

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELLULAR PHONES WHILE YOU ENJOY THE MUSIC OF THE PRELUDE! *THANK YOU.*

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EAST NORWALK, CONNECTICUT



THE REVEREND FRANK WISMER, VICAR

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

ALL ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP IN THIS PLACE,
INCLUDING YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR OCCASIONAL NOISE BUT,
IF YOU WOULD PREFER—CHRIST CHURCH DOES OFFER CHILDCARE DURING WORSHIP.
PLEASE CONSULT AN USHER FOR ANSWERS TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

☺ WELCOME HOME! ☺

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Liturgy of the Word

Advent Antiphon

Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord

The Opening Hymn 438

Tell Out My Soul

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

The people stand if able, the Celebrant then continues

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then continues

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In unison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Celebrant says to the people.

God be with you.
People: And also with you.
 Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel 7:1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Canticle 3

The Song of Mary Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.


A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.


The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.


Silence may follow. All stand if able.



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Then, all standing if able, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1:26-38

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

*People: The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The people sit.

The Sermon

Father Frank

Then, all standing if able, the Celebrant continues with

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Silence may follow. All kneel if able.

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pri - sonders to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Rowan, Archbishop of Canterbury; Katharine, our Presiding Bishop;
Ian, James, and Laura, our own Bishops; Pat and Frank, our Priests;
and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; and for those who are in need of healing
and comfort:

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life; especially those of this congregation—nearby
and not so near.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, **especially Arthur and Anna;**
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Intercessor continues.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Intercessor and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Peace

Book of Common Prayer, Page 360

All stand if able. The Celebrant says to the people

 The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements ~ The Offertory ~ Children's Homily

Father Frank

The Offertory Anthem

Advent Prayer
Flute Solo: Lauren Tiefenthaler

arr. by Patrick Liebergen

*Lord, Savior come to me, Jesus I wait for Thee.
Angels and all the earth give praise to You, O Lord.
Your glory shines on me, Your birth shall set me free.
Holy, holy, Holy are you, O Lord.*

*Lo, How a rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem shall come.
We praise You Lord and call Your name.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
Holy are You O Lord.
Great and mighty are You O Lord.
Lord come to me in peace and love.*

The Doxology

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight

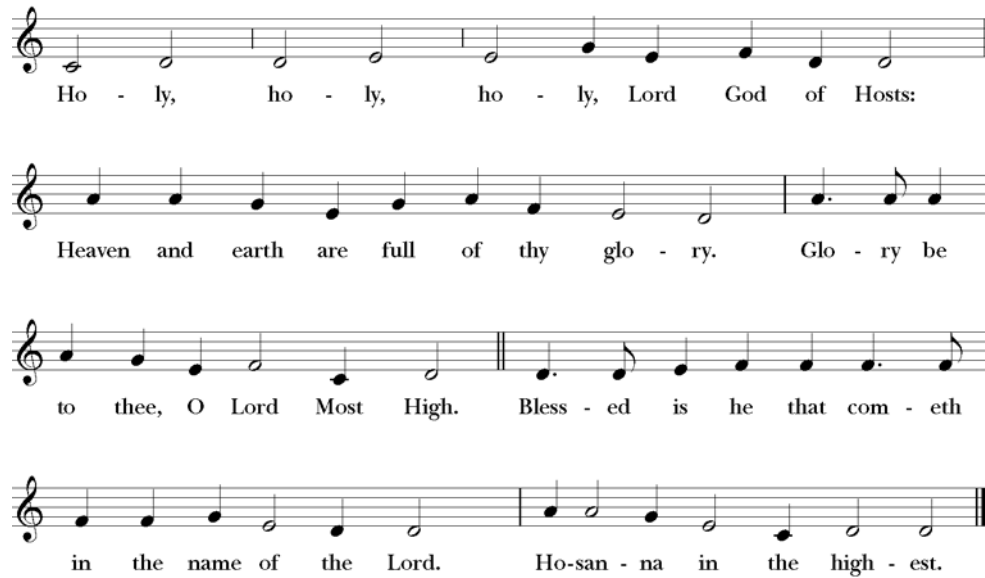
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
 Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be
 to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel if able.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
 as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Book of Common Prayer, Page 364

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Book of Common Prayer, Page 364

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

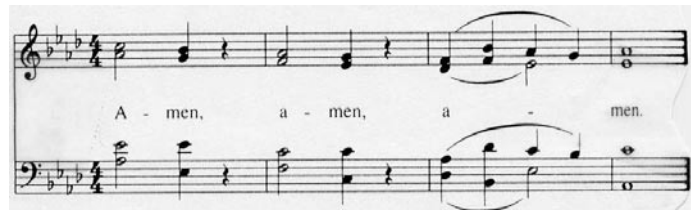
Celebrant and People

Book of Common Prayer, Page 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Amen



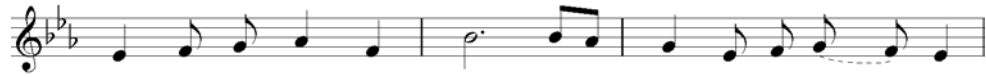
All stand if able.

Closing Hymn 75

There's A Voice In The Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
 feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Postlude

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

arr. L. Smith

Readings for December 25, 2011: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers near the Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Arthur and Anna Mead.

VIGIL LIGHT: The Vigil light burns with thanksgiving for the safe return of our service members.

LAST CALL for CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS: Please speak to Sarah French today.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: Father Frank leads Bible Study on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the Guild Room. ALL are welcome!

POC: Rev. Frank Wismer, 302.399.0303 or vicar@christchurcheastnorwalk.org

ADVENT STUDY MONDAY NIGHT: The Lost Years of the Christ Child, 7:00 p.m.

LIVING NATIVITY: Many thanks to all who made the living nativity possible.

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS & KIDS PARTY TODAY!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Christ Church will offer two opportunities for worship on Christmas Eve. The pageant and celebration for those a bit younger will be 5:30 p.m. The later, candlelit "midnight mass", will begin at 11:00 p.m. **POC:** Rev. Frank Wismer, 302.399.0303 or vicar@christchurcheastnorwalk.org

CHRISTMAS DAY, 9:00 a.m. ONLY!

USHERS NEEDED: We need a few trainees! Potential ushers will train with a veteran usher until s/he is ready to "go it alone". The level of time commitment required is approximately once a month. Please note, candidates should at least be in high school, or older. For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a part of this vital ministry of hospitality, please contact **Judy White** at 203.856.8154 or jaz826@gmail.com.

THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!

Ordinary People ✦ Extraordinary Spirit

2 Emerson Street • East Norwalk, Connecticut 06855
203.866.7442

www.christchurcheastnorwalk.org

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Betty Belcher, Organist & Choir Director, 203.846.1274, music@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Bridget Pritchard, Church School Leader, 203.838.4901, bpritchard@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Bunny Zamm, Parish Administrator, 203.853.3004, pastoralcare@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Michael Mordoff, Web Minister, 203.919.6767, webminister@christchurcheastnorwalk.org

Vestry

George Helwig	(2012) Sr. Warden, 203.354.0724, ghelwig@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Donald Burr	(2012) Jr. Warden, 203.434.1281, dburr@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Marge Owens	(2012) Treasurer, 203.857.3449, mowens@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Jean Chappell	(2012) Clerk, 203.853.2633, jchappell@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Lorraine McLaughlin	(2012) 203.838.8770, lmclaughlin@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Ruth Lovallo	(2012) 203.847.0966, rlovallo@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
William Davis	(2013) 203.838.1862, wdavis@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Michael Mordoff	(2013) 203.919.6767, webminister@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Bud Krouse	(2014) 203.866.2019, bkrouse@christchurcheastnorwalk.org
Bridget Pritchard	(2014) 203.838.4901, bpritchard@christchurcheastnorwalk.org

*The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to promote the growth of faith and Christian fellowship;
by following the word of God. We encourage an open, accepting, welcoming, inclusive environment;
providing realistic outreach activities to support the needs of the parish and the community.*

DECEMBER 18, 2011: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: The Reverend Frank Wismer

8:00 a.m.

Usher: Joe Oravez

10:00 a.m.

Lector: Jean Chappell

Intercessor: Raelene Miller

Usher: Michael Mordoff

Altar Guild: Lois Kelley, Lorraine Burr, Lorraine McLaughlin