



# CHRIST CHURCH

*Among the Oaks*

December 1, 2024 9:00 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent

Celebrating St. Andrew, the Apostle

The Holy Eucharist from Iona Prayerbook

A second site worship center for Christ Church,  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

## Opening Hymn

## *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines of the hymn. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The score is presented in a clean, professional format with clear notation and legible text.

# Welcome Guests and Newcomers

*Welcome to Christ Church Among the Oaks. This is a multi-denominational congregation, made up of friends, neighbors, people who are new to our area, and those seeking something a little different and a little more meaningful in their spiritual and worship life. We feel called to serve our local community and as you will hear today, we focus on six local outreach agencies that do the hard work that Jesus taught us. A short description of each Outreach Partner is in the back of this bulletin. We welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have about our church and our work in the community! We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra and thank their leadership for the freedom to be a unique, mission-focused worship community.*

**Servant Board:** Paula Allmen, Mike Cleary, Steve Harrison, Claire Heusinger, Deborah Pearsall, Stan Sundermeyer, and Jenny Weeks, warden.

**Presider:** The Rev. Sandy Tull

**Musician:** Rachel Kamps

*We encourage our guests to fill out a welcome card today!*

*We are glad you are with us and look forward to worshipping with you often.*

**Prelude**

*Medley*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**The Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

**First Candle - The Candle of Hope in Christ's Coming**

*Leader*

On this first Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Hope.

People of God: awake!

The day is coming soon that you shall see God face to face.

Remember the ways and works of God.

God calls you out of the darkness to walk in the light of his coming.

You are God's children. Lord make us one as we walk with Christ today and forever.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## Opening Prayer

*Leader* The Lord be with you

**All** **And also with you**

Let us pray

Creator of the World, eternal God,

**We have come from many places for a little while.**

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us

**We have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, go-between God

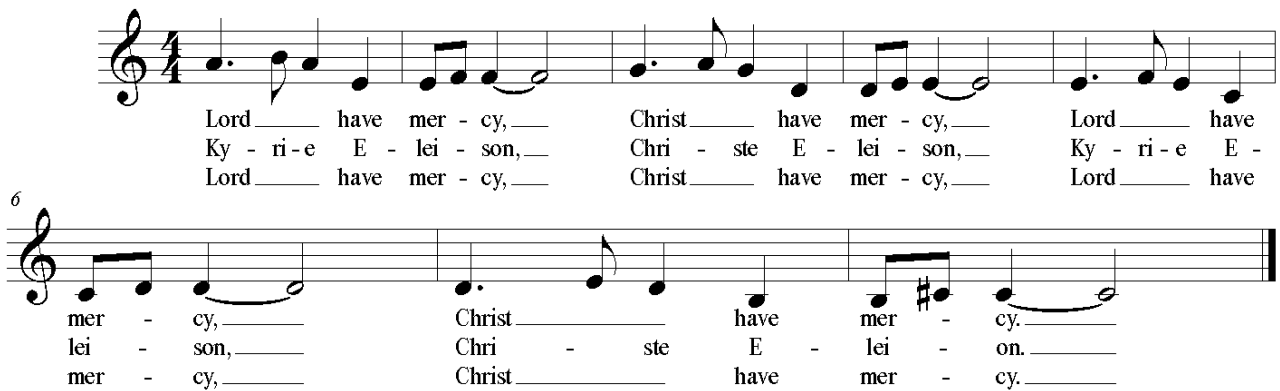
**We have come on journeys on our own, to a place where journeys meet.**

So here in this shelter house, let us take time together, for when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate

**In your name Three in One God, Pattern of Community. Amen.**

Come Lord Jesus be our guest, stay with us. With friend and stranger, with young and old, be among us. Come close to us that we may be close to you, Forgive us that we may forgive one another, Renew us so that where we have failed, we may begin again. **Amen.**

## Kryie



Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have  
Ky - ri - e E - lei - son, Chri - ste E - lei - son, Ky - ri - e E -  
Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have  
mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.  
lei - son, Chri - ste E - lei - on.  
mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

*Please be seated for the hearing of God's word.*

## First Reading

*Lector* A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 25

*Lector* To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;

**People** do not let me be put to humiliated;  
do not let my enemies triumph over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord;  
And teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I trusted all day long.

Remember O, Lord, your compassion and steadfast love,  
for they have been from everlasting.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
Remember me according to your love, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he teaches sinners in His way.

He guides the humble in what is right,  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness  
To those who keep His covenant and his testimonies.

## Second Reading

*Lector* A reading from Paul's first Letter to Thessalonians

3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Song

### *Soon and Very Soon*



1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

## The Gospel

*Gospeler*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

21:25-36

**People**

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**



Jesus said “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*Gospeler*      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**Homily**      The Rev. Sandy Tull

## **Meditative Interlude**

### **Rune of Hospitality**

*Leader*      Let us stand and say together the words of an old Celtic rune of hospitality:

**All**      **We saw a stranger yesterday we put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place music in the listening place and, with the sacred name of the triune God, He blessed us and our house, our cattle, and our dear ones.**

*Leader*      As the lark says in her song.

**All**      **Often, often, often goes Christ in the strangers guise.**

Thanks be to you O Christ

**For the many gifts you have bestowed upon us each day and each night, each sea and land, each weather fair, each calm, each wind.**

Each night and each day may we remember your mercy given so gently and so generously.

**Each thing we have received, from you it came each thing for which we hope from your love it will come each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty each thing we ask, comes of your disposing.**

Oh, God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows

**Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear, may be between ourselves and this world. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Prayers of the People**

*Leader* This day in this place of welcome- we pray for all who are not in a safe place, those left behind and cannot find their way.

O Christ, we bow before you in the shelter-house of prayer and once more give thanks. Together we gather, celebrating your presence in creation around us, in the flowing air, in the fertile earth, and in the swift running tides in Iona (and in our local community) and elsewhere.

Together we gather glad of these strong walls which have given refuge to the broken and the poor through time, aware of the countless prayers of joy and of suffering that have been uttered in this place.

O Christ, you have inspired the journeying of your people to this sanctuary and light. Grace us with your continued presence and inspire us to be the people of hospitality.

Christ in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

O Jesus, you sat at table with the betrayed and rejected of Palestine. We pray for those today who do not feel welcomed in their daily lives.

Christ in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

O Jesus you identified with the naked and those who had no place to lay their heads, We pray for the thousands of homeless men and women, old and young in our city and elsewhere.

Christ in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

O Jesus you belonged to a refugee family. We pray for the millions of displaced people in our world, and for the opening of borders to the nationless.

Christ in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

*Silence*



O Jesus, you cared for your companions and for the little ones who surrounded you. We pray for people whom have been left behind, for those to whom God has given us special care.

Christ in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

O Jesus you prayed that we might be one as you and the Father are one. We pray that during this week we may feel at home with one another and with you in our midst.

Christ in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

O Jesus, send your blessings upon our ministry partners, St. Gerard's Campus, St. Francis House and Port in the Storm, South Woods Elementary, Learn to Read, Pie in the Sky, and Council on Aging. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them, and in all whom they serve.

Christ in your mercy

**All** **Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

### **Prayers for the Hurting World**

**All** **God of peace and justice, we pray this day for all peoples around the world who are suffering from war, famine, floods, fires, and from other devastations. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow: that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power: that they may have wisdom and discernment to aid people in distress and that they be guided by compassion in their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children who are at risk and live in fear: that you would hold and protect them. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

*Leader* And teach us now, O Christ, to pray as brothers and sisters

**All:** **Our Father which art in heaven hallowed by thy name  
thy kingdom come thy will be done- on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*Continuing together let us say:*

**You have been our strength O, God. At the beginning of the day you brought us from darkness into light. At the ending of the day, you lead us from busyness into stillness. In earth's cycles and seasons you offer us new life and fresh beginnings. Be our strength this day and the strength of new beginnings in our world. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

## **Birthday Prayer**

Watch over your child, 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* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Offertory**

*To make an offering online visit [ccpvb.org/give](http://ccpvb.org/give)  
or use the QR code at the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your support.*

## **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* Let us pray

*Celebrant continues*

Among friends gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body which is given for you".

In the same way he took the wine, and giving thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood.

Take this and share it. I will drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God". So now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and this wine; the ordinary things of this world, through which God will bless us. And Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also celebrate God's goodness.

**Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought forth bread from the earth.**

**Blessed are you O God for you have created the fruit of the vine.**

In the beginning you watered the earth that man and woman might have food and drink. You gave your servant, Sarah, bread to strengthen her family on the journey and wine to make them glad.

You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness,

You gave Mary and Jesus their daily share.

And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as sons and daughters. And so with all our sisters and brothers before us and beside us, we praise you from our hearts for your unending greatness.

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, as we do in this place what you did in the upstairs room, breathe your spirit upon us, and unto this bread and wine, that they may be heaven's food and drink for us, renewing, sustaining and making us whole, and that we may be your body on earth loving and caring for the world. **Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant continues*

Look, the bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

## **Distribution of Communion**

*All baptized persons, including children, are invited to receive Communion.*

**Communion Music**      *As the Deer*

As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after thee  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.

*Refrain*      You alone are my strength, my shield  
To you alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee

You're my friend and you are my brother  
Even though you are a king  
I love you more than any other  
So much more than anything. *Refrain*

I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joygiver  
and the apple of my eye. *Refrain*

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Celebrant*      As the poor widow welcomed Elijah,

**All**              **let us be open today the richness and miracle in meeting.**

As Abraham and Sarah welcomed passing strangers,  
let us entertain the possibility of angels in disguise.  
Let our eyes be opened  
that we may recognize in our neighbor, the divine presence of Christ. **Amen.**

*Celebrant:*      On our hearts and on our houses

**All**              **The Blessing of God**

*Celebrant*      On our coming and on our going

**All**              **The Peace of God**

*Celebrant*      In our life and on our believing

**All**              **The Love of God**

*Celebrant*      At our end and new beginning

**All**              **The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**

### **Sending the Eucharistic Visitors**

*When present, Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned to carry the Consecrated Gifts of Holy Communion to those who are unable, due to illness or impairment, to join us for Sunday services.*

*Celebrant*      In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**People**        **We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

## The Blessing

The blessing of Martha's welcome,

The blessing of Mary's listening;

The blessing of action,

The blessing of reflection.

The blessing of God who is in each of these, and in each of us, be with us all. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

## Dismissal

*Celebrant* Alleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in Christ's name doing Christ's work in the world.

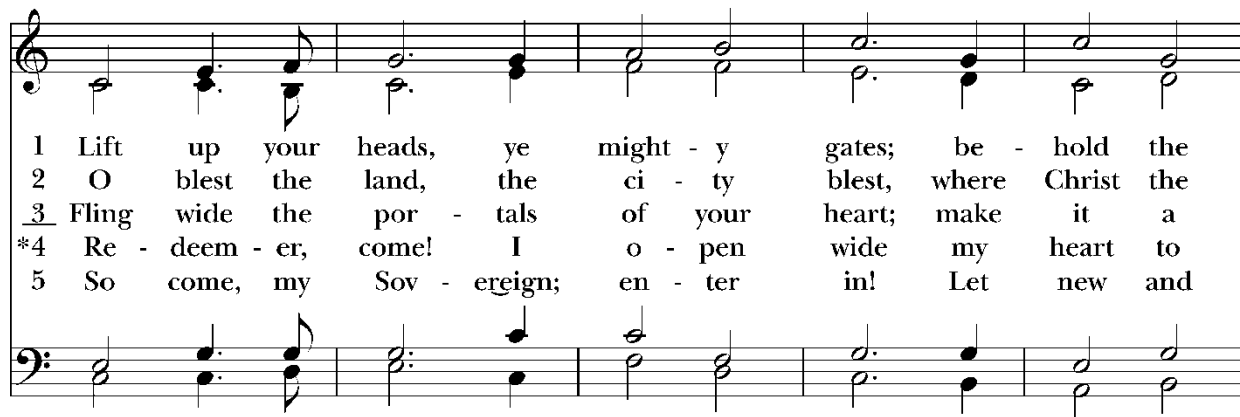
**People** Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Postlude

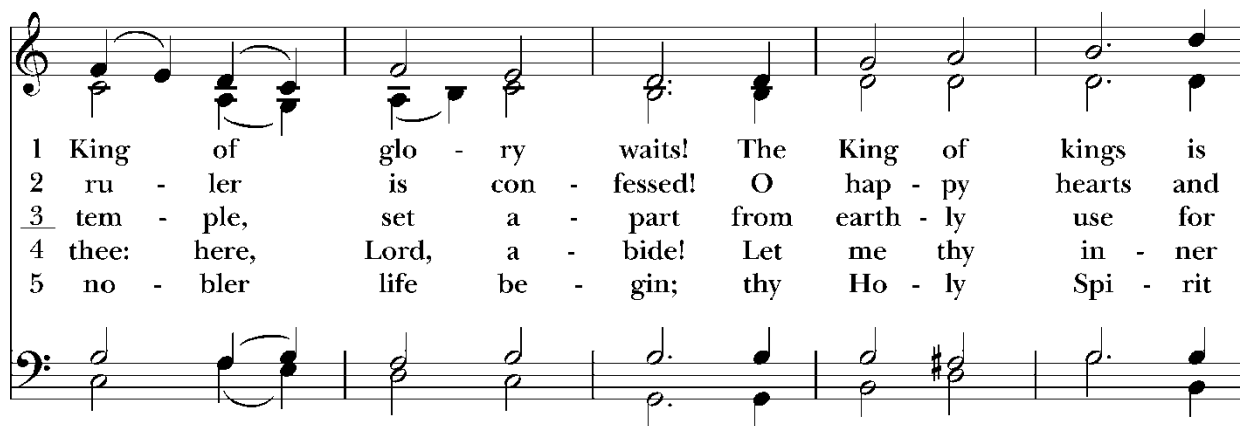
*Medley*

# Closing Hymn

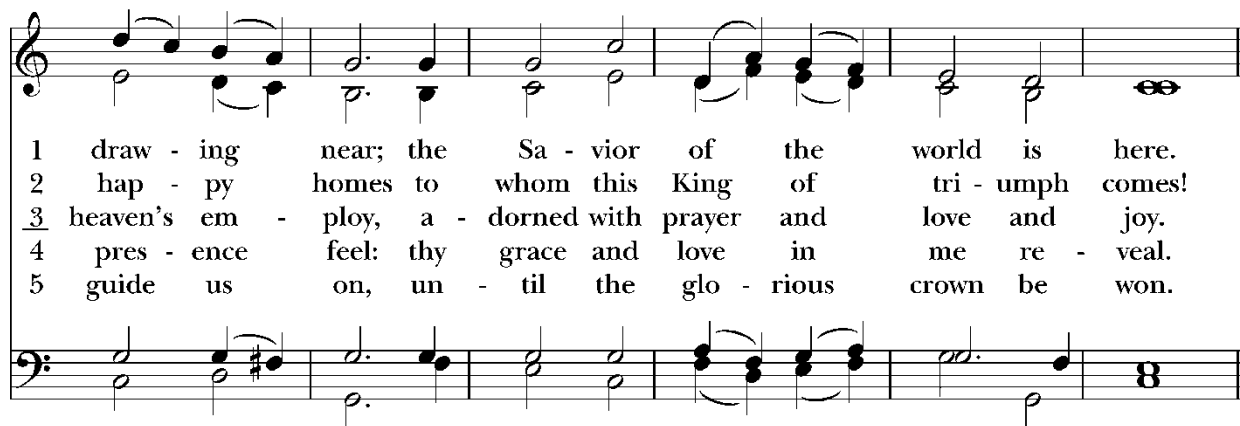
## *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 \*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and



1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bid! Let me thy in - ner  
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit



1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

# Announcements

## Celebrating the season of Advent at the Oaks

**Sunday, December 8** - our Second Sunday Social will be transformed into our holiday brunch. This year we will be asking everyone to consider bringing a "brunch" dish to share. Fruits, salads, hot items, cold items, desserts....whatever you enjoy preparing and serving to friends and family. We will provide plates, tableware, cups, and beverages.

**Wednesday December 11** - our Blue Christmas service begins at 6:00 PM here at the NSIA community center. This special service recognizes that this is not a season of joy for everyone and is a time to acknowledge any sad feelings people may experience at Christmas time, and offer them up to God. Reflect on the past and offer those feelings to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child. We pray you find comfort in knowing you are not alone.

## Christmas Eve Celebration

**Tuesday, December 24** - Our Christmas Eve celebration will take place at 2:00 PM here at the Oaks. As always, lots of carols with beautiful music and guest musicians and a traditional worship service preparing us for Christmas Day and the hope we feel in remembering the birth of Christ. Be sure to invite your neighbors, friends and family to celebrate with us!

## Christmas Season

**Sunday, December 29** - The first Sunday of Christmas is a unique day in the life of the Oaks as again we will use our worship time to celebrate our church and our church family. We will "circle up" and discuss what is meaningful about our worship and what may need to be changed, how we can support and love each other even more, how we can introduce our church to more neighbors, and share communion with each other as disciples of Christ. The comments from this service last year were extremely positive so please plan to participate.

## Offerings Online

Forgot to bring cash or write a check??? We now have a QR code in the bulletin for safe, quick, and easy online giving. You will be automatically directed to the Christ Church giving page where you can enter your information one time and it will be saved for future giving.





# Our Outreach Liaisons

*So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

*James 2:17*

## **Learn to Read**

Improving literacy for over 200 individuals each year at no cost to the student. Improved reading skills lead to better paying jobs, higher levels of education, healthier lifestyles, and a better overall community.

Elaine Reagan ereaganpvb@gmail.com

Mary Jane Dillon dillonmj43@gmail.com.

## **St. Gerard Campus**

A non-profit maternity home and Christian high school for pregnant teenagers, promoting empowerment through education and strong Christian values.

Paula Allmen pallmen@icloud.com

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com

## **St. Francis Housing Crisis Center / Port in the Storm**

Engaging those experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and a viable plan for their future by providing a safe, stable environment, access to essential services, and supportive connections.

Cynthia King cyndiking@gmail.com

Jack Tull tulljs@msn.com

## **Council on Aging**

Provides the opportunity for every person in St. Johns County to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life choices within a strong, healthy community.

Sharon Carlson xtraice0922@gmail.com

## **Pie in the Sky Community Alliance of St. John County**

Pie in the Sky is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization providing hope by serving with dignity and respect to alleviate hunger and social isolation through the home delivery of healthy fresh produce to low-income senior citizens.

Dale Hatcher dalenhatcher@hotmail.com.

## **South Woods Elementary**

Creating a secure community that will instill in all students a desire for academic excellence, fostering the development of caring, productive citizens.

Margo Cleary margcleary@aol.com