THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER PELHAM, NEW YORK



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (ADVENT 3, YEAR A)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM, DECEMBER 14, 2025

ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer (known as Christ Church) is the Episcopal Church in Pelham, New York. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion which is made up of 85 million people in over 165 countries and is the third largest Christian denomination in the world. Christ Church was founded in 1843 and is the first house of worship in Pelham. This building was consecrated on September 15, 1843, the original church building was expanded in 1910, and the sanctuary was reconstructed in 1968 to allow for the current, more intimate worship space. Our congregation draws primarily from Pelham, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, and the Bronx, and includes people from diverse denominational and cultural backgrounds.

ABOUT ADVENT

Advent is the season in which the Christian Church waits and watches for the coming of Jesus Christ. Through scripture, song and silence we hear again the story of God's people who longed for a Savior. Living in the reality that Jesus Christ has indeed come, that he has died and that he has risen, we await for his coming again in glory. Blue or Purple vestments are worn at Christ Church throughout Advent, and the Advent Wreath, which is hung above the sanctuary, marks each passing week with an additional lighted candle. Throughout the Sundays of Advent *Gloria in excelsis*, "Glory to God in the highest," is suppressed as the opening song of praise, in its place is *Kyrie eleison*, "Lord, have mercy." The new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent: we are now in Year A; the gospel reading appointed most Sundays in Year A is from the Gospel according to Matthew.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

The Holy Eucharist, the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day and other major Feasts, and Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, 1979, are the regular services appointed for public worship in the Episcopal Church. At Christ Church we celebrate the Holy Eucharist every Sunday, and also on Holy Days and other occasions. Today's liturgy is from the red *Book of Common Prayer 1979*. All hymns are taken from the blue *Hymnal 1982* or other authorized hymnals for use in the Episcopal Church. All hymns are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A713125.



CHILDREN, NURSERY CARE, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children of all ages are always welcome in church. Childcare is available in the Nursery every Sunday during the 10:00 AM Eucharist. Sunday School is offered during the academic year. Sunday School children join the rest of the congregation for the Holy Communion. Scan the QR code to register for Sunday School.



NEW OR VISITING?

Welcome to Christ Church! Scan this QR code to fill out our online visitors form. If you prefer there are hard copies of this form in the pew – please fill one out and place it in the offering plate during Announcement. This will help us keep in touch with you.



SUPPORT CHRIST CHURCH: HOW TO GIVE

The majority of our operating budget is funded by donations. Ushers will pass the collection plate during the Offertory music midway through today's service, and you are invited to make a donation to support Christ Church. If you prefer, you can give online by scanning the QR code or texting an amount to: 914-351-2001.



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: PLEDGE TODAY

God is at work at Christ Church. Sunday worship attendance continues to increase; children and family ministries are growing; outreach and service efforts are aiding many in need across our communities; music and concert programs are flourishing; and fellowship and educational ministries are bringing people of all ages

together. Our pledge goal this year is \$550,000 which accounts for cost increases. We want every parishioner to pledge. The amount is personal and should reflect where Christ Church lives with you and your family. Your continued support ensures we have excellent clergy and staff, keeps our buildings beautiful and safe, and funds our programs and ministries.

ORGAN PRELUDE

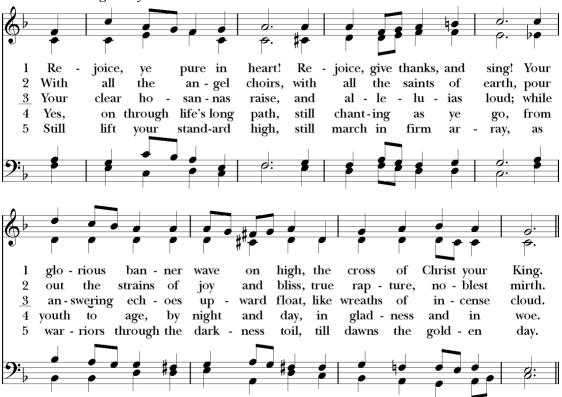
The prelude is offered before worship as a form of prayer. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation in the church or outside the Sacristy.

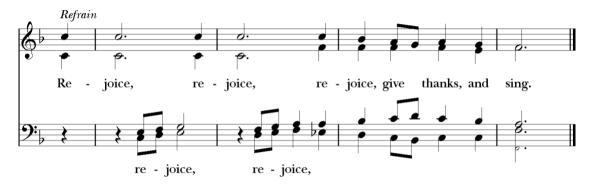
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

ENTRANCE HYMN (#556, VS 1-5)

All stand and sing the hymn as the minister enter.





Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821–1891) Music: *Marion*, Arthur Henry Messiter (1834–1916)

Meter: SM with Refrain

OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant ➡ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

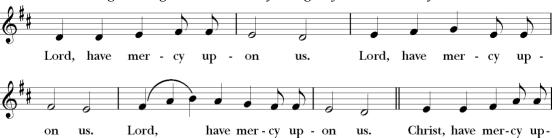
Celebrant

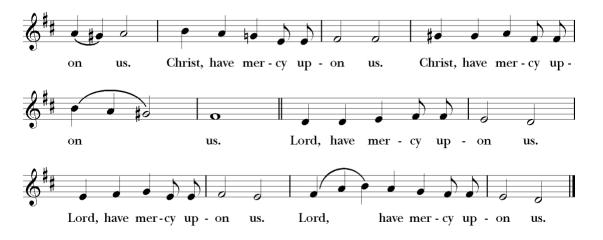
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON (#S-91)

All remain standing and sing "Lord, have mercy" (English for the Greek "Kyrie eleison").





Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net license A-713125.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and,

because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,

with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 35:1-10

All are seated.

Reader

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146: 4-9 Lauda, anima mea

The Psalm is sung by the Parish Choir to an Anglican Chant by Thomas Norris.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever, *

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON: JAMES 5:7-10

Reader

A Reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN (#59)

All stand and sing the hymn.



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.

Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935) Copyright: Music: Descant used by permission of Cambridge University Press.

Meter: 87. 87

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

All remain standing for the Gospel.

Deacon ★ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Deacon When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by

his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into

the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes

are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell

you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See,

I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater

than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than

he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

All are seated for the sermon by the Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead.

NICENE CREED

All stand and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

Celebrant We believe in one God,

All 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

Deacon Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Deacon Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Deacon We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Deacon We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Deacon Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Deacon Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Deacon Give to the departed eternal rest;

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Deacon We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Deacon Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Our prayers are asked for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Matthew and Allen our Bishops, Father Matt our Rector, Mother Meredith, Deacon Chisara, and our Wardens, Officers, and Vestry members. We pray also for:, Gina, Jenny, Mike, Bill, Tom, Julie, Anne, Kristen, Ari, Jennifer, Marion, Sam, Elaine, Sheila, Amy, Alice, Barbara, Janet, Sandy, Beth, Ingrid, Didi, Tim, Chris, Marilyn, Alison, Bob, Robert, Allison, Hildy, Jordan, Cathy, Tom, Bill, Mike, Sara, David, Drue, Kevin, Brian, Helen, and M&D. We pray for those in our Armed Services especially: Sean, Dylan, Gus, Chuck, Sam, Helen, Joseph, Philip, Jake, Matthew, Robert, Nicholas, Mitchel, Alec, Jonah, Tia, Tyrese, Terrence. We also pray for those who have died. May their souls, and the souls of the departed rest in peace, Amen. We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Alison Hinds-Pearl (12/14), Ben & Joe Martucci (12/14), Gavin Fear (12/15, Zoe Pena (12/16), Theo Massie-Vereker (12/17), Jonah Snyder (12/19), Mohammed Aslani Far (12/20), Gregory Eudicone (12/20), and James Tierney (12/20).

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. All kneel (as able).

Celebrant Most merciful God.

All 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.

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME & OFFERTORY SENTENCE

All are seated. The announcements conclude with the offertory sentence.



NEW OR VISITING?

Welcome to Christ Church! Scan this QR code to fill out our online visitors form. If you prefer there are hard copies of this form in the pew – please fill one out and place it in the offering plate during Announcement. This will help us keep in touch with you.



SUPPORT CHRIST CHURCH: HOW TO GIVE

The majority of our operating budget is funded by donations. Ushers will pass the collection plate during the Offertory music midway through today's service, and you are invited to make a donation to support Christ Church. If you prefer, you can give online by scanning the QR code or texting an amount to 914-351-2001.

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All baptized persons, including children, are full members of the Body of Christ and are invited to participate in every aspect of the service and receive the Holy Communion. Members of other Christian churches who are baptized are also invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Persons who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are also invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing (cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you want a blessing and not Holy Communion).

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The gifts of bread and wine are prepared at the altar and an offering is taken while the Parish Choir sings an anthem.

Matin Responses

G. P. da Palestrina 1525-1594

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

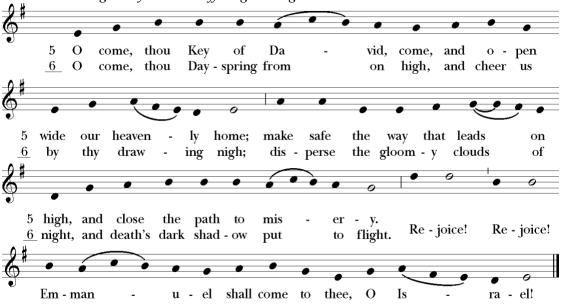
Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

OFFERTORY HYMN (#56 VS. 5-6)

All stand and sing the hymn as the offering is brought to the altar and blessed.

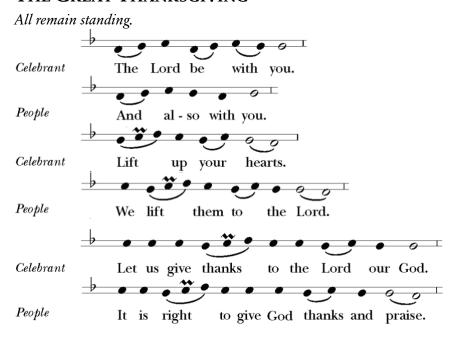


Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-

1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

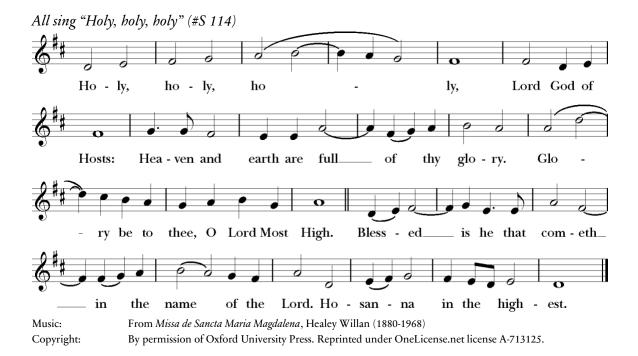
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface assigned for the day.

Celebrant 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:



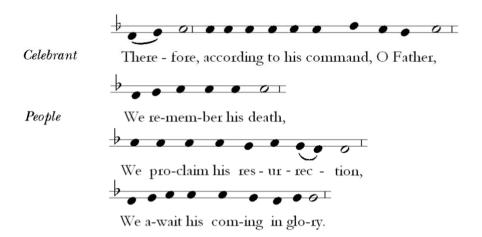
The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant

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."

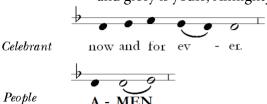
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



Celebrant 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 Mary, the Virgin Mother of God 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,



Celebrant

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

All 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,

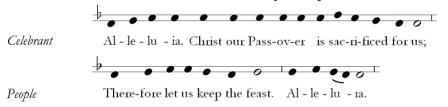
but deliver us from evil.

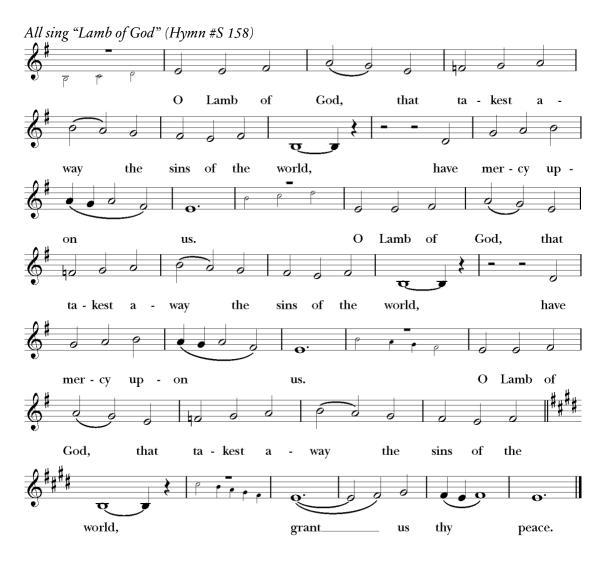
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed.





Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press. Reprinted under OneLicense.net license A-713125.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion. All baptized persons, including children, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Members of other Christian churches who are baptized are also invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Persons who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward with everyone else to receive a blessing (cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you want a blessing).

ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION

During the ministration of Holy Communion, the Parish Choir sings an anthem.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke 1888-1976

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter, Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful of hay; Enough for him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.

Angels and archangels May have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air; But only his mother In her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved With a kiss. What can I give him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

POST COMMUNION HYMN (#110)

All stand and sing the hymn.



Words: Source unknown, 19th cent.

Music: Venite adoremus, melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944); harm. Leo Sowerby (1895–

1968)

Copyright: Music: Harmonization © 1941, Leo Sowerby.

Meter: Irr. with Refrain

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The celebrant offers a blessing which concludes as follows.

Celebrant ... and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People Amen.

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL VOLUNTARY

All remain standing as the altar party processes from the Sanctuary during the Postlude. Once the altar party has departed, please be seated and be courteous to those who are listening to the music by remaining quiet.

Advent Toccata Bischof

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Priest & Rector
The Reverend Meredith Hawkins, Associate Priest
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole, Deacon
Ms. Marie Main, Parish Administrator
Dr. Justin Bischof, Director of Music & Organist
Mr. Liam Myers, Director of Children's & Family Ministries
Mr. Michael Moynihan, Director of Adult Christian Formation
Mr. Walter Roberts, Verger and Sexton; Mr. Ed Blue, Sexton

Honorary Clergy

The Rev. David Hoag, *Rector Emeritus*The Reverend Deacon Katie Lawrence, *Deacon Emerita*

Parish Officers & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*J.D. Calder, *Senior Warden*; Etta Gumbs, *Junior Warden*Allison Bodenmann, *Treasurer*; John Fox, *Assistant Treasurer*; Jean Gruener, *Clerk*Jennifer Hawks Bland, Stephen Dolan, Robert Boyer, Charlette Finch,
Curtis Chase, Jack Kraft, Andy DesRault, Robert Landis, Barbara Zambelli

Worship Schedule

Every Sunday at 8am & 10am: Holy Eucharist Sundays as announced at 5pm: Holy Eucharist or Evensong Wednesdays & Holy Days as announced at 5:15pm: Holy Eucharist

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803 914.738.5515 - www.christchurchpelham.org

Christ Church Pelham is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are dedicated to spiritual growth and committed to serving God through worship and service to our community and the world.