



*Dear Friends:*

As the Nativity of Christ draws near, some are saying: "It is a strange year for Christmas." Families are scattered. Husbands and sons are on far-flung battle fronts. Defense work goes on. The world is at war. There is sadness and sorrow in many a home.

We answer: "It is a wonderful year for Christmas." There never was a year when we more desperately needed the assurance of God's presence among us. That is what Christmas means—Emmanuel, God with us.

A modern wise man has written about Christmas: "Despite ages of brutality and blurred vision, the wonder still abides and grows. It haunts us alike by its incredible beauty and its unconquerable faith—its warmth, its winsomeness, its mingling of heavenly truth with little, tender, tugging human loves, uniting the strange might which men call weakness with the deep power of joy and all the pull of playtime. It is our only hope of healing the broken lives and warring wills of men—our only prophecy of a merry world Christmas."

Come, then, and let us join the endless procession of the ages and make our way in humbleness and hopefulness to Bethlehem in reverent spirit, "to see this thing which hath come to pass which the Lord hath made known unto us." Let us keep the Christmas feast. Let us share in the song of the Angels, the gladness of the Shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Above the world's troubles, the Message of the Manger rings clear. May its notes of joy and hope be in your homes and abide with you.

Affectionately yours,

THOMAS N. CARRUTHERS.

J. FRANCIS McCLOUD.

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O Christ, grant us thankful hearts today for Thee, our choicest gift, our dearest guest. Let not our souls be busy lanes that have no room for Thee and Thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise where Thou mayest find fit company, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet spaces kept for Thee, where holy thoughts pass up and down, and fervent longings watch and wait Thy coming, Lord Jesus. Amen.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH



11:30 p. m. The Midnight Service, Christmas Carols and Choral Celebration of Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 a. m. Choral Celebration of Holy Communion.

THE MIDNIGHT CHORAL COMMUNION

Organ Prelude—A Carpenter is born.....*Edmundson*  
Processional hymn—No. 79: "It came upon the Midnight  
Clear.....*Sears*  
Hymn—No. 101: "Joy to the World".....*Isaac Watts*  
Hymn—No. 78: "O Little Town of Bethlehem".....*Phillips Brooks*  
Introit hymn—No. 546: "Silent Night, Holy Night".....*Mohr*  
Three Fold Kyrie.....*Gounod*  
Collect and Epistle—Page 96 of the Prayer Book  
Gradual—Hymn No. 545: "All my heart this night rejoices"  
.....*Gerhard*  
Gloria Tibi.....*Gounod*  
The Gospel—Page 97 of the Prayer Book  
Laus Tibi.....*Gounod*  
Nicene Creed  
Hymn—No. 72: "O come all ye faithful" (Adeste Fidelis). *Wade*  
Offertory—"There were Shepherds abiding in the field", . . .  
.....*Matthews*  
Prayer for the whole state of Christ's Church  
Sanctus.....*Gounod*  
Gloria in Excelsis.....*Old Chant*  
Recessional hymn—No. 73: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"  
.....*Charles Wesley*  
Organ Postlude—Noel.....*Gailmant*

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY—St. Stephen.

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion.

SUNDAY—St. John Evangelist.

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion.

9:30 a.m. Church School.

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon.

6:00 p.m. Youth Meetings.

MONDAY—Holy Innocents.

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion.

PRIVATE COMMUNIONS—Your ministers will be glad to arrange for private administration of the Holy Communion at the homes of any members of the congregation who, by reason of sickness or infirmity, are prevented from coming to Church. Please telephone the parish office and let the clergy know what time will be most convenient.

## THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christ Church needs a generous Christmas Offering if we are to come through the year with all expenses met. We still owe a considerable sum on our Missionary Quota, and on our pledge to the St. Luke's Community House. Please use the special Christmas Offering Envelope. The Vestry and Council are most eager that we come through the year 1942 without a deficit. We can do that if there is a generous Christmas Offering.

## USHERS

11:30 *p. m.* *Christmas Eve*.—Messrs. J. T. Bayer, R. H. Chilton, Henry Cook, Duncan Eye III, Fyke Farmer, Frank Fletcher, Minos Fletcher, Terry Hart, Earl Roach, Walter Robinson.

11:00 *a. m.* *Christmas Day*.—Joseph Howell, Jr., W. K. Kershaw, H. H. Moses, John H. Morcomin, C. F. Turner.

ALTAR FLOWERS.—The flowers are placed on the Altar by Mrs. W. C. Butler in memory of her father, Judge Floyd Estill.