

Lay Reader: Kemper Brinkley

WELCOME VISITORS. We extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. If you would like to know more about our church, kindly fill out one of the cards in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GREENING OF THE CHURCH will take place on Monday, December 23, at 10 a.m. Please join us in preparing the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service. For questions, call Marigene Little at 931-4306.

YEAR END GIVING. With the end of the year upon us, you might be thinking about charitable giving and tax implications, and we hope that Christ and Grace is entering into your considerations. A new page on our website has information you might find helpful. Go to ChristandGrace.org and click on Year End Giving under the "Give" tab.

2020 PLEDGE ENVELOPES are available for pick up in Lackey Hall. If you would like to know more about online giving for your 2020 pledge, instructions are available in Lackey Hall, and on our website at christandgrace.org by going to "Give" at the top of the page, or call the office for assistance at 733-7202.

THE 2020 FLOWER CHART IS UP! Sign up on the chart, fill out the form, and leave completed form with the church office. Please do not sign up without filling out a form! Completed forms may be left with the church office. Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24

8:30 p.m. Special Music from our choir

9:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Our service will include the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

Invite your friends and family to join us.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Wednesday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, December 29

(No 8:00 a.m. service)

10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

(No Sunday school)



The Church office will be closed from
December 25 through January 1.

If you have a pastoral emergency,
please call Robin Teasley (338-0698).



**CHRIST AND GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1545 South Sycamore Street,
Petersburg, VA 23805 (804) 733-7202

www.christandgrace.org

Our mission: Offering Hope, Healing and Hospitality

*It is our custom to observe a prayerful silence before the service begins.
During the service, please feel free to stand or kneel as you are able.*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2019**

Welcome families with children. If anytime during the service your child needs a place for active play, a small unstaffed nursery room, restrooms, and respite area, with a speaker to hear the service, are located downstairs under the Sycamore Street entrance to the church. A Sunday school for children ages 2-11 meets downstairs during the 10:30 service. Children return at the offering.

8:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION RITE II – without music

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation *standing* Book of Common Prayer p. 299
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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. Amen.

8:00 a.m. only
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16 *sitting* See scripture insert
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: *standing* (p. 357)
Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**
Matthew 1:18-25
Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Robin Teasley

The Nicene Creed *standing* (p. 358)
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 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 *standing or kneeling*

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, keep us awake, be our strength and consolation, and reign in our hearts that your Son Jesus Christ may find in us a mansion prepared for himself.

O God, in days to come a righteous Branch will spring up and your people will live in safety. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.
Come thou long expected Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your time, O Lord, the valleys shall be lifted up, the mountains and hills shall be made low, and the rough places will become a plain. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.
Come thou long expected Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, you take away the garments of sorrow and affliction; in your tender compassion you bring healing and salvation. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially for Helen Adams, Josie Basta, Cheri Becker, David Brinkley, Carolyn Crinkley, Betty Goodman, David Gwaltney, Nell Howard, Penny Howard, Mark Jones, Peter Keyser, Mike Mahaney, Kent Mallory, Mike McKibbin, Joan Mitchell, Addison Owens, Susan Pugh, Barry Resnick, Lilly Rudd, Mark Sheffield, Linda Watanabe, Dana Watkins Spiers, Wendy Taft, Larry Tucker, and Paige Whitley that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.
Come thou long expected Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Your great works of redemption, O God, span the ages. You rejoice over us with gladness, renew us in your love, and exult over us with loud singing. We pray for those who rejoice this week, and offer you our thanks and praise.
(thanksgivings may be offered at this time)
Come thou long expected Jesus, and hear our prayer.

According to the promises you made to our ancestors, we thank you for drawing near with redemption and life everlasting for those who have died. The arrangement at the altar is given to the glory of God.
Come thou long expected Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *pause* (p. 360)
Most merciful God, 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.

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. **Amen.**

The Peace *standing*
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Greeting and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A *standing* (pg. 361)
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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons, regardless of denomination or church membership, are welcome to come forward and receive the Holy Bread and Wine. A larger chalice for drinking or a small chalice for intincting (dipping) are available at the altar rail. If you wish to intinct, please hold your wafer up so chalice bearers can see it. If you would like Communion brought to you in the pew, please tell an usher.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *standing* (p. 366)

Let us pray.

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.

Blessing

Dismissal
People **Thanks be to God.**