

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Year A

December 18, 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

Collect, Epistle, Psalm, Gospel and Sermon BCP 323

10:30 A.M.—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Entrance Rite

Voluntary <i>Prelude—Improvisation on 'Veni Emmanuel'</i>	Arthur Egerton
Introit <i>Prepare the way of the Lord</i>	Hal H. Hopson
Processional	Hymnal 74
<i>Blest be the King whose coming</i>	Frederico J. Pagura; tr. Fred Pratt Green
Opening Acclamation and Response	BCP 355
Kyrie eleison	Hymnal S-96
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.*

Word of God

First Lesson	Isaiah 7:10-16
Gradual Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 <i>Qui regis Israel</i>	BCP 685
<i>Plainsong Tone I.2</i>	Sung by the Choir
Epistle	Romans 1:1-7
Sequence Hymn*	Hymnal 66
<i>Come, thou long-expected Jesus</i>	Charles Wesley
Holy Gospel	Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon	The Reverend Sierra Wilkinson Reyes, <i>Associate Rector</i>
Nicene Creed	BCP 358
Prayers of the People, Form I	BCP 383
Confession and Absolution	BCP 360
Peace	

Holy Communion

Offertory <i>O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion (from <u>Messiah</u>)</i>	G. F. Handel
Jamie Cartright, mezzo soprano; Parish Choir	
Doxology	Hymnal 380, v. 3
Great Thanksgiving, <i>Eucharistic Prayer B</i>	BCP 367
Sanctus and Benedictus	Hymnal S-130
Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
Breaking of the Bread	
Fraction <i>Jesus, Lamb of God</i>	Hymnal S-164
The Holy Communion	Hymnal 475 and 336
<i>God himself is with us</i>	Gerhardt Tersteegen
<i>Come with us, O blessed Jesus</i>	John Henry Hopkins, Jr. and Charles P. Price
Postcommunion Prayer	BCP 365
Processional	Hymnal 72
<i>Hark! The glad sound</i>	Philip Doddridge
Postlude	

Christ Church is the “Mother Church of Georgia” and was founded on February 12, 1733. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site. Our mailing address is 18 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 (912-236-2500). Our website can be found at www.christchurchsavannah.org. Previous rectors of our parish include John Wesley, George Whitefield, F. Bland Tucker and George M. Maxwell.

*Children’s Chapel—Children ages PreK-5th grade are invited to attend Children’s Chapel. Please process with the cross at this time. Younger children and caregivers are also invited to participate in Children’s Chapel. .

Please join us after the 10:30 a.m. service for a reception in the Undercroft.

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again 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 young woman 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. For before the child

knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Henry Ossawa Tanner. *Flight into Egypt*. 1923. The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel* BCP 702

Plainsong Tone II.2

Sung by the Choir

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *

how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set
apart for the gospel of God,
which he promised beforehand
through his prophets in the
holy scriptures, the gospel
concerning his Son, who was
descended from David accord-
ing to the flesh and was de-
clared to be Son of God with
power according to the spirit
of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through



whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Opposite Page: *Visitation in Blue*. Maurice Denis. 1894. Private Collection.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was



found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband 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; and he named him Jesus.

Rogier Van der Weyden. *Visitation*. 1445. Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig

Announcements

Altar Flowers and Memorials

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Susan Wolfe Harrison, by Eleanor, Peter, Isabelle, Sophia and Daniel Harrison Bregman, Margaret Harrison, Finn and Evie Jane Greer and Christopher Sanger, Catherine Harrison and Andrew Cobb, and Robbie Harrison, and in memory of John Woodward Sognier by Loretto Boswell Sognier.

Upcoming Dates and Events for December and January

- **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 resume the later part of January.
- **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. So far, we have over 50 children registered, but there is room for more! 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.
- **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.

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 at 6 p.m. Evening Eucharist (Note: there will not be an 8 a.m. service on December 25 or January 1).

Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, January 8 we will resume our regular schedule of 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.
- Sunday, January 15 6:00 p.m. 3rd Sunday Evening Eucharist
- Sunday, January 22 5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting followed by Reception
- Sunday, January 29 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum and Children's Programming resumes

Christmas Pageant Photo—2015



Greening of Christ Church for Christmas—December 18

After today's 10:30 a.m. service, we invite everyone (children, too!) to participate in the time-honored tradition of decorating Christ Church for Christmas. At the same time our choir, under the direction of Timothy Hall, will sing carols as we process with countless poinsettias and beautiful wreaths. A special thank you to the Oelschig family (Kurt, Karen, Stella and Christian) who will have the poinsettias in the Oelschig van at the front of the church immediately after the service. There will be no reception in the Undercroft. The photos below are from last year's "Greening" event!



Henry Ossawa Tanner's "Flight Into Egypt" (1923)

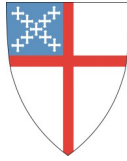
Henry Tanner's eloquent "Flight into Egypt" (see p. 4) is a canonically mature work by the increasingly esteemed American artist and the dean of African American artists in the U.S. The painting depicts the Holy Family's clandestine evasion of King Herod's assassins (Matthew 2:12–14) - one of Tanner's favorite biblical stories. Tanner was born in Pittsburgh (1859) but moved to Philadelphia with his family at about 12 years of age. He became interested in art as a teenager after observing an artist painting in Fairmount Park. He attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art under the tutelage of Thomas Eakins from 1880 until 1882. After attempting to sell his work or find employment in the U.S., he settled in Europe around 1890. Except for two years, when he came back to the U.S. in the early 1890s to recover from Typhoid Fever, he spent the remainder of his life in Europe and became a citizen of France, dying in 1937. Tanner's father was a minister in the AME church.

Photos from December 11, 2016—Third Sunday of Advent



Photos from December 11, 2016—Third Sunday in Advent





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.

