THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER PELHAM, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 21, 2025, 4PM

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.

TODAY'S SERVICE

A Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College Cambridge on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean after experience as an army chaplain; this experience convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The 1918 service was adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson for use the Cathedral in Truro. The Kings College service was first broadcast over radio in 1928 and has become a worldwide favorite at Christmastide which has been adapted across the Anglican Communion.

The carols are sung by the choir or the congregation, and the pattern and strength of the service derive from the lessons which tell the story of the Incarnation from the beginning of creation, through the prophecies, up to the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The service is adapted from the *Book of Occasional Services*. Hymns are taken from the *Hymnal 1982*. All hymns and service music reprinted in this leaflet are either in the public domain or reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net license A-713125.

CHILDREN, NURSERY CARE, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children of all ages are always welcome in church. Also, childcare is available in the Nursery every Sunday during the 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. Sunday School is offered during the academic year from September until June. Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM each Sunday. After the children's service and Sunday School activities, the children join the rest of the congregation for the Holy Communion.

RESTROOMS & ASSISTANCE

Restrooms are located in our Parish Hall which can be reached by walking to the right of the organ and down the hallway (follow the red carpet). If you need any assistance, please speak with one of our Ushers.



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.



PLEDGE FOR 2026 TODAY

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign has begun. Please make a pledge to support Christ Church financially in 2026! Our goal is 150 pledges totaling \$550,000. Pledge online today using the QR code.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Family Mass, 4pm

Prelude at 3:45pm featuring instrumental Carols with Strings Mass with the Parish Choir & Modus Operandi Chamber Orchestra

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 10pm

Prelude at 9:45pm featuring instrumental Carols with Strings Mass with the Parish Choir & Modus Operandi Chamber Orchestra

Christmas Day Choral Mass

December 25, 10am With Choral Quartet

ORGAN PRELUDE

Before the service begins, we offer an organ prelude by Dr. Justin Bischof. The prelude is offered each week before worship as a form of prayer. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation in the church or outside the Sacristy.

A Christmas Suite Justin Bischof

INTROIT (PLEASE REMAIN SEATED)

Matin Responses

G. P da Palestrina 1525-1594

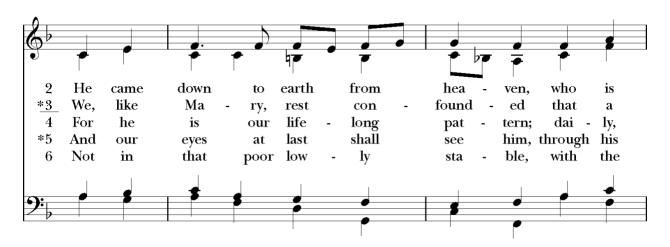
I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel,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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (#102)

All stand as the ministers enter. The soloist sings the first verse and the congregation joins after.

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:

Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.





Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: Irby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850–1929)

Words: St.3 © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: Copyright © 1957, Novello and Company Limited. Used by Copyright:

permission.

87. 87. 77 Meter:

A BIDDING PRAYER

All remain standing.

Officiant

Dear People of God: In these days before Christmas, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and as we begin to celebrate the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in our towns and cities. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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 tresspasses,
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.

Officiant

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All Amen.

ANTHEM

All are seated while the choir sings the carol.

Torches John Jubert 1927-1919)

Torches, torches, run with torches

All the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping;

Come and sing your song to Him!

Torches, torches, run with torches

All the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping;

Come and sing your song to Him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby

Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;

Sleep you well, my heart's own darling

While we sing you our Rorro

Sing, my friends, and make you merry

Joy and mirth and joy again;

Lo, He lives, the King of heaven

Now and evermore. Amen

Lo, He lives, the King of heaven Now and ever, evermore. Amen

1ST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15; 17-19

All remain seated for the lesson.

Reader A reading from Genesis.

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

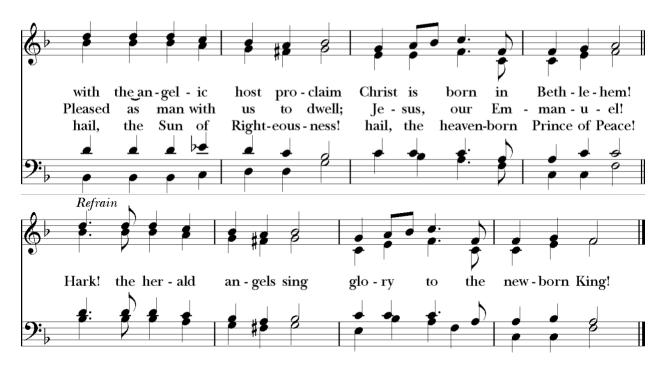
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CAROL (#87)

All stand and sing the carol.





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915)

Meter: 77. 77. D with Refrain

2ND LESSON: ISAIAH 11:1-9

All are seated for the lesson.

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

ANTHEM

All are seated while the choir sings the carol.

Adam lay y bounden

Boris Ord 1897-1961)

Adam lay ybounden

Bounden in a bond;

Four thousand winter

Thought he not too long

And all was for an apple
An apple that he took
As clerkes finden
Written in their book

Ne had the apple taken been

The apple taken been

That apple taken was

Ne had never our lady

A-been heavené queen

Blessed be the time

That apple taken was

Therefore we moun singen

Deo gracias!

3RD LESSON: ISAIAH 7:10-15

All are seated for the lesson.

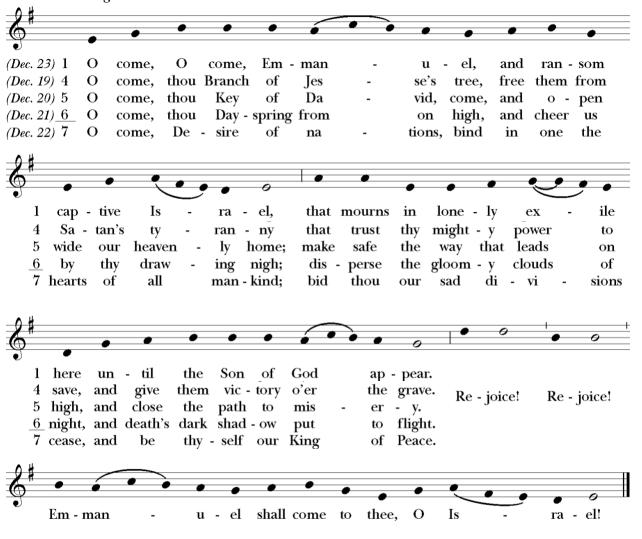
Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

The Word of the Lord.

CAROL (#56, 1, 4-7)

All stand and sing the carol.



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

Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Music:

Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Copyright: Music: Both accompaniments copyright © 1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Meter: LM with Refrain

4TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-4

All are seated for the lesson.

Reader A reading from the Book of Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of

the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

All are seated while the choir sings the carol.

Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. John Scott 1956-2015

Creator of the stars of night
Thy people's everlasting light
O Jesus, Saviour of us all
Regard thy servants when they call

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heav'n'ly grace

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride As drew the world to eveningtide Proceeding from a virgin shrine The Son of Man, yet Lord divine

At thy great name, majestic now All knees must bend, all hearts must bow And things in heav'n and earth shall own That thou art Lord and King alone

To thee, O holy One, we pray

Our judge in that tremendous day Preserve us, while we dwell below From ev'ry onslaught of the foe

All praise, eternal Son, to thee Whose advent sets thy people free Whom with the Father we adore And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen

5TH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

All are seated for the lesson.

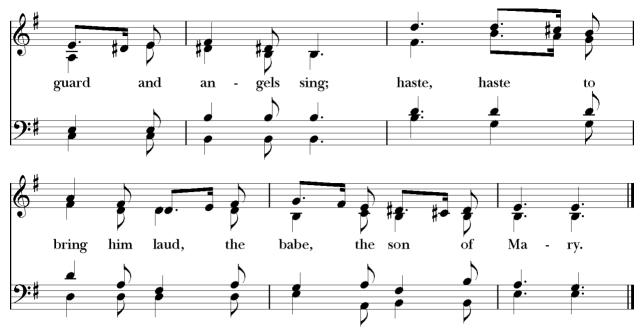
Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

CAROL (#115)





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

Meter: 87. 87 with Refrain

6TH LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18B-25A

All are seated for the lesson.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son.

The Word of the Lord.

WELCOME & OFFERTORY SENTENCE

All are seated for a brief welcome and announcements. The announcements conclude with the offertory sentence. This week's schedule and additional announcements are at the back of the bulletin.



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How to Give

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OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All are seated while the choir sings the carol. An offering is taken to support the ministry of the Church.

A Babe is Born

William Mathias 1934-1992

A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. Veni creator Spiritus.

There came three kings out of the East, To worship the King that is so free, With gold and myrrh and frank incense, A solis ortus cardine. At Bethlehem, that blessed place, The child of bliss now born he was; And him to serve God give us grace, O lux beata Trinitas.

A fair song that night sung they In worship of that child: Gloria tibi Domine. A babe is born all of a may, To bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day. Veni creator Spiritus, O lux beata Trinitas, A solis ortus cardine, Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!

7TH LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

All are seated for the lesson.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

CAROL (#83)

All stand and sing the carol.





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711–1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802–1880) and others

Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711–1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

Meter: Irr.

COLLECT & BLESSING

All remain standing.

Officiant O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light:

Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God,

in glory everlasting.

All Amen.

Officiant May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,

fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, ** the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you

and remain with you for ever.

All Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Priest & Rector
The Reverend Meredith Hawkins, Priest Associate
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,

Worship Schedule

Curtis Chase, Jack Kraft, Andy DesRault, Robert Landis, Barbara Zambelli

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.