

The Third Sunday of Advent  
Year A

December 11, 2016



CHRIST CHURCH  
EPISCOPAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA  
ESTABLISHED 1733





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9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.—Nursery (Parish House, 18 Abercorn Street)

### 8:00 A.M.-Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Chapel)

Collect, Epistle, Psalm, Gospel and Sermon

BCP 323

### 10:30 A.M.—Advent Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Voluntary *Now comes the Gentiles' Savior (BWV 659)* Johann Sebastian Bach

Matin Responsary *I look from afar*

Aspiciens a longe

Adapted by G. P. da Palestrina

Ted Eldridge and Matthew Kirby, tenors; Jamie Cartright, mezzo soprano

Entrance Hymn

Hymnal 56

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

Stanzas 1, 2, 6-8

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, 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 account of God's creation through the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to 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 this city.

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 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.

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. *Amen.*

### The Lessons

First Lesson	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25	Sidney Wells Logan
	God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.	
	<i>Creator of the stars of night</i>	Conditor alme siderum, arr. John Scott
Second Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-9	Ethan White
	The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.	
	<i>Rejoice! Rejoice, believers</i>	Hymnal 68 Llangloffan
Third Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-11	Julie van Pelt
	The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.	
	<i>Prepare the way, O Zion</i>	Swenska Psalmboken, arr. Hal H. Hopson Sean Holleran, tenor
Fourth Lesson	Baruch 4:36-5:9	John McGinn
	The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.	
	<i>People, look East!</i>	Besancon carol, arr. Malcolm Archer

Sixth Lesson      Luke 1:26-38      Sam Kay  
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*      Hymnal 437  
Birmingham

## Holy Communion

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## Announcements

### **Altar Flowers and Memorials**

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God and in and in memory of Helen Alicia and Forrest Aultman, by Becky Cheatham and family.

### **Christ Church Christmas Pageant—December 24 at 5 p.m.**

Christ Church's annual Christmas Pageant will occur during the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist on Saturday, December 24th. All children are invited to participate in the pageant, with 4 years old being a suggested youngest age. We also need parents and other adult volunteers to help us with the pageant. Please contact the Rev. Helen White if you would like to participate or volunteer [helen.white@ccsavannah.org](mailto:helen.white@ccsavannah.org)



### **Upcoming Dates and Announcements**

- Adult Forum/Sunday School - Thank you so much to all of our adults who served as leaders for our fall Sunday School series Genesis Greatest Hits and to all the children who participated. Thank you also to all the adults who presented and those who joined in the discussions of our

Adult Forum series Leadership and Spirituality. Our 9:30 a.m. programming for adults and children will return the later part of January.

- Operation Paperback - Operation Paperback is a Christ Church ministry that gathers used or new books to be sent to deployed military members and their families. Clear out a little more shelf space before Christmas or add a book to your shopping list! Books donated can be deposited in the Undercroft. The favorite genres tend to be (1) Mystery/Crime (2) Best Sellers (3) Action/Adventure (4) Women's Fiction (not romance and (5) Historical Fiction.
- The Joy of Christmas: Carols for a Cause - Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m. we will host The Joy of Christmas: Carols for a Cause. This is a festive community-wide evening of Christmas music, featuring Savannah Brass Quartet, Savannah Children's Choir, RISE Chorale, Holiday Harmonies, Ann Marie McPhail, soprano. (Free-will offering to benefit the Emmaus House feeding ministry.)
- Christmas Pageant - Christ Church's annual Christmas Pageant will occur during the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist on Saturday, December 24th. All children are invited to participate in the pageant, with 4 years old being a suggested youngest age. We also need parents and other adult volunteers to help us with the pageant. Please contact the Rev. Helen White if you would like to participate or volunteer [en.white@ccesavannah.org](mailto:en.white@ccesavannah.org)

### Christmas Service Schedule

- Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist, and at 11 p.m. Choral Eucharist (Carols by Candlelight beginning at 10:30 p.m.)
- Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and 6 p.m. Evening Eucharist (No 8 a.m. service on December 25 or January 1)

### The Season of Advent

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when by remembrance of this, minds and

hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. The liturgical color for Advent is either purple, just like Lent—as both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days, or sarum blue. Also Advent (like Lent) includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the restrained manner of decorating the church and altar.

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday (coming from the first



word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning "Rejoice") and the liturgical color may be rose instead of purple or sarum blue. This is the Church's way of further heightening our expectation as we draw ever nearer the Solemnity of Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

The many traditions associated with the Advent and Christmas seasons make these special times of the year for us. One of these ancient traditions is the O Antiphons: seven responses, or antiphons, that are sung or recited to introduce the canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) at evening prayer from December 17 to December 23. These antiphons are based on Isaiah's prophecies and refer to the different ancient titles given to the Messiah. The O Antiphons are not printed in the Book of Common Prayer. However, the most popular Advent hymn, 56, *O Come, O come, Emmanuel*, is based on them with direction for their use with the Magnificat.

Giotto. *The Nativity in the Lower Church*, Assisi. 1310.



## Welcome Back Sierra Wilkinson Reyes!

Tomorrow, our associate rector Sierra Wilkinson Reyes, her husband Rudy and their three-month old daughter Julia Mae return after the Rev. Sierra's maternity leave. Julia Mae was born on September 8.

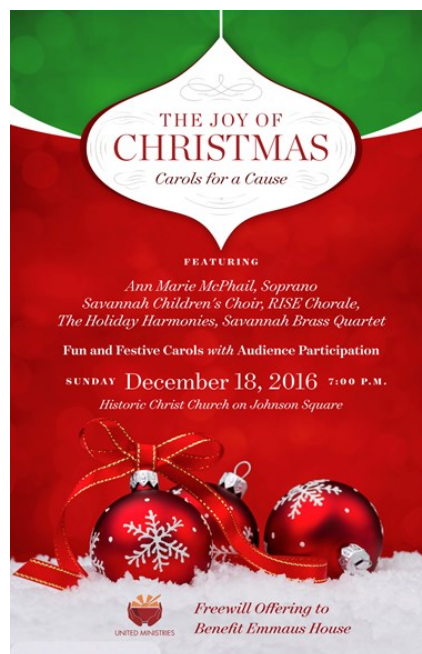




## The Joy of Christmas: Carols for a Cause

*Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at Christ Church*

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m. for our third annual “The Joy of Christmas: Carols for a Cause” concert under the direction of Christ Church’s organist and choirmaster Tim Hall. The concert is free and there will be an offering taken to benefit Emmaus House’s feeding ministry, a program which provides over 200 homeless individuals breakfast each day at Christ Church’s parish house. Featured musicians and singers include the Savannah Brass Quartet, Savannah Children’s Choir, RISE Chorale, Holiday Harmonies, and Ann Marie McPhail, soprano. Emmaus House began in 1982 as a ministry of Christ Church and several other area churches and congregations. It currently operates under United Ministries, Inc. and several Christ Church parishioners serve as board members and volunteers.



## Giotto and Religious Art

Christ Church often uses art to accentuate our weekly lectionary readings in the bulletin. Our artists range in style and thematic expression and one artist frequently featured is Italian painter Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337). Giotto was primarily a fresco painter and is considered to be the father of the Renaissance for his devotion to physical and emotional accuracy in portraying humans. His works influenced the likes of Masaccio, Michelangelo and Raphael. Giotto's masterwork is the decoration of the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, also known as the Arena Chapel, completed around 1305. This fresco cycle depicts the life of the Virgin and the life of Christ. It is regarded as one of the supreme masterpieces of the Early Renaissance. His painting “The Nativity in the Lower Church, Assisi” is featured on page 7 of today’s bulletin.

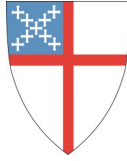
Christ Church Photos from December 4, 2016





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## CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Scott Anson Benhase, D. Min., *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Michael S. White, *Rector*

The Reverend Sierra Wilkinson Reyes, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Helen S. White, *Assistant for Children and Family Ministries*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Assistant for Pastoral Care and Spiritual Life*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

The Right Reverend Henry I. Louttit, Jr., *Bishop-in-Residence*

The Reverend George M. Maxwell (1930-2016), *Rector Emeritus*

Timothy L. Hall, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Leslie D. Parker, *Parish Administrator*

### Vestry

William F. Wallace, M.D., *Senior Warden*

J. Ryan Chandler, *Junior Warden*

Mary E. Raines, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Jane F. Espy, *Treasurer*

Robert M. Davenport

M. Marie Dent, Ph.D.

Celia W. Dunn

John Thomas Gennuso

Catherine M. Gussler

Kelly O. Lancaster, Ph.D.

Ann Y. Miller

J. Kurt C. Oelschig

Denton W. Stone

Andrew M. Wright

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

