

DECEMBER 17, 2025 5:30 PM

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 What Child Is This? Traditional Carol

Please stand.

First Hymn

The First Nowell

The first Nowell, the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds, in fields, as they lay; In fields, where they lay, keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up, and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them, far,
And, to the earth, it gave great light,
And so, it continued, both day and night. *Refrain*

And, by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star, wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh, to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem, it took its rest, And there, it did both stop, and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then, entered in those wise men three, Full, reverently, upon their knee, And offered there, in his presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: 'Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King.' The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, And ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; And warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring; O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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 Eric Kahl

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,

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,

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,

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.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Wood of the Cradle

Francis Patrick O'Brian

Wood of the cradle, wood of the cross, bearing a lifetime of joy and of loss. Who is your loved one? Who could he be, born in a manger to die on a tree?

Shepherds lie sleeping, deep in their dreams; angels awaken them, What could this mean? Whom do you herald? Whom must we find? A child in a manger? Our God born in time?

Star in he heavens bearing new light, guiding the sages and ages this night; Where will you lead us? Where can he be? The child born of myst'ry who died on a tree?

Come, all who hunger, come all who thirst; come, all who seek him, God's joy on the earth. Find him a shelter, bright, safe, and warm; See in all people his love being born.

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. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. 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.

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

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

A Spring Carol

Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger; There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger. Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Saviour? Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sing about His birth; wise men sought and found Him; Heaven's star shone brightly fourth-glory all around Him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sigh, heard the angels singing; All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger; He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger. Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; Praise His name in all the earth, hail the king of glory!

Infant Holy

A Polish Carol

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall: oxen lowing, little know Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, noels ringing, Tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil til the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story, tiding of the gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the Babe was born for you.

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

Away in a Manger

Traditional Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars, in the bright sky, looked down, where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,

And stay by my side, until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

Close by me, forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children, in thy tender care,

And fit us for heaven, to live with thee, there.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord

People

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Musicians: Rachel Kamps Voice and piano,

Anne McKennon, Flute, Linda Minke, Cello

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

Please join us for Christmas services, happening all afternoon on Christmas Eve and at 10:00am Christmas morning. The full schedule is printed below and available online at www.ccpvb.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Christ Church office and campus will be closed after the 10:00am service on Christmas Day and Friday, December 26.

Christ Church Preschool's enrollment is open year round and we are taking inquiries for the 2026-2027 school year. Contact Head of School, Christy Maurer, at cmaurer@preschoolcec.org

Spaces are available for our next pilgrimage to the Camino de Santiago, taking place from April 19 - May 2, 2026 AND on our Grace and Gardens trip to England from September 13-25, 2026. Please contact Deacon Leila Quinlan at Leila@ccpvb.org for more information about the Camino and Rev. Amy Slater at aslater@ccpvb.org for England.

Our Flower Ministry is looking for medium size clear vases. If you have received flowers or have vases that you are not using, please bring them to the front office. If you have received flowers and are unable to return the vase, please call the front office and let us know. Questions, please reach out to Julie McAvity flowers@ccpvb.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Epiphany Celebration + Three Kings – January 7

SACRED GROUND: BEGINS JANUARY 10

Sponsored by TRUE: Transforming Racial Understanding & Engagement Created by the Episcopal Church, this 10-session film-and-readings-based dialogue series on race and faith has been experienced by more than 30,000 people across the country. For more details, or to register, contact Deb Billard at debrabillard@gmail.com.

Long Haul Love Encore Concert with Rachel & Friends - January 17 10:00am - Contemporary Worship Space

Faith in Action Clergy Forum with Dr. Rob Radtke, President and CEO of Episcopal Relief and Development - January 18

Savvy Job Hunter Workshop - January 23

Christ Church Women's Retreat 2026
Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 1
Our theme is Prayers of the People, and our speaker, the Rev Dr Linda Privatera, will lead us through a deep exploration of the ways and the reasons we pray. Make plans to join us at Epworth By the Sea for this time of fellowship, rest, and inspiration! Scan the code to register, or drop by the front office for a brochure. For questions,
contact Deacon Leila or
Mother Laura.

Cursillo Coed Weekend 2/27-3/1 2026

Cursillo is an adult spiritual renewal ministry and community of the Episcopal Church, which begins with a three-day retreat of learning, sharing, and living together in Christina community. This weekend features separate men's and women's sleeping cabins, meals, and discussion groups, while lectures and services in the Chapel will be held jointly. Registration is required.

There will be separate Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends in the Fall of 2026.

Dates will be announced later next year. For more information see diocesefl.org/cursillo or contact Ron Kessner at cursilloccpvb@gmail.com

General Warning - Phishing & Other

Scams Please note that all of our clergy and some of our lay staff continue to be victims of phishing attempts and other online scams. There is nothing that we can do to stop these attacks apart from warning you about them. Please note on the church website (www.ccpvb.org) the real and valid email addresses of our clergy and staff. Phishing attacks work by taking our valid email addresses and changing them just a little bit. The scammers then impersonate the clergy or staff, using these faked email addresses, sending emails to you (yes, they have your email address as well), asking for money or gift cards. Please do not fall for this scam. No one from this church will ever ask you for gift cards. And please pray for the scammers, that they may repent from their thieving ways, and give their life to Jesus!

QR CORNER



Make a joyful noise! Learn more about joining a choir here.

Need prayer or assistance, or want to help those who do? Learn more about Caring Connections here:





There are many ways to serve here at Christ Church, and we need you! Check out current service opportunities here

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 24 - Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m. Main Sanctuary
Traditional Rite II Holy Eucharist & Pageant

2:00 p.m. Christ Church Among the Oaks
Traditional Rite II Holy Eucharist
120 Meadow Avenue, Vilano Beach

3:00 p.m. Vicars Landing
Traditional Rite II Holy Eucharist

4:00 p.m. Main SanctuaryTraditional Rite II Holy Eucharist

*4:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Space Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight service with the Jordan band.

*6:00 p.m. Main Sanctuary
Traditional Rite II Christmas Eve with
Pageant and Candle lighting

6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Space Misa en Español. Spanish language Eucharist.

8:00 p.m. Main Sanctuary
Traditional Rite II Christmas Eve Candlelight
Holy Eucharist

10:00 p.m. Main Sanctuary Traditional Rite II Christmas Eve with incense.

Note: Those with sensitivities or respiratory issues may wish to_consider attending a different service.

December 25 – Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Main Sanctuary Christmas Morning Eucharist with hymns

First Sunday After Christmas Sunday, December 28

*9:00 a.m. Main Sanctuary
Traditional Rite II Holy Eucharist

11:15 a.m. Main Sanctuary
Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

Nursery care will be available on Christmas Eve for the 2, 4 & 6 p.m. services. No registration is required.

*These services will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Caring Connections Director

Liz McCarthy / Lmccarthy@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 235

Children

Amy Schmitt / aschmitt@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 227

Development + Parish Executive

Mike Shepherd / mshepherd@ccpvb.org o. 904-285-6127, ext. 228 p. 904-788-4295

Formation for All Ages

The Rev. Laura Magevney / Lmagevney@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 248

Hospitality + Nursery

Jennifer DeRycker / jderycker@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 247

Marketing and Communications

Lindsey Bloodworth / Lbloodworth@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 260

Music

Dr. Rachel Root / rroot@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 233

Newcomers + Spirituality

The Rev. Deacon Leila Quinlan / Leila@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 223

Operations + Parish Administrator

Stephanie Murray / smurray@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 256

Outreach + Pastoral Care

The Rev. Amy Slater / aslater@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 236

Staff and Clergy Chaplain The Rev. Wendy Billingslea / wwbillingslea@gmail.com

Preschool

Christy Maurer / cmaurer@preschoolcec.org 904-285-6371, ext. 243

Recovery

The Rev. Deacon Priscilla Wodehouse / pdwodehouse@icloud.com

Worship

The Rev. Andreis Diaz / adiaz@ccpvb.org 904-285-6127, ext. 226

Youth

Parker Wheeler / CECyouth@ccpvb.org

Music used by permission- OneLicense.net A-701976 and CCLI 218107

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Year-End Contribution Checklist

To ensure the deductibility of your Church contributions, do not file your 2025 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 2025	Report for 2026
* Checks written in Dec 2025 and deposited in church offering in Jan 2026.		Х
* Checks written and deposited in church offering in Jan 2026 but "backdated" to Dec 2025.		Х
* Checks written and deposited in church offering in Dec 2025 but "postdated" to Jan 2026.		Х
* Checks written in Dec 2025 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in Dec 2025 but not received by the Church until Jan 2026.	Х	
* Checks written in Dec 2025 deposited in the mail in Dec 2025 but not postmarked until Jan 2026 and not received by the Church until Jan 2026.		X

Your 2025 tax receipt will be available by January 31, 2026. 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.



Worship Services

Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
NSIA Community Center	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Church Sanctuary	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Parish Center, 2nd floor	Jordan Service
Cooper Chapel	Spanish-language Service
Church Sanctuary	Contemplative Service
Cooper Chapel	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	Church Sanctuary Cooper Chapel Parish Center, 2nd floor NSIA Community Center Church Sanctuary Parish Center, 2nd floor Cooper Chapel

Vestry

Jack Parker, Sr. Warden	Heather Fou	ts, Jr. Warden	Janet Burnside, Treasurer
Kathy Blacki	nan Chris Br	rownlee	Jim Evanger
David Gagn	on Katharii	ne Loeb	Doug Long
Justin Udelhofen	Wendy Waller	Trey Wilson	Gretna Zerebny

Staff Clergy

The Rev. Thomas P. Reeder, Rector The Rev. Andreis Diaz, Vice 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. Louanne Loch The Rev. Joan Bryan, Emeritus

The Rev. Deacon Jo Hoskins, Deacon Emeritus

