



# CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

MEAFORD

34 Boucher St. East | Meaford, Ontario | N4L 1B9  
519-538-1330 | [office@christchurchanglican.ca](mailto:office@christchurchanglican.ca) | [christchurchanglican.ca](http://christchurchanglican.ca)



## First Sunday after Christmas

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 Holy Eucharist 10:30am**

Presider: The Rev. Can. Kevin Bothwell  
Lay Reader & Cantor: John Howard

Reader: Victoria Alcock  
Server: Lynn McTaggart  
Greeter: Bill Alcock



## 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	<a href="mailto:brendonbedford@diohuron.org">brendonbedford@diohuron.org</a>
The Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell	Honorary Assistant Priest	905-933-1032	<a href="mailto:kevinbothwell@diohuron.org">kevinbothwell@diohuron.org</a>
Bill Alcock	Churchwarden	604-833-9025	<a href="mailto:williamja@icloud.com">williamja@icloud.com</a>
Garry Minielly	Churchwarden	416-931-0535	<a href="mailto:dgminielly@gmail.com">dgminielly@gmail.com</a>
Jean Richardson	Deputy Warden	519-670-4533	<a href="mailto:jmlrichardson@gmail.com">jmlrichardson@gmail.com</a>

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

**MANY PEOPLE NO LONGER  
CARRY CASH OR CHEQUES.**

**If you would like to support our  
mission to love and serve God  
and all our neighbours, know  
that you can donate online.**

 **CHRIST CHURCH  
ANGLICAN**  
MEAFORD

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## OPENING SENTENCE

*Please stand as you are able.*

**INTROIT HYMN**      Of Eternal Love Begotten      #132

### 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 KYRIE

**Presider:**    Lord have mercy.

**People:**      Christ have mercy.

**All:**            Lord have mercy.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Please be seated.*

### CHILDREN'S TALK

### The Proclamation of the Word

### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

**Reader:**      A reading from the Book of Isaiah

**Reader:**      The word of the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148 (said)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
**praise him in the heights.**

Praise him, all you angels of his;  
**praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
**praise him, all you shining stars!**

Praise him, you highest heavens,  
**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
**for he commanded, and they were created.**

He established them for ever and ever;  
**he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
**you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

fire and hail, snow and frost,  
**stormy wind fulfilling his command;**

Mountains and all hills,  
**fruit trees and all cedars!**

Wild animals and all cattle,  
**creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
**princes and all rulers of the earth!**

Young men and women alike,  
**Old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
**for his name alone is exalted,**

his glory is above earth and heaven.  
He has raised up a horn for his people  
**praise for all his faithful,**

for the people of Israel who are close to him,  
**Praise the Lord!**

## THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia #710 blue hymn book

*Alleluia is played once and **repeated by congregation 2 or 3 times.***



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

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 #710 blue hymn book

*As before the Gospel, repeated by congregation.*

*Please be seated.*

### **THE HOMILY**

The Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell

Honorary Assistant Priest

*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.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** The First Nowell #139 (blue hymn book)

## **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

### **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

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

**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 Christmas (p. 219)

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

.....  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing  
our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

### **THE SANCTUS (HOLY) - said**

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

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
**God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

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 (said)**

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) SAID**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

*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**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #48

Silent Night (vs 1-4) #119

(blue hymn book)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **THE DOXOLOGY (Sung)**

**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

May the joy of the angels  
The eagerness of the shepherds  
The perseverance of the wisemen,  
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
And the peace of Jesus Christ be yours this Christmas;

And the blessing of God almighty  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain  
with you always.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**      Shepherds in the Field Abiding #135  
(blue hymn book)

## THE DISMISSAL

**Presider:**      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

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

## 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. James', Stratford; St. Paul's Stratford; St. Stephen's, Stratford; St. James', St. Marys.

**The Parish:** We hold in our prayers: The Rev'd Brendon & Ashley Bedford, Louis Bernard, Rea Best 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.

### **NEXT WEEK**

**January 4, 2026, Second Sunday after Christmas**

**The readings are:** Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:13-21; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:1-18.

### **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**The Free Community Breakfast will pause tomorrow, Monday, December 29 and resume Monday, January 5, 2026, from 8:30 to 10am. Ring in the new year with a hearty breakfast -- all are welcome.**

**For Urgent Pastoral Care, from now to January 3 inclusive**, please contact the Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell, Honorary Assistant Priest at 905-933-1032 or [kevinbothwell@diohuron.org](mailto:kevinbothwell@diohuron.org). From January 4 and on, please contact the Rev. Brendon Bedford at [brendonbedford@diohuron.org](mailto:brendonbedford@diohuron.org) or 226-974-5060. Re all other question or concerns, please call the office at 519-538-1330 or contact us at 519-538-1330 or [www.christchurchanglican.ca](http://www.christchurchanglican.ca)

**The Church Office is closed Dec. 29 and January 1-2.** It will be open December 30-31 and resume normal operating hours Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 6 from 9am to 2pm.

### **MARK YOUR 2026 CALENDAR:**

- Robbie Burns Dinner – Friday, January 23, 2026 (tickets will be available soon – watch the eblast for details)
- VESTRY 2026 – will be Sunday, February 15.