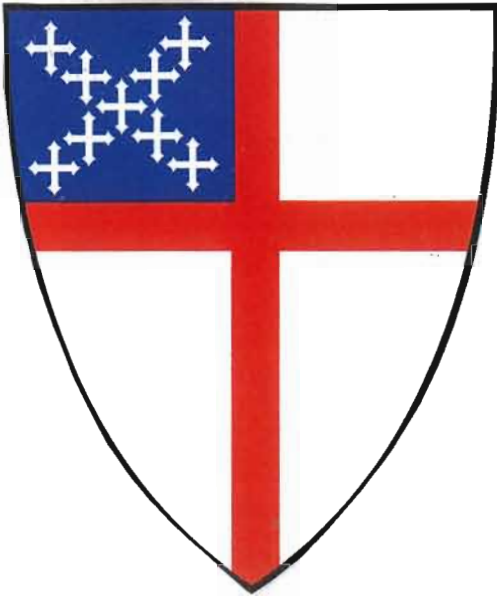


The Episcopal Church



WELCOME TO CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

We're so glad you've chosen to worship at our contemporary worship service today. If you or a loved one are in need of prayer or wish to speak with a member of the clergy for any reason, please let us know right away and we'll be sure to set up a meeting as soon as possible—perhaps today!

Christ Episcopal Church has been in Stratford for over 300 years and we've seen the town and church change and adapt over the years. This contemporary worship service is our latest adaptation, as we wish to have a wonderful, joyful place for all ages to worship.

You will find the worship text and music in the large red notebooks. It is the custom and practice of the Episcopal Church to welcome all baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion. I would be honored to break bread with you this morning.

At Christ Church you are welcome to simply be fed and nourished spiritually through worship each week or, if you prefer, you can get involved in our many ministries, including The Joyful Voices Choir (all ages), The Lord's Kitchen feeding program on Wednesdays, Youth Group, Sunday School, Adult Education, and much more.

Thank you for worshipping God---God loves you! **You, exactly as you are**, bring God much joy!

Faithfully Yours,

The Rev. Mary A. Canavan

2000 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615

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Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!

We're glad you're worshipping with us today. Most of what you will need for the worship service is found in this notebook. The list of songs to be sung, Scripture readings, and announcements are in a separate handout called a "bulletin" that is available from an usher who will be at the front doors.

Please know that children are welcome at Christ Church's worship services. The 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service is a bit shorter with a children's homily, as well. We hope that those of you with children will find this a very special family time. We encourage you to help your children follow the worship in the notebook and to participate in the singing of the hymns. Because the children actively participate in this worship service, there may be more of a "joyful noise" than simply the "Joyful Voices" of our multi-generational choir. We welcome all children, regardless of noise level!

For those who wish to use it, nursery care is available for children ages infant to three years old from 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.

We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays and at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays. Both of these worship services are quiet and meditative. On Sunday we follow the assigned Scripture for the day and on Thursday the Scripture readings and sermon are generally an exploration from the book "Holy Women, Holy Men."

If you are not familiar with receiving Holy Communion (also known as the Holy Eucharist or the Lord's Supper), please know that all baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive communion. We will place the communion wafer in your outstretched hands, which you may either eat, or wait to dip in the cup of communion wine. If you eat the bread, you may drink from the cup when it is extended to you. If you prefer, you may choose to have only the bread.

During Holy Communion, we often have the **laying on of hands for healing** in the side Chapel. You may approach the lay person in the Chapel as you leave the altar for Holy Communion and ask for prayers for yourself or a loved one or you may simply ask for prayers without naming a specific intention.

Following worship, you are invited for coffee, tea, and food in the parish hall.

If you have any questions or comments concerning worship or any matter regarding Christ Episcopal Church, please share them with a member of the clergy. More information about the parish may be found at our website www.christchurchstratford.org or you may call us at 203-375-4447. **If you would like to receive mail from us,** please fill out a newcomers' card found in the pew in front of you and put it in the offering plate or give it to a clergy.

Thank you for worshipping God with us. We hope you will be back soon and often.