugs, etc.

For this reason, there will be a special “Blue Christmas” tele-service offered on Saturday, December 19 at 3pm. This is also the weekend of the winter solstice – the date of the longest night of the year. This Service of Solace marks the darkness, or the blue feelings that may come for some of us this time of year, especially this year. All are welcomed to call in to this service of prayers and remembering, grieving and acknowledgement of our losses. Join us...whether your loss is a loved one who died this year or many years ago...if it is the loss of your job, your home or a relationship...if it is just the abundance of not being able to participate and celebrate this entire pandemic year...join us, whatever your loss may be. Please invite relatives, friends or neighbors to participate as well; anyone who may be suffering a loss. This service is not just for Christ Church members. It is a special service offered to our community as a whole. To call in for the 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#

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES:** The Rev. Petrina Pyatt will officiate Christmas Eve and Day services. Details of these services will be announced soon. Please stay tuned and be on look out for announcements of how you can join us from the safety of your home.

**DEACON TED'S QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** On the occasion of his installation as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry preached, "Jesus came to continue a movement. Actually, Jesus picked up and took the movement of John the Baptist to a new level. Jesus came to show us the way - out of the darkness into the dream. God's on a mission to work through “our struggle and confusion,” as the Prayer Book says, to realize God's dream. My brothers and sisters, God has not given up on the world,..."

**THE FOOD PANTRY** (updated 12/2/20) 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: 2% Long Life Milk — Spam — Corned Beef Hash — Salt — Small Flour — Kid's Cereal — Honey Bunches of Oats Cereal — Crackers — Pineapple — Pasta Sauce — Canned Carrots — Canned Mushrooms — Vegetable Soups — Broths (any) — Ground Coffee (regular only). 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. 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!

## **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 will be emailed.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY, (TBA)**

*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).

**CONVERSATION & COMPLINE** continues every other Saturday (12/12, 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 (12/5, 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 3, the COVID-19 Fund stands at:**

**Contributions: \$23,055.50; Disbursements: \$15,279.64**

**BIRTHDAY CLUB:** We all have one day of the year that is just for us; it's our birthday. We may celebrate in grand style with family and friends singing that special song, eating cake and GETTING gifts; or we may choose to celebrate in a quiet fashion. However you choose to celebrate, it is YOUR special day. The Endowment and Stewardship Committees have come up with another way to celebrate this day. How about GIVING a gift that will KEEP ON GIVING? Each year on your birthday, we are inviting you to join the Birthday Club by writing a check in the amount of your age to Christ Church, which will be deposited into the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is invested with the diocese. By giving to this fund on your birthday, you will be contributing to the day-to-day life of the parish as well as the future of Christ Church. It is truly a gift that will keep on giving! How can you donate? Simply write out a check for the amount of your age, put Birthday Club in the memo and put it in the offering plate, mail it or drop it off to the office mailbox. So that we can all watch our gifts grow, we will update you on what we have received. We look forward to celebrating each of your birthdays! The total for the month of November was \$254 (2 birthdays)!

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