

The Lord's Service

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023



Christ's Church of the Hudson Valley

POST TENEBRAS LUX

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL TO WORSHIP

MATTHEW 2

Out of Egypt I called my son.

O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, from you has come a ruler who will shepherd his people forever! Amen!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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CONFESSION OF SINS

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON



 RESPONSIVE READING OF THE LAW

God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight.

You shall not make for yourself graven images...you shall not bow down to them or serve them.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Honor your father and your mother.

Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to thy steadfast love remember me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord!

You shall not kill.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me.

You shall not commit adultery.

Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

You shall not steal.

Have mercy on me, O God, blot out my transgressions.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Put false ways far from me; and graciously teach me thy law!

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Incline my heart to thy testimonies, and not to gain! Deliver me from all my transgressions.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear him, he also hears their cry, and saves them.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

 THE PEACE

 GLORIA PATRI

735

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 8:16- 9:2

NEW TESTAMENT READING

TITUS 3:1-11



CHRISTMAS HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 4:12-17



RESPONSE

The grass withers and the flower fades
But the word of our God stands forever.

SERMON

“Christmas Straight, No Chaser”

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING



DOXOLOGY

731



SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING



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 LORD'S SUPPER

*At the lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*

*Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.*

*Praise we Christ, whose blood was
shed; paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.*

*Mighty victim from the sky,
pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
thou hast bought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.*



HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!

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 CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

 NUNC DIMITTIS

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.
This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"In the end, the plague touched us all. It was not confined to the Oran of Camus. No. It turned up again in America, breeding in-a-compost of greed and uselessness and murder, in those places where statesmen and generals stash the bodies of the forever young. The plague ran in the blood of men in sharkskin suits, who ran for president promising life and delivering death. The infected young men machine-gunned babies in Asian ditches; they marshaled metal death through the mighty clouds, up above God's green earth, released it in silent streams, and moved on, while the hospitals exploded and green fields were churned to mud." ~Pete Hamill

*"This is the excellent foppery of the world, that when we are sick in fortune (often the surfeits of our own behavior) we make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and stars, as if we were villains on necessity; fools by heavenly compulsion; knaves, thieves, and traitors by spherical predominance; drunkards, liars, and adulterers by an enforced obedience of planetary influence; and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on. An admirable evasion of whoremaster man, to lay his goatish disposition on the charge of a star! My father compounded with my mother under the Dragon's tail, and my nativity was under Ursa Major, so that it follows I am rough and lecherous. Fut, I should have been that I am, had the maidenliest star in the firmament twinkled on my bastardizing." -
Edmund Lear 1.2 112-125*



Christ's Church *of the Hudson Valley*

CCHV is both a place and a people. We gather in this sacred space to worship, to learn, and to serve God as he meets us in Christ. To this end we dedicate our time, our talent, and our resources. Here the Gospel of Christ is freely proclaimed: *We are weaker and more sinful than we ever dared admit, but through Christ we are more loved and accepted than we ever dared hope.* As a community of Christians, we are building a bridge to the future through faith and friendship. To this end, we pray God will give us strength, vision, and wisdom. We are thankful that you could join with us today. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We welcome you to Christ's Church of the Hudson Valley.

MINISTER

Rev. Justin Chiarot

SERVICE TIMES

Worship: 11:00AM

Sunday School: 12:30PM

CHURCH INFO

2047 NY-32,
Modena, NY 12548

(731) 697-3178

www.christschurchhv.org

COVER

The Celtic cross reminds us, as Presbyterians, of our historical roots in the British Isles dating back at least to the fifth century. Post Tenebras Lux is a Latin slogan from the 16th-century Protestant Reformation meaning After Darkness, Light. The cross and the slogan combine to express our desire to be rooted in the ancient faith and to embrace the attainments of the Protestant Reformation.

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