

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church
Fairborn, Ohio



4th Sunday
in Advent

December 23, 2018

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Ten o'clock in the morning

Adult Forum – 9:00 AM

Sunday School for Youth and Young Adults – 9:30 AM

Nursery Care, Sunday School for Pre-K through Middle School – 10 AM

Prelude “Amid the Roses, Mary Sits” Max Reger
and “Sleep Well Little Children”

Melody Kelley

The Processional Hymn: # 74..... “Blest Be the King Whose Coming”

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect for Purity

(in unison)

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise: Hymn #56 . “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verses 7 & 8

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 First Reading.....Micah 5:2-5a

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15 The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second ReadingHebrews 10:5-10

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

The Gradual Hymn: # 54..... “Savior of the Nations, Come!” vs 1-2

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

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

Lector: Have mercy on all captives and prisoners, O God. Remember them and come to their aid. Fill our hearts with mercy. May we learn to forgive even as you forgive us.

Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Lector: Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People: **And come to help us.**

Lector: Hear the prayers of your people, O God of hosts. May those who have fed on the bread of tears, feed instead on your strength, O Lord. Show them the light of your countenance and be their salvation. Hear our prayers for those in pain and distress: especially

Joanne, Carol, Toni, Lynda, Florence, Warren, Edwin, Jim and Ann,
Chester, Judy, Bob, John Z, Betty Jean and Mark, Melissa, Bob,
Melody, Zada, Linda, Betty, Camden, and Deb, and for all those who lost their health and freedom through addiction.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence

Lector: Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People: **And come to help us.**

Lector: Great Shepherd, gather your flock into your eternal kingdom. Bless the dying, embrace the dead, and comfort those who mourn. Especially we remember this day: children and loved ones, those who have lost their lives to violence, and those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country.

Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin // 25, on 11/27/18, of PA
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Michael Emond // 39, on 11/27/18, of WA
Capt. Andrew Patrick Ross // 29, on 11/27/18, of VA
Sgt. Jason Mitchell McClary // 24, on 12/3/18, of PA

Silence

Lector: Stir up your strength, O Lord;

People: **And come to help us.**

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Prayers for Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



The Celebrant gives the offertory sentence.

The Music at the Offertory “Still, Still, Still” Joyce Bacak

The Doxology

Hymn #66 “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus” vs. 1-2

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” S-125

(sing in unison)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

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.

*Prayers for healing are offered at the back of the church during Holy Communion
or at the front of the church after the service*

The Communion Hymns: # 53 “Once He Came in Blessing”
60 “Creator of the Stars of Night”
475 “God Himself Is With Us”

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray:

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

The Blessing

The Recessional Hymn: #437 “Tell Out, My Soul”

Announcements

The Dismissal

Minister: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude “The Holy and the Ivy” traditional





ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS

- ☆ **Sunday December 23** – 4th Sunday for FISH donations.
- ☆ **Sunday December 23** – Fourth Sunday of Advent. following the service, Luncheon in Parish hall, with **Greening of the Church**, afterwards
- ☆ **Monday December 24** – Christmas Eve Service:
Music at 4:00 p.m., Service at 4:30 p.m.
- ☆ **Tuesday December 25** – CHRISTMAS DAY Holiday – Church office closed.
- ☆ **Wednesday December 26** – Deadline for January 2019 Lantern articles and info.
- ☆ **Friday/Saturday December 28/29** – Girl Scouts Movies and overnight
- ☆ **Monday December 31** – 9 p.m. ECW/M New Year’s Eve Party!
- ☆ **Monday December 31** – Youth and Young Adult overnight.
- ☆ **Monday January 1** – NEW YEAR’S DAY Holiday. Church office closed.
- ☆ **Saturday January 5** – 8:30-noon Community Blood Drive.
- ☆ **Sunday January 20** – Annual meeting and Potluck.
- ☆ **Weekly Healing Service** – Tuesdays at noon Healing Service with Holy Communion.
- ☆ **Thursdays – 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**
- ☆ **Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email Joyce D'Allessandris to activate the Prayer Tree. email: rjdallessandris@gmail.com, phone: 254-0005.
- ☆ **The December Lantern** is available at stchristophersfairborn.org. A printed copy is available upon request.



ECW/M New Year’s Eve party. We will have games, food, party hats and champagne, both alcoholic and not. The party starts at 9 and will be over shortly after midnight. Please bring a snack to share. The cost will be \$5 apiece to cover the cost of drinks and party supplies. Please join us.

Coming in January 2019
Community Blood Drive at St. Christopher’s on
Saturday, January 5, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Please watch for additional information.

~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

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

Those Who Serve	
Celebrant	The Rev. John S. Paddock
Worship Leader	David Christmas
Chalice Bearers	Toni Olgeaty
Acolyte	Alan Haberecht
First Reader	John Stauffer
Second Reader	Paul Reichert
Ushers	Iyabo Eguaroje, James Lester
Healing Prayers	tbd
Greeters	Darlene and Gordon Walbroehl
Nursery	Stauffer
Altar Guild	Judy Brainard, Betty Crichton
Tellers	Susan Brainard, John Stauffer
Fellowship	Church Luncheon
Director of Music Ministries	Melody Kelley
Organist Emeritus	Connie Klarer
Senior Warden	Deb Snavelly: 937-478-3687 (C)

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE REV. JOHN S. PADDOCK, Priest-in-Charge

**Contact Information: johnpaddock@mac.com
937-470-7123**

CHURCH SECRETARY – KAY MITCHELL

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