



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30 PM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SPACE

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

400 SAN JUAN DRIVE, PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082

CCPVB.ORG INFO@CCPVB.ORG

Blue Christmas

Welcome to Christ Church

The Christmas season is often considered a joyful time, celebrating the birth of Jesus and the light of Christ coming into the world. But for many it's more complicated. For those who are going through loss, illness or transition it can be particularly challenging. People may feel isolation and grief, or a sense of being out of sync with the world. This can be really hard when all around are the sights and sounds of the holidays.

To help people acknowledge the difficulties this time of year can present, we offer this service as a way of making space for both grief and hope. The "Blue Christmas" service became popular in the 90's as a way for people to share their sadness and to offer mutual support. It has grown ever since.

As the shadows lengthen and the days grow dim, our hearts find refuge in the One who is the light of the world: "The Lord God, who was, who is, and who is to come."

Having intentional time as a community to pray, light candles, and be together is a way to honor our loved ones and to honor what we're feeling.

We are people of hope, and this is represented by the advent wreath that we light every Sunday in Advent. We see the light grow with each candle as we progress toward the Savior's birth and this is meant to be a symbol for each of us, *"the people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine."* Isaiah 9:2

Our prayer for every one of us tonight is that whatever you are going through, you will know that you are not alone – that you have others walking beside you and that we can count on light of God to guide us in the days ahead.

*Welcome to Christ Church, Ponte Vedra Beach! We are delighted to have you worship with us.
In order to prepare for this service, we ask that you silence your phone. Thank you!*

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Do You Know (A Campfire Story, an Advent Musical)
Lyrics and Music by Rachel Kamps

Please stand.

First Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

Opening Sentences

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives all our sins.**

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of Mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves and our families who live with painful experiences of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who entered the world at Christmas to share our life in sorrow and joy, death and new birth, despair, and promise. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Reading

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

9:2-4, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (Read in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Please stand.

Gospel Song

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
 O tidings of comfort and joy!

'Fear not, then,' said the angel, 'Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.' *Refrain*

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:1-7

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Reflection

The Reverend Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse

Please stand.

The Prayers of the People

Leader In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask God for what we need. We pray, as well, for ourselves as we participate in whatever way we can this Christmas.

All are invited to offer their prayers aloud or silently.

God, hear our prayer,

All And in your mercy answer.

For our families and friends that they may know love and peace and happiness in you and that they may continue to help and support us.

All are invited to offer their prayers aloud or silently for families and friends.

God, hear our prayer,

All And in your mercy answer.

For those we love who have died. For all the losses we know, that all may be redeemed by your resurrection promise.

All are invited to offer their prayers aloud or silently for those who have died.

God, hear our prayer,

All And in your mercy answer.

For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas angels, to come throughout the whole world.

All are invited to offer their prayers aloud or silently for our region and world.

God, hear our prayer,

All And in your mercy answer.

Celebrant God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these, your people. Grant to all, especially all who are bereaved and saddened this Christmas, the blessing of grace and peace. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Candle Lighting

We continue our prayers through the lighting of votive candles as a symbol of our love and concern for others. During instrumental music, you are welcome to light a single candle as a symbol of your prayers.

Prayers for Healing

Individuals and households are invited to come to the clergy for prayers for strength and healing.

Welcome and Announcements

*To make an offering online visit
ccpvb.org/give or scan this code.
Thank you for your support.*

SCAN ME



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Some Children See Him

Wihla Hutson and Alfred S. Burt

Some children see him lily white,
The baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see him lily white,
With tresses soft and fair.
Some children see him bronzed and brown,
The lord of heaven to earth come down.
Some children see him bronzed and brown,
With dark and heavy hair.

Some children see him almond-eyed,
This Saviour whom we kneel beside.
Some children see him almond-eyed,
With skin of yellow hue.
Some children see him dark as they,
Sweet Mary's son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they,
And, ah! They love him, too!

The children in each different place
Will see the baby Jesus face
Like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace,
And filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing
And with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant king.
This love that's born tonight!

Please stand for the Presentation.

The Presentation

**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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues

It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise, Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light that shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word.

So with the angels who sing “Glory” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues.

We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit's love and a woman's body and blood.
We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and
thus become one with you.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends.
He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat.
This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took a
cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying: "This is my life-blood given for you.
Do this to remember me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All together.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant continues

O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these
material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ,
and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things
through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now
and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Celebrant continues

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been here long; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please join us at God's table.

All people, including children, are invited to receive Communion.

If you would prefer not to take Communion but would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

Gluten-free wafers are also available.

Music During Communion

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
The promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray

All **Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table. May the nourishment we have received enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here. Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough, whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak, keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love. Amen.**

The Blessing

Please stand.

Last Hymn

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord

People

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

What Child Is This?

Rachel Kamps, *Musician*

Anne McKennon, *Flutist*



Sunday. Every Day.

Christ Church serves the parish and our community throughout the week in addition to our Sunday services. These are a few of the upcoming and ongoing events you are invited and encouraged to check out, come and see what's happening on our Ponte Vedra campus and throughout the world.

Sunday Service Schedule and bulletins are available at ccpvb.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preschool Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2:00 pm

Contemporary Worship Space

Join us for a special Christmas Eve service designed especially for families with preschoolers! Enjoy a child-friendly and interactive telling of the Gospel story with Holy Communion.

Children's Christmas Eve Pageant – Dec 24 4:00 pm in the Church - Ages 4-6th Grade

Join us for the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant as we share the Christmas story and celebrate together. Kids will dress in costume and share the good news of the birth of Christ. The service will include Holy Communion. All are welcome—arrive early for seating. If your child would like to participate in the pageant, sign up online at bit.ly/ccpvbpageant

The Christmas Worship Schedule is now available. Scan here for the full schedule or visit us online at ccpvb.org.



Visit from the Magi December 24-January 5

On Christmas Eve, three families will be leaving with one of the three kings, along with a devotional journal.

The hosting family may have a devotional time with their king and can add their thoughts, memories, and/or a drawing or photo to the journal, before passing the king and his book along to a new household. The kings will return to Christ Church on Jan 5 at the Epiphany Service! Follow #3kingsccpvb on Instagram to keep up with their journeys.

Epiphany Service + Return of the Magi

Sunday, January 5

5:00 p.m. Main Sanctuary and Courtyard

This family-friendly service will feature the Three Kings as they make their return to Christ Church, followed by candle lighting, Kings' Cake, and the burning of the greens.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

For more details, please visit ccpvb.org/connect/learning-and-formation

Thursday, December 19

Blessings in a Backpack - 8:30 am in the Dining Room

Join the team packing food items to be distributed to local children at the end of the school week. Contact Sharon Kehoe for information at biggieinga@aol.com.



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Tai Chi - 10:00-11:00 am
in Room F 106, F+A Building
Contact: Daniel Jones at
djonesdragon@gmail.com or Deacon Leila at
leila@ccpvb.org

Lighthouse Youth Community

Every first and third Thursday
7:00 - 8:30 pm, Youth House
This nonreligious gathering is open to
LGBTQIA+ middle and high school students in
Jacksonville and the Beaches area, including
people of all faiths and no faith. For more
information, to RSVP for the first time, or to
inquire about volunteering in this ministry, please
contact Catherine Montgomery at
thelighthouseflorida@gmail.com.

Friday, December 20

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast - 7:00 am
in the Westbury Hall Dining Room

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert - January 18
at 10:00 am, Contemporary Worship Space**
Christ Church presents Rachel and Friends giving
a fundraising concert for victims of the disastrous
hurricanes of 2024. All donations and funds
collected will be given to Episcopal Relief and
Development.

Sacred Ground Begins in January

It's no secret that America is becoming more
diverse. Explore the history of how we all got
here: Native Americans, Latinos, Europeans,

Africans and Asian-Pacific Islanders. Meeting
every other week, usually on Thursday evenings,
Sacred Ground's 10 sessions walks participants
through this life-changing pilgrimage. Brochures
with full schedule are in the church entryway.
Questions? Bob Morris @
frbobbylee2002@yahoo.com.

Women's Retreat

January 31-February 2

Epworth By the Sea Retreat Center - St. Simons
Island.

*Creating your Life Map. It is the Lord who goes
before you. The Lord will be with you; the Lord
will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or
be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8*

**Save the date on Friday, February 21, 2025,
for a special Christ Church fellowship
event!** More details to follow.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Soup for the Soul

Contact: Maura at Maura.waller@comcast.net

Growing Our Greeter Ministry

Contact: Linda O'Dell at
lindarafael19@gmail.com

Meals on Wheels

Please contact Pam Gordon at 904-250-5693
for more information.

Lay Pastoral Visitor Ministry

We are looking for passionate people to be the
faces, voices, and spirit of Christ's church as we
visit, occasionally phone, and remind people



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who cannot regularly participate in the life of the church that they are an important part of our church family. Contact: Valerie Gambino at Valerie.gambino@comcast.net

Volunteers are needed for the **Kitchen and Hospitality** teams. Contact Jen DeRycker at jderyker@ccpvb.org for details.

Adult and youth volunteers are needed to lead **Children's Formation** classes this fall. Please contact Amy Schmitt at aschmitt@ccpvb.org.

Adult volunteers are needed to help facilitate **Youth Programs** on Wednesdays and Sundays this fall. Please contact Mother Laura Magevney at LMagevney@ccpvb.org

Men's Ensemble

(high school students + adults)

Rehearse Wednesdays 6:30-7 pm, Large Rehearsal Room, sings monthly at 7:30, 9 & 11:15 am

Chancel Choir

(high school students + adults)

Rehearse Wednesdays 7-8 pm, sings weekly at 11:15 am

Handbell Choir

(high school students + adults)

Rehearse Thursdays 6-7 pm, plays monthly at either 9 or 11:15

GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC MINISTRY

Children's Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays 5:15-6 pm,
Room F124 F+A Building

All kids from 4 years of age through 5th grade are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Wendy.Waller@comcast.net or SMurray@ccpvb.org

Join a Choir

Rehearsals in the Choir Room, F+A Building

If you are interested or have questions contact Dr. Rachel Root at rroot@ccpvb.org

Women's Ensemble

(high school students + adults)

Rehearse Wednesdays 6:30-7 pm, sings monthly at 9 & 11:15 am





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MINISTRY CONTACTS

Children

Amy Schmitt
904-285-7390, ext. 227
aschmitt@ccpvb.org

Development + Parish Executive

Mike Shepherd
o. 904-285-7390, ext. 228
p. 904-788-4295
mshepherd@ccpvb.org

Formation for All Ages

The Rev. Laura Magevney
904-285-7390, ext. 248
lmagevney@ccpvb.org

Hospitality + Nursery

Jennifer DeRycker
904-285-7390, ext. 247
jderycker@ccpvb.org

Marketing and Communications

Lindsey Bloodworth
904-285-7390, ext. 260
lbloodworth@ccpvb.org

Music

Dr. Rachel Root
904-285-7390, ext. 233
rroot@ccpvb.org

Newcomers + Spirituality

The Rev. Deacon Leila Quinlan
904-285-7390, ext. 223
leila@ccpvb.org

Operations + Parish Administrator

Stephanie Murray
904-285-7390, ext. 256
smurray@ccpvb.org

Outreach + Pastoral Care

The Rev. Amy Slater
904-285-7390, ext. 236
aslater@ccpvb.org

Pastoral Care

Liz McCarthy
904-285-7390, ext. 235
lmccarthy@ccpvb.org

Parish Chaplain

The Rev. Wendy Billingslea
wwbillingslea@gmail.com

Preschool

Janet Blacker
904-285-6371, ext. 243
jblacker@preschoolcec.org

Recovery

The Rev. Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse
pdwodehouse@icloud.com

Worship

The Rev. Andreis Diaz
904-285-7390, ext. 226
adiaz@ccpvb.org

Youth

CECYouth@ccpvb.org

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**Sunday.
Every Day.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Year-End Contribution Checklist

To ensure the deductibility of your Church contributions, do not file your 2024 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions. Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the Church.

Type of contribution	Report for 2024	Report for 2025
* Checks written in Dec 2024 and deposited in church offering in Jan 2025.		X
* Checks written and deposited in church offering in Jan 2025 but "backdated" to Dec 2024.		X
* Checks written and deposited in church offering in Dec 2024 but "postdated" to Jan 2025.		X
* Checks written in Dec 2024 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in Dec 2024 but not received by the Church until Jan 2025.	X	
* Checks written in Dec 2024 deposited in the mail in Dec 2024 but not postmarked until Jan 2025 and not received by the Church until Jan 2025.		X

Your 2024 tax receipt will be mailed by January 31, 2025. The Church cannot assign "value" to any non-cash donations, including donated stocks. Please consult your broker or tax adviser for the value of donated stock.

STOCK DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Christ Church receives its stock donations at Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Please deliver all OTC-Eligible Securities to Charles Schwab. All deliveries MUST include client name (Christ Episcopal Church) and Schwab account #8572-5407. Delivery to: DTC Clearing 0164, Code 40, Account #8572-5407, Christ Episcopal Church of Ponte Vedra Beach. Please notify Ronda Toonk, CFO, rondatoonk@ccpvb.org or 904-285-7390 x 232 with details of your donation. This will ensure that the donation is received and sold promptly and that your donation is recorded on your contribution statement correctly.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Worship Services

7:30 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:00 a.m.	Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:00 a.m.	Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
9:00 a.m.	NSIA Community Center	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m.	Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m.	Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
12:45 p.m.	Cooper Chapel	Spanish-language Service
5:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary	Contemplative Service
5:30 p.m. (Wed)	Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Vestry

Jack Parker, Sr. Warden	Janet Burnside, Treasurer	Doug Knowles, Jr. Warden
Jen Arnold	Martha Baker	Mark Barrett
Heather Fouts	David Gagnon	Jim Evanger
Justin Udelhofen	Jacqueline Williams	Doug Long
		Gretna Zerebny

Staff Clergy

The Rev. Thomas P. Reeder, Rector

The Rev. Andreis Diaz, Sr. Associate Rector	The Rev. Amy Slater, Sr. Associate Rector
The Rev. Laura Magevney, Associate Rector	The Rev. Wendy Billingslea, Chaplain
The Rev. Sandy Tull, Vicar for Christ Church Among the Oaks	

Deacons

The Rev. Deacon Leila Quinlan	The Rev. Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse
The Rev. Deacon Marsha Holmes	

Adjunct Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Jim Cooper, Rector Emeritus	
The Rev. Michael Ellis	The Rev. Keith Oglesby
The Rev. Eric Kahl	The Rev. Bob Morris
The Rev. Burt Shepherd	The Rev. Rich Roos
The Rev. Joan Bryan, Emeritus	
The Rev. Deacon Jo Hoskins, Deacon Emeritus	



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