

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 - 10 a.m. Morning Prayer



**HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**

**All are welcome  
and fed with the love of God  
pets too!**



## Lectionary Readings and Music

### Prelude

Opening Hymn: O come, O come Emmanuel vs 7,8

### Psalm

Canticles 15 Sung Holden Evening Prayer

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The reading concludes

Lay Reader:        The Word of the Lord.

People:             **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will,  
O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The reading concludes

Lay Reader:       The Word of the Lord.

People:               **Thanks be to God.**

## Third Reading: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the

child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

The reading concludes

Lay Reader:       The Word of the Lord.  
People:             **Thanks be to God.**

## **Collect**

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.*

## **Final Hymn: Creator of the stars of night (60)**

### **Community Prayer List**

Please pray for: Bob & Diane Rogalcheck, Nancy Modrow, Amanda Vandervort, Nancy Schaper, Tom Beechey, Ann Davis, Heidi Partain, Mark and Mary Savage, Laura Wolff, Sarah, Joan Soske, Curt Van Peenan, Ellie, Greg & John Rasmussen, Nicole Cortino, Jessica Webb, Charles Sterner, Raggles - the dog, David Broderson & Jan Langdon, Nancy Fornoff, Janice Dahlstrom, Pepper - the dog, Carlos U-Urbana, The Stanford Wisnewski families and Rev. Kevin Goodman.

For the members of the Des Plaines Chronic Pain Group

For all who are suffering because of recent natural disasters, as well as human tragedies, for refugees, all who are affected by gun violence, systemic racism, and everyone impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

For all Veterans and those currently serving in the military, especially: Oriana & Richardson Naki, William Revell, Mike Bozza, Ben Suecheck, Ryan Staats, Zachary Kielar, Michael Webb and all who serve in any military, those wounded in action, and all in harm's way.

For Saint Martin's Church and Vestry.

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week including Bob Smolik.

For those who grieve the recent death of loved ones.

John Key

Terry Lee Stanford

### **Announcements**

Thank you to Justin Cochran for hosting coffee hour today. Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for December 29 and every service in January. Sign up on the bulletin board in Strauss-Betker Hall.

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## Creating Holiday Messages

Thank you so very much to everyone who donated cards and stamps and stayed last Sunday to sign cards for the Pinta Pride Project. From what I have read, there are so many out there for whom going home for the holidays is just not possible. Jewish tradition teaches: “You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it” (Pirke Avot 2:21). It is a call to action and a rejection of apathy, even when the task at hand seems overwhelming. Each person must imagine that the world is evenly balanced between good and evil and that his or her actions can determine the destiny of the entire world. If our participation has made a difference in just one life, we

have begun the job of healing the world.

We completed and sent **102 cards.**



*New Space Sharing Contract Signed with CSI  
Christ Church of Chicago!*

*Last Saturday evening,  
Rev. M.E. and Senior Warden Bryan Coussens  
finalized and signed the space sharing contract  
with  
Rev. Joe Malayil (Vicar, CSI Christ Church of  
Chicago),  
Mr. Meljo Varghese, and Mr. Premjit William.*



*Photo by Bryan Coussens (which is why he's not in  
the picture!).*





## From CSI Christ Church of Chicago

Greetings in the matchless name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

Dear Reverend M.E Eccles and the entire Congregation,

It is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation to you to join us for our **Christmas Carol Service, featuring Nine Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion**. The service will take place on **December 22, 2024, at 5.00pm** at our current sanctuary (5857 West Giddings Street, Chicago, IL 60630)

**Furthermore, we cordially invite you all to join us for our inaugural worship service at Des Plaines, our new location. The service will be held on January 5, 2025 from 10.00 am to 12.30pm.**

We would be honored if you could join us for these special occasions. Your presence and prayers are a blessing to us as we embark on this new chapter.

With Prayerful Regards,  
In His Service,

DEC 22 5.00 PM ONWARDS

Christmas Carol Night 2024

Guest Speaker:  
**Rev. Ham Joseph**  
St. Gregorios Orthodox Cathedral Bellwood.

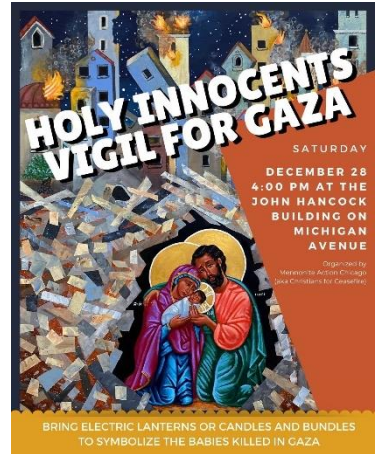
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil  
Vicar, CSI Christ Church of Chicago

**Save the date.**

**Join us on Dec 28, Feast of  
the Holy Innocents,  
at 4pm to Preach Palestine  
on Michigan Avenue**



While Americans celebrate Christmas, people in the land where Jesus was born are enduring Israel's genocidal war and bombardment with US weapons. In 14 months, more than 18,000 children have been killed. Show your solidarity by taking action with us, educating yourself, praying, and more.

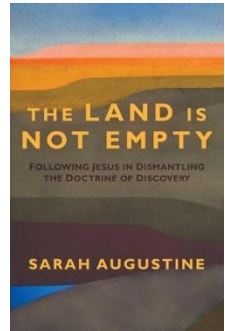
We will meet outside the John Hancock building on Michigan Avenue at 4 pm, process across the street, and then head south and west, ending outside Holy Name Cathedral on State Street, stopping a couple of times along the way. At each place, we'll hear a short speech, sing an appropriate carol or other song, and turn out toward the street to bear witness to the cruel displacement of families in Gaza and the taking of so many children's lives. To share with passersby, we'll have cards bearing Kelly Latimore's powerful *Christ in the Rubble* icon on one side ( see below) and a QR code on the other to provide a quick way for everyone to send a message to elected officials. Please bring an electric candle, lantern, or flashlight, along with a baby-sized roll of light-colored fabric (baby blankets, a towel, or something similar) .

Find attached the moving "Christ in the Rubble" icon by Kelly Latimore, used by permission.

## Justice Network - January 15

The Province 1 Indigenous People's Justice Network's next book discussion will be on **January 15**, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The book to be discussed is *The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* by Sarah Augustine. Register for the discussion using the link below:



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



### Be the Light

Many adults need help with basic English reading, writing, or speaking skills.

Be the light for someone  
and become a volunteer tutor!

Call or e-mail Oakton College

847-635-1426

[VITA@oakton.edu](mailto:VITA@oakton.edu)



If you haven't already, please return your Pledge Card!

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## Discern Faithfully, Plan Boldly



This week the diocese began a process that will conclude with the consideration of a detailed strategic plan at the Diocesan Convention in November 2025.

The planning process led by **Saison Consulting** of Cary, North Carolina, includes a 16-week discovery process during which consultants Nathan Kirkpatrick and Anne Schmidt will meet with the bishop and diocesan staff, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. They will also facilitate eight regional gatherings, four each for clergy and for laity.

Bishop Paula Clark announced the planning process at last month's annual convention and urged the members of the diocese to participate. "There is no way for us to understand what God is calling us to do without having a sense of what God is calling you to do, either individually or as a member of your congregation," she said.

More recently, the bishop said the strategic planning process was essential in "helping everyone understand our common goals, the kinds of energy and expertise that we need, and the ways that each of us can contribute to the mission that God has given the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago."

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES?**



**NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN  
ANY CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy Hanukkah**



**May all your troubles  
last as long as your  
new year's resolutions.**



**Happy New year**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 20 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Blue Christmas

December 22 ~ 10:00 am ~ 4 Advent ~ Morning Prayer

**December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

**4:30 pm ~ Music / 5:00 pm ~ Festive Eucharist**

**December 25 ~ 10:00 am ~ Christmas Day Festive Eucharist**

December 29 ~ 10:00 am ~ 1 Christmas ~ Morning Prayer

**2025 Our Sunday services move to 4:00 pm!**

### Epiphanytide

January 5 ~ Epiphany Sunday

4:00 pm ~ Holy Eucharist & Healing Corners

January 12 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 1 Epiphany ~ Morning Prayer

January 19 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 2 Epiphany ~ Holy Eucharist

January 21 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Vestry

January 26 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 3 Epiphany ~ Morning Prayer

February 2 ~ ANNUAL MEETING

4:00 pm ~ 4 Epiphany ~ Holy Eucharist & Healing Corners

February 9 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 5 Epiphany ~ Morning Prayer

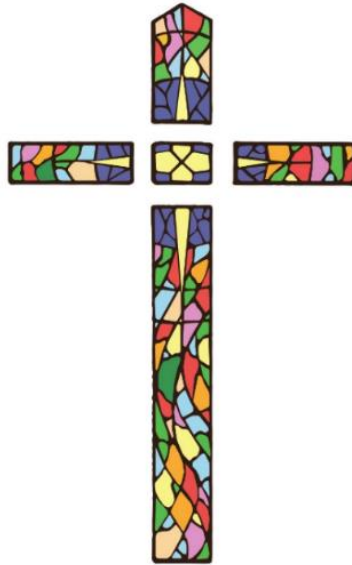
February 16 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 6 Epiphany ~ Holy Eucharist

February 18 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Vestry

February 23 ~ 4:00 pm ~ 7 Epiphany ~ Morning Prayer

March 2 ~ 4:00 pm ~ Last Epiphany ~ Holy Eucharist &  
Healing Corners

March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday



## St. Martin's Episcopal Church

**All are welcome**  
**and fed with the love of God**  
**pets too!**

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