



CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

MEAFORD

34 Boucher St. East | Meaford, Ontario | N4L 1B9
519-538-1330 | office@christchurchanglican.ca | christchurchanglican.ca



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 Holy Eucharist 10:30am

Presider: The Rev. Brendon Bedford, Rector
Homilist & Lay Reader: John Howard
Organist: Julian Delf

Cantor: Lynn McTaggart
Server: Lynn McTaggart
Reader: Garry Minielly
Greeter: Francis Richardson



Our Land Acknowledgement

We at Christ Church are gathered together on the territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and commit ourselves to the hard work of reconciliation.



Our Mission Statement

Christ Church is committed to live in a generous and loving spirit
in all its relationships.

Our Contacts

The Rev. Brendon Bedford	Priest & Rector	226-974-5060	brendonbedford@diohuron.org
The Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell	Honorary Assistant Priest	905-933-1032	kevinbothwell@diohuron.org
Bill Alcock	Churchwarden	604-833-9025	williamja@icloud.com
Garry Minielly	Churchwarden	416-931-0535	dgminielly@gmail.com
Jean Richardson	Deputy Warden	519-670-4533	jmlrichardson@gmail.com

Christ Church office hours are Tues, Wed., Thurs., 9:00am to 2:00pm
Ph: 519-538-1330; office@christchurchanglican.ca

<p>MANY PEOPLE NO LONGER CARRY CASH OR CHEQUES.</p> <p>If you would like to support our mission to love and serve God and all our neighbours, know that you can donate online.</p>	<p>Point your phone's camera at the QR code below and scan.</p> 
 <p>CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN MEAFORD</p>	<p>Tax receipts are provided by PayPal Giving Fund upon donation.</p>

Welcome and Announcements

Post-Covid, we have curtailed the “passing of the plate” at Christ Church. There are offering envelopes in the pews and on the table at the back of the church. We thank you for your donation to the ministry and upkeep of the parish which can be placed on the offering plate as you enter the church.

OPENING SENTENCE

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Come, Come Emmanuel #41 Sing a New Creation

All sing refrain. People will repeat refrain while cantor sings verses.



Gathering of the Community

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: and also with you.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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. Amen.

THE TRISAGION

(Sung 3 times, #707 blue hymn book,)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Please be seated.

Children's Time / Advent Wreath

Candle 4 – Love / The Blessed Virgin Mary

Presider: Jesus said, “Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.”

People: **I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to His word.**

The fourth candle is lit.

Presider: Jesus is the light of the world!

People: **A light no darkness can ever put out.**

We sing (tune: CP #325)

All: Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory, “Come, Lord, soon,” we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness, changed for gladness on that
Day.

**Mary's gift, beyond all telling, was to give Christ room. She gave
God a human dwelling in a mother's womb. Who could guess the
final story? – Cross and glory; empty tomb!**

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7,16-18

The psalm refrain is sung once by the cantor and is then repeated by the congregation.



Show the light of your coun-te - nance, and we_ shall be saved.

- (1) Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
- (2) shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- (1) In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
- (2) stir up your strength and come to help us.
- (3) Restore us, O God of hosts;
- (4) show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R.**
- (1) O Göd of hosts,
- (2) how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- (3) You have fed them with the bread of tears;
- (4) you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **R.**
- (1) You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
- (2) and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- (3) Restore us, O God of hosts;
- (4) show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R.**
- (1) Let your hand be upon your chosen people,
- (2) those you have made so strong for yourself.
- (1) And so will we never turn away from you;
- (2) give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- (3) Restore us, O God of hosts;
- (4) show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

At the end of the reading

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia #190 Sing a New Creation

*Alleluia is played once and **repeated by congregation twice.***

The musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation consists of two systems. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains chords and the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The bass staff contains a simple melodic line. The chords are: D, A/C#, G2/B, D/A, G, D/F#, Em, A, D. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The music is in G major and 4/4 time.

Music: Norah Duncan IV, 1987. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.



Please turn to face the Gospel reader.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

After the Gospel is read.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia #190 Sing a New Creation

As before the Gospel, repeated by congregation.

Please be seated.

THE HOMILY

John Howard

Lay Reader

Please stand, as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED

Lay Reader: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: We believe in one God, 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 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. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped 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.

Please sit or stand, as you're able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

John Howard

Lay Reader

Please stand as you're able.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Lay Reader: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Lay Reader: 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 neighbours 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.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of peace.

Remain standing, as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Prepare the Way, O Zion #102

(blue hymn book)

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer #3 (BAS, pg 198) with preface for Advent.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface for Advent (p. 219)

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;

.....
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 SANCTUS (HOLY) - sung

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - #735 (blue hymn book)

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full, 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.**

BAS pg 198

Presider: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;

.....

Presider: Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await
his coming in glory;**

Presider: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord
of all:

... by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

#684 (blue hymn book)

Presider: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (FRACTION RITE)

Lamb Of God (Agnus Dei) sung

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive communion at God's altar.

If you are not baptized, you are very welcome to come forward to the communion rail for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms over your chest.

If you are interested in exploring baptism, please speak to the priest after the service.

Gluten free host (wafers) are available at the altar rail upon request.

COMMUNION HYMN Of Eternal Love Begotten #132
(blue hymn book)

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE DOXOLOGY (Said)

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE FINAL BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #89
(blue hymn book)

THE DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

THE POSTLUDE

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Psalm from The Psalter, George Black; Lamb of God, David Clark Isele.

Advent Wreath liturgy attributed to The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski; Advent Candles, Copyright © 2002 Mark Earey

This Week's Prayer List

(We invite you to hold all on our list in your prayers for the coming week.)

The Diocese: We hold in our prayers the people and clergy of: St. Matthew's, Windsor; Trivitt Memorial, Exeter; St. George's, Goderich, • Christ Church, Port Albert.

The Parish: We hold in our prayers: Doris Babington, Viv Baker, Vern & Reta Baker and their families as well as all those serving in the Canadian Armed Forces at home and overseas.

The Wider Church: We hold in our prayers the clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem; the clergy and people of Bath Abbey and St. Giles, Cripplegate, UK, as well as bishop Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury-elect.

Intercessions: For healing and hope we hold up to God: Charlie & Marg, Deanie, Doug, Fraser, Gord, Katharine, Rachel, Ted, and their families, and any others who are in need of our prayers.

Memorial Flowers on the Altar

Flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God and with grateful thanks for the life and ministry of Victor and Lynda Garrett, a gift of the Howard family.

NEXT WEEK

December 28, 2025, First Sunday after Christmas

The readings are: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We thank Julian Delf for offering his musical talent today at the organ.

Please join us for **refreshments** after the church service in the Parish Hall.

The Midweek Eucharist (said BCP) is paused for two weeks – resuming Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

A Bible Study will also be offered following this – details in a later eblast.

Upcoming Christmas Services:

A Christmas worship service (with Holy Communion) will be offered Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025 at the Meaford Longterm Care at 10:15am.

Christmas Eve -- Choral & Candlelight	Wed, Dec. 24	7:00 PM
Christmas Day,– Said, Holy Eucharist	Thurs, Dec. 25	10:30 AM
1st Sunday after Christmas – Choral	Sun., Dec 28	10:30 AM
2nd Sunday after Christmas – Choral	Sun., Jan 4	10:30 AM

The Free Community Breakfast will pause Monday, December 29 and resume Monday, January 5, 2026, from 8:30 to 10am.

† Please check your mailbox for any cards or correspondence (by surname in alphabetical order) at the back of the church before you leave.

We look forward to seeing you soon at a Christmas service!

