

The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called **Jesus**, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:1-21

This Week at Christ Church

Week of December 25 – December 31

SUNDAY, December 25

8:00 a.m.WGAC, 580AM and 95.1FM Radio, and *wgac.com* Broadcasts

11:00 a.m.Morning Worship Sanctuary

Please see the Home Bible Study Schedule following Other Announcements for upcoming opportunities to study God's Word.

The church office will be closed the week of December 26.



Christ Church, Presbyterian The Lord's Day, December 25, 2016

The Fifth Sunday of Advent

Merry Christmas

God With Us

"Immanuel, God with us." It is hell's terror. Satan trembles at the sound of it.... Let him come to you suddenly, and do you but whisper that word, "God with us," back he falls, confounded and confused.... "God with us" is the laborer's strength. How could he preach the gospel, how could he bend his knees in prayer, how could the missionary go into foreign lands, how could the martyr stand at the stake, how could the confessor own his Master, how could men labor if that one word were taken away?... "God with us" is eternity's sonnet, heaven's hallelujah, the shout of the glorified, the song of the redeemed, the chorus of the angels, the everlasting oratorio of the great orchestra of the sky.

– C. H. Spurgeon

The Morning Service, eleven o'clock

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. Revelation 1:5

† indicates the congregation standing; • indicates seating for those detained

The prelude is a time set aside for quieting our hearts before God in preparation for worship. Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices, and respectfully refrain from unnecessary conversation.

- **The Prelude** – Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Lovingood
Kay Lovingood, tuba, Laura Doss, piano
- **The Welcome**.....Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor
- The Scriptural Call to Worship & Prayer of Invocation** Luke 2:7-14
- † **The Carol of Praise** – (Trinity Hymnal, No. 195).....ANTIOCH
Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

† **The First Epistle Lesson** Philippians 2:5-11

The Response Isaiah 40:8

Pastor: The grass withers, and the flower fades,
People: But the Word of our God stands forever.

Assisting in the Services

Elders greeting at the doors before this morning's service are Mel Jewett & Ora Parish.

Ushers are Lanier Adams, Jim Avery, Stephen Dyer, William Jewett & John Norkus.

The Deacon on Duty is Brian Moore.

Elders greeting at the doors next Lord's Day will be John Clark & John Dunsmore.

Ushers next Lord's Day will be Will Boyd, Wade Caldwell, Jonathan Kimbrell, Hamilton McDaniel & Ed Russell.

The Deacon on Duty will be Stephen Dyer.

Staff

The Rev. J. Josiah Jones, Pastor

Dr. Stan Pylant, Director of Music; Mrs. Laura Doss, Organist

Mr. Chris Nabholz, Interim Director of Student Ministries

Mrs. Shirley McBride, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Mr. Scott Doss, AV & Digital Media Director; Mr. Charles Caruso, Sexton

Christ Church, Presbyterian

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† **The Confession of Faith**The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic* Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen. (*universal)

† **The Gloria Patri** (*page 735 in the Trinity Hymnal*)..... GREATOR EX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in

the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Gospel LessonJohn 8:31–36 (*Page 894*)

The Response

Pastor: This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Confession of Sin

Father of mercy and grace, we marvel that You did send Your only begotten

Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were

born under the law and grant us the freedom of the sons of God. It was for

freedom that Christ set us free. Yet, we confess, oh God, our foolish hearts

are prone to use our freedom as an excuse for sin, and so we present our

members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness. Forgive us, we pray, for

the many ways we have committed this grievous sin against such lavish grace

and grant by Your Son’s transforming power that we might hereafter walk in

newness of life and in joyful obedience to the perfect law of liberty. In Your

Son’s precious name we pray. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon 1 John 4:9–10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only

Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that

we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitia-

tion for our sins.

The Carol of Thanksgiving – (*Trinity Hymnal, No. 207*).....IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

The Prayer of Intercession & Dedication

The Lord’s Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering & the Offertory

(Please record your attendance in the green Friendship Register.)

The Offertory Solo – Sleep, Sweet Jesus, Sleep..... arr.Harold Abbey

Stan Pylant, *soloist*; Laura Doss, *piano*

† **The Carol of Preparation** – (*Trinity Hymnal, No. 211*) GOD REST YOU MERRY

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

The Second Epistle Lesson..... Galatians 4:4–7 (*page 974*)

The Response

Pastor: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to Thee, O God.

The Prayer for Illumination

The SermonThe Rev. Jones, Pastor

BORN DOWN BELOW TO GIVE BIRTH FROM ABOVE

† **The Carol of Response** – (*Family Songs, No. 119*).....MARGARET

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

† The Benediction

The Organ Postlude – Angels from the Realms of Glory.....arr. Hobby

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today. It is our desire that, as prayers are

raised, hymns and anthems are sung, and God’s Word is proclaimed, our worship will bring

glory to God and gladness to His people. Indeed, we pray that you will personally be blessed

by the corporate worship of the Triune God and return to worship with us next Lord’s Day.

If you would like to know more about Christ Church, how to become a member, or, most

importantly, how to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, please talk with

our pastor or an elder standing by him in the narthex after the service.

Advent Wreath

The white candle in the center of the Advent Wreath is called “The Christ Candle” and is lit

on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday to symbolize the birth of Jesus, the spotless Lamb

of God, the Light of the world. "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the Light of the

world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life'" (John 8:12).

Thank You

The staff of Christ Church would like to thank each of you for the generous, thoughtful

Christmas gifts. We are truly blessed with a loving, godly family here at Christ Church and

count it a joy and a privilege to serve you and our heavenly Father in our respective areas of

responsibility. It is our prayer that in return, God blesses each of you exponentially.

J. Josiah Jones, Pastor

Stan Pylant, Dir. of Music

Scott Doss, Audio Visual

Laura Doss, Organist

Charles Caruso, Sexton

Chris Nabholz, Interim Youth Dir.

Shirley McBride, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Whit and Laci Foster on the birth of their son, Jay Valentine

"Vale," born Friday, December 9, weighing 8 pounds and 13 ounces.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,

the fruit of the womb is a reward – Psalm 127:3

Home Bible Studies Schedule

TUESDAYS

7:00 p.m..... Adult Bible Study, Evans Christmas Dinner... W. Jones Home

January 3, 2017 706-447-2546; 503 Thompkins Lane

10:00 a.m. Women's Daytime Bible StudyJ. Jones Home

January 10, 2017 252-622-8097; 1062 Conn Drive, Evans

7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta..... Moncrief Home

January 10, 2017 706-737-5953; 2910 Mayfair Road

THURSDAYS

6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study..... Boyd Home

January 12, 2017 706-736-0004; 9 Summerville Lane, Augusta

6:00 p.m. Young Couples ConnectParish Home

January 19, 2017 706-504-6274; 609 Woodwalk Lane, Martinez

Missionary Prayer

Please remember this missionary organization designated for special prayer in our worship services today and in your daily prayers this week:

Child Evangelism Fellowship, *Augusta, Georgia*

Praise for large numbers of children attending Good News Clubs throughout the area this year and for the 149 who have accepted Christ as their Savior!

Scripture Memory Review

Philippians 2:1–11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation

in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind,

having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish

ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let

each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this

mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form

of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself,

by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in

human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even

death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name

that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven

and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to

the glory of God the Father.