



THE DECEMBER 2022 TRUMPETER

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service (In-Person)
10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service
(In-Person & Livestreamed via Facebook Live)

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm - Evening Prayer on Facebook Live
6 pm - Bible Study on Facebook Live & Zoom

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up! Please consider sponsoring a child/family with their Wish List!

On each card is information regarding who the gift is for (sex, age, clothing sizes and/or toy for which they would like). Please take the card, sign the sheet indicating the Tag # (card #), the family #, your name and phone number. After removing the tag, please place an ornament on the tree!

Once you have purchased the gift, please put it in a gift bag and attach the card with the family # on it. Please have all gifts to the church no later than, Sunday, December 18th.



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh
Bishop Provisional
The Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector
Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence
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The Reverend Elizabeth Morris Downie,
Associate Emeritus

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Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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VESTRY 2022

Frank Burger, *Senior Warden*
SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Steve Huber, *Junior Warden*
JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Bill Thewalt, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*
Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Ken Duck (2023) Flo Gjerstad (2024)
Ellen Safley (2025) Colleen Shrank (2025)
Kay Van Natta (2023)

UPCOMING LESSONS

December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
Psalm 146:4-9

December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

December 25

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Psalm 96

**Find the readings every week at
lectionarypage.net**

Clothing Items Outreach

We are still collecting NEW or like new T-shirts, socks and underwear to give to St. Andrew's for their outreach. Baskets to place donations can be found in the gathering space near the hallway to go to the Fellowship Hall.



notes from the... *Music Room*



Hello! I wanted to use this space, well, for a number of wonderful things I was hoping to talk about, and first on this list is just a little bit about Lessons and Carols. I thought that perhaps there were a few of us at St. Christopher's who may not fully know the origin of this service. So, I have nabbed this bit of information from the official Episcopal News Page, and would like to share the following: "Lessons & Carols services in the Anglican tradition began in 1878 and was formalized as a Christmas service in 1880 by the Bishop of Truro, later Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson. An Advent version of the service – normally carried out as a procession with lessons and carols – developed slightly later at King's College and is now celebrated around the world, normally as an evening service on the first or second Sunday in the season of Advent.

During the service, scriptural readings are interspersed with choral presentations and hymn, all of which recall mankind's longing for liberation from sin and death, and our hope and expectation for both the first and second coming of Christ the Lord".

Now, too, I think something that is of further interest is the origin of these lovely carols we all know and love--- (The First Nowell, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O Come, O Come Emmanuel"---carols. Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not specifically Christmas Carols. They were pre-Christian/pagan songs, sung during Winter Solstice events/celebrations which included dancing around stone circles--no 'Once in Royal David's City' for this crowd! The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually happening around the 21st or 22nd of December. Now, too, did you know that the word 'carol' actually means dance (specifically a circle dance)? Over time now, it has come to mean a song of joy, a song of praise! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived. Is this not so very interesting?

As Christmastime (remembering the birth of Jesus) then started to be celebrated at the same time as the Solstice, so the early Christians started singing Christian songs instead of pagan/pre-Christian ones. In 129, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Truly, I wonder what we might have as a service today, had this Roman Bishop not thought to include an "Angel's Hymn"? Food for thought. Another famous early Christmas Hymn was written in 760, by Cosmas of Jerusalem, for the Greek Orthodox Church. You all remember Cosmas, don't you? He is known as Saint Cosmas, of the Holy City (Jerusalem); Cosmas, the Melodist, Cosmas the Poet (died 773 or 794); ---too, he was a bishop, and a hymnographer in the Eastern tradition. He is venerated as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches. So, ultimately, not too long after this time period, many composers all over Europe started writing 'Christmas carols'.

However, (--sigh--) not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin (a language that the common man did not generally understand). By the time of the Middle Ages (let's say around the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether. Crisis in my book! Thankfully, this attitude was changed by St. Francis of Assisi (he is the man!) when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Performances which took place all over Italy. The people in these plays sang songs or 'canticles' which told the story of Christ's birth. Thus began the shift of singing choruses only in Latin; Now they were sung in a language the common man could understand and ultimately then participate! This version of the new carols spread throughout all of Europe, which brings us to today; here we are, at this moment in time, in little Grand Blanc, Michigan, celebrating this beautiful tradition of Lessons and Carols at St. Christopher's! I prattled on here a bit, and will therefore share other 'wonderful things' which have been happening for us musically at St. Christopher in our next Trumpeter issue.

Please do try to come to our Lessons and Carols service, December 11th, at 9:00 a.m.

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada Radakovich

Director of Music



THE PRIEST'S DESK

John 1:1

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hope. Love. Joy. Peace. During this season of preparation, we embrace each of these gifts. We hope for a better world. We live out our faith by sharing our love with one another. We experience joy when we share that love. And we find peace when we experience forgiveness and forgive others.

Advent is a time of great excitement and preparation. It is also a time of repentance. A time when we turn to God and away from sin. In doing so, we celebrate the truth of the Christmas Story. A miracle. A child born of virgin. A child sent by God. A child of God. Jesus the Christ.

It is a story born of love. God has such a great love for us that we just cannot comprehend it fully. God wants to be one with us. In a way that is countercultural. Our world tells us that this time is about gifts and food and parties. But God reminds us that this season is about love. God's immense love for us by sending Jesus into the world to create a new relationship with our Creator. Jesus was born for us. Jesus was crucified for us. Jesus was raised from the dead for us.

As we move through these next days and weeks, let us be mindful that it is not the presents under the tree that matter. It is the "presence" we have with God and with one another that is important. The gifts will be forgotten in a matter of weeks or months. But the relationship we have with God and with one another will last forever. In this world and in the next.

In just a few weeks, we will gather around a manger. And as we gather, may we be reminded of the humble birth of Jesus, Emanuel, God with us. Today and always. May God bring you hope, love, joy and peace in this season and always! I thank God each day for all of you! You are such a blessing to me and to one another. We are a wonderful community of believers!

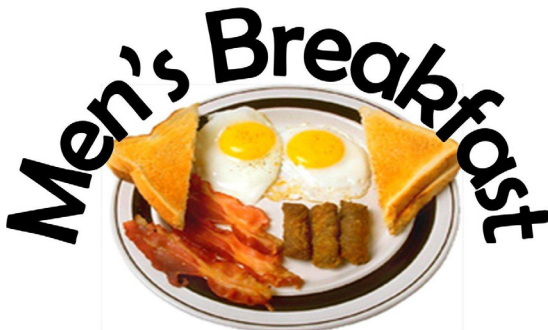
Amen.

Jerry+

"If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts."

— Edward Hays

MEN'S GROUP



Men: We have formed a new Men's Club that will meet once a month for breakfast on a Saturday morning to share fellowship. The next men's breakfast will be on **Saturday, December 10th at 9 a.m.** Location to be determined based on attendance. Reservations are highly recommended.

Please email or call Jerry to make your reservation.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Well, here we are quickly approaching the end of another calendar year and soon we will be celebrating the Christmas season.

Stewardship

We are deep in the midst of our stewardship campaign for the 2023 calendar year. Stewardship is a very important part of church life and making sure the church has the resources it needs to serve everyone and our community. I would ask that each person take some time to pray for our Stewardship team and your Vestry as we work together on our Stewardship campaign. Please remember that we will have our Stewardship breakfast following the service on December 11.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the past year serving as your Senior Warden. I will be finishing my term on the Vestry and my time as your Senior Warden. It has been an honor to serve you for the last year two years on the Vestry and to serve this past year as your Senior Warden.

Live Streaming

I'm pleased to report that we now have a live streaming team at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. We have had two new people join the team which now includes Audri Ditri, Alex Murray, and Cynthia Risch, and me. I want to thank those who have stepped forward to help with this important ministry to our community. There is always room for more people to join the streaming team.

We are also now recording our weekly Sunday services and posting them to our YouTube Channel, that way people can go back and watch services. You can subscribe to our YouTube Channel by clicking [here](#).



SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

Beginning **January (please note this change)**, we will begin having a Saturday evening service at 6 pm immediately followed by a potluck dinner. There will be a "kid's korner" for families with children. All are welcome!

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in November:

Bill Anderson, Cindy Donner
and Rob Bytwerk.

There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host! You only have to make coffee/tea and perhaps provide a small snack or treat item if desired.

LADIES LUNCHEON

The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. It will be held at Sophia's Kitchen in Grand Blanc at Noon. Please sign up on the kiosk or let Colleen Shrank (810) 694-5647 know if you plan on attending. Reservations must be submitted to Colleen by Sunday, December 11th so that a head count can be given to the restaurant.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's will take place Sunday, January 29th following the 10:15 am Holy Eucharist Service. If you are in charge of an area of St. Christopher's life, please plan to have a report regarding 2022 to Jerry or Angela in the church office by Wednesday, January 4 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting Booklet.





St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve
 Saturday, December 24, 2022
 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Services

No Services
 Sunday, December 25, 2022

<http://www.stchrisgrandblanc.org/>

CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Christmas Eve Worship Services will be held at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. There will be a pot luck dinner for members of the parish and any guests in between the services. All are welcome!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas Flowers are currently being accepted. There are envelopes in the Gathering Area for those that would like to donate. Please be sure to fill out a form indicating who the flowers are given in memory of and whom they are from. All forms should be submitted to the church office by Monday, December 19, 2022.




Family Coat Closet

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

Every Saturday!
September through December
10am - Noon

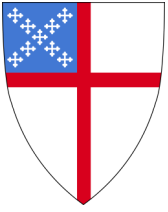
 **St. Christopher's**
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 GRAND BLANC, MICHIGAN

Join us for Sunday Services!
 8:00am and 10:15am
 9020 S. Saginaw, Grand Blanc, MI (810) 694-3600



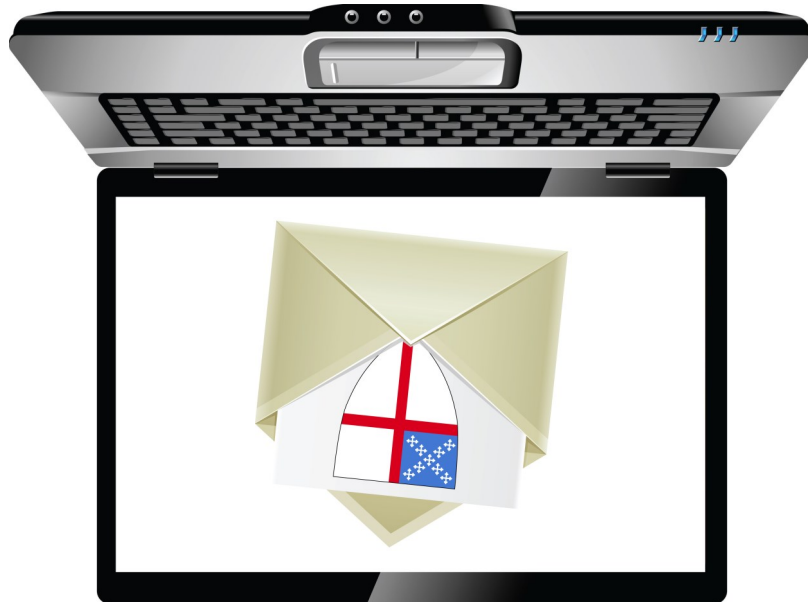

Worship Leaders for December 2022						
	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
<u>December 11</u>						
9 am	Joyce Thewalt	Paul & Jerri Bassett		Jane Brewer		
<u>December 18</u>						
8 am	Dave & Melissa Butler	Jane Brewer & Lou Alarie		-----	-----	-----
10:15 am	Ken Duck	Jane Yorks & Becky Stermer		Sharon Rice		
Christmas Eve						
<u>December 24</u>						
4 pm Service	Linda Rathburn	Jan Taylor & Mary VanDuyne	-----	-----		
7 pm Service	Ellen Safley	Jan Taylor & Flo Gjerstad		Louise McAra		
<u>December 25 – No Service</u>						





ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

G-9020 South Saginaw Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439



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Get your Trumpeter faster and help us to save on postage!

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Thank you for your continued support!