

Saint Christopher Episcopal Church
Fairborn, Ohio
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

First Sunday of Advent



Welcome!

Be thoughtful, be silent, and be reverent,
for this is the house of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another during fellowship
So we may become friends and be strangers no longer.

December 3, 2017

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Ten o'clock in the morning

Sunday School - 9:15 AM and 10:00 AM

Nursery Care - 10:00 AM

- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts, *
Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, *
Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

All as are able, standing

The Gradual Hymn: Hymn # 66.....“Come Thou Long-expected Jesus” vs. 1-2

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

The Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

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

The Gradual Hymn: Hymn # 66.....“Come Thou Long-expected Jesus” vs. 3-4

The Homily **The Rev. Elaine Silverstrim**

The Nicene Creed *All as are able, standing.*

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

All as are able, standing

Brothers and sisters, let us appeal to God, saying, “Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.”

Restore your holy catholic Church, O Lord God of hosts. Give us eyes to see that together we are not lacking any spiritual gift. Strengthen us that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore justice throughout the world, O Lord God of hosts. You work for those who wait for you. Come to the help of the oppressed and the needy. We pray for those recovering from earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, and acts of violence in our nation and around the world.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore your creation, O Lord God of hosts. Awesome are your deeds and wonderful are the works of your hands.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore peace to our land, O Lord God of hosts. Make us mindful of our interdependence. Help us to respect the dignity of our neighbors.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore the weak to strength, O Lord God of hosts. Come quickly with healing in your wings, especially remembering

Judy, Thom, Carol, Toni, Daphne, Florence, Warren, Pat, Sandi, Joe, Frank, Zada,
Melody, Camden, Kelly, Jan, Bob and Doris, Vicky, Jim and Ann,
and for all those who lost their health and freedom through addiction,
and for all those who care for them.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore our hope, O Lord God of hosts. Though we all fade like a leaf, still you are faithful. You have called your people into the fellowship of your Son forever.

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

Restore our hope, O Lord God of hosts, in all those matters that concern us, especially the mission and well-being of the Church of St. Christopher's,

for those held in captivity against their will and those who are martyred
for the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad,
and for those whose faith is compromised.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Silence

Show the light of your countenance,

And we shall be saved.

*(The Prayers of the People are taken from Praying the Scriptures, Litanies for Sunday Worship,
by Jeremiah D. Williamson)*

The Confession and Absolution

All as are able, kneeling.

The Celebrant says

Let the desert rejoice,
and let the dry land be glad,
for God has come to save us.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing.
Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All as are able, standing.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Prayer for a Birthday

(said in unison)

**Watch over your child N., O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be.
Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and
in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Prayer for an Anniversary

(said in unison)

**Almighty God, who declared at the beginning that it is not good for humankind to be alone; we thank
you that, in your loving providence, you have led this couple (N. and N.) into the covenant of marriage
and have brought them to this ____ anniversary. May you bestow upon them your abundant grace in the
year to come. May their wills be knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they
continue to live in love and joy with one another all the days of their life: through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

*The Manger Procession of Children with
Crèche figurines and with ornaments for the Jesse tree.*



*The Healing Prayers are offered at the back of the church
during Holy Communion.*

The Liturgy of the Table



The Celebrant gives the offertory sentence.

The Music at the Offertory “How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”
A traditional English Carol, arr. Marie Pooler

All as are able, standing

The Doxology Hymn # 76: “On Jordan’s bank” verse 5

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

The Great Thanksgiving

All as are able, standing.

The Sursum Corda S 120 “Lift up your hearts”

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(sing in unison)

The Sanctus

S-130 "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

All as are able, kneeling, or standing.

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

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

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

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

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

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, *(in unison)*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of reflective silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem: S-164 "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Administration of Communion

The Celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

~ All are welcome to the Lord’s Table: open to all who come, so all may be fed. ~

- The Communion Hymns:**
- # 56 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1-3
 - # 60 “Creator of the Stars of Night”
 - # 53 “Once He Came in Blessing”

The Post Communion Prayer

All as are able, kneeling.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray

(in unison)

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant says

May God strengthen us to the end;
May Christ draw near to our very gates;
May the Holy Spirit awaken our spirits;
and the blessing of God Almighty, The Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit be with you for ever more.
Amen.

The Recessional Hymn # 58 “Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending”

The Announcements

The Dismissal

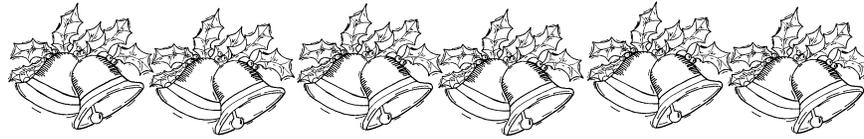
Celebrant Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Special Music





ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ☆ **Altar flowers Sunday December 3** – given by Telesa Learn in memory of Muriel Markley.
- ☆ **Sunday School Schedule**
 - **9:15 Sunday School:** Third Grade and up.
 - **10:00 a.m. Sunday School** for Pre-K to Second Grade.
- ☆ **Sunday December 3** – First Sunday of Advent.
**There will be a reception for Muriel Markley, here at St. Christopher's, after the 2 pm service at Tobias.
- ☆ **Tuesday December 12** – 6:30 – 8:00 Girl Scouts Fairborn Service Unit meeting.
- ☆ **Thursday December 14** – 6:30 Youth Commission Meeting.
- ☆ **Sunday December 17** – Discretionary Fund offering
- ☆ **Sunday December 17** – ECW used book sale
- ☆ **Sunday December 17** – **11:30 Vestry meeting**
- ☆ **Sunday December 17** – **5:00 pm ECW Family Christmas Party.**
- ☆ **Weekly Healing Service** – Tuesdays at noon a Healing Service with Holy Communion is held in the church proper. The service is open to anyone who wants to attend.
- ☆ **Thursdays – 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**
- ☆ **Check sign-up sheets** – On the counter in Christopher's Corner there are sign-up sheets for **altar flowers**, sanctuary candles, fellowship, ECW activities, Prayer Chain, etc. *** **Please note: our cost for Altar Flowers is now \$25, so we are asking for a \$25 donation.**
- ☆ **OUTREACH** –Remember **Box Tops for Education**. Please continue with donations for FISH; they need shampoo, tooth brushes, cereal, peanut butter, deodorant, toilet paper, sugar, and other Food items. And feed your change to our bank – for 2 cents a meal.
- ☆ **Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email Joyce D'Allessandris to activate the Prayer Chain.
e-mail: dallessa@aol.com, phone: 254-0005.
- ☆ **The December Lantern** – is online at stchristophersfairborn.org.
A printed copy is available upon request, or a copy can be sent by email.
- ☆ We are still collecting used printer cartridges. They can be recycled at the office supply stores. There is a plastic container in Christopher's corner for you to fill!!



Sign up for Christmas Poinsettias:

There is a sign-up sheet for Christmas Poinsettias in St. Christopher's Corner. Donations for the flowers will be \$12 each. Please sign up "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for". If you desire to take the plant home, indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Poinsettias will then be distributed after Epiphany. Please order and pay for the plants by Sunday December 17. We will only purchase the number of plants that have been pre-paid.



~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

**“Living the Great Commandment by Ministering
to Our Neighbors in Body, Mind and Spirit.”**

Celebrant	The Rev. Elaine Silverstrim
Worship Leader	Ron D’Allessandris
Chalice Bearer	James Lester
Acolyte	Iyabo Eguaroje
First Reader	Melody Kelley
Second Reader	Cindy Feltz
Ushers	Ann Foster, Gordon Hermann
Healing Prayers	Joyce D’Allessandris
Greeters	Andrea and Alan Haberecht
Altar Guild	Judy Brainard, Betty Crichton
Tellers	Ed Smith, Gordon Walbroehl
Fellowship	Ann Foster
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavely: 937-478-3687 (C)

ST. CHRISTOPHER EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE REV. GREGORY P. SAMMONS, SUPPLY PRIEST

Contact Information: gpsammons@gmail.com

For Pastoral emergencies only (hospitalizations, etc.)

419-350-9518

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 2 PM