



## WELCOME, VISITORS!

We are delighted you came today! Looking for a church home? We warmly invite you to be part of our church family! To help us get to know you better, or if you have questions, please fill in this form, tear it off, and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher or pastor. You can also submit a Digital Connection Card at [www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact](http://www.churchofthemessiah.org/contact). Please feel free to call us anytime at 757-436-2545 or visit our website, [ChurchoftheMessiah.org](http://ChurchoftheMessiah.org). God bless you!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ By phone ☐ By email

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I would like a pastor to contact me.  
☐ First-time visitor ☐ Returning visitor  
☐ I would like to know more about Church of the Messiah  
☐ I would like to know more about the Christian faith.  
☐ I have decided to renew my commitment to Christ.  
☐ I would like prayer (see reverse).

My response to today's message:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 12.21.2025



## Celebrations

### Happy Birthday

December 23: Monica Flynn

December 24: Wendy O'Rourke



## Please Pray

*Please join us in praying for these requests throughout the week  
(Prayer requests will appear for one month unless requested otherwise.)*

### OUR NATION AND WORLD:

- An end to hostilities in Israel and peace and healing for all people.
- Protection and healing for our nation, and an end to racism and violence.
- Guidance for our leaders in government.
- Help for all affected by war and violence, disease, and natural disasters.
- A movement of revival at home and abroad.

### OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

The Brown family, the Hopkins family, the Balch family, the Bohannon family, the Knight family, Chris Woodland, Josh Corona, Tom Waldman, Lorene Evans and her son Whitt, Colleen Lucas, Ray Ross, our first responders, all our members of the military, and Sanctuary of Hope, our companion church

### OUR OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES:

Aaron and Winnie Coleman-Horvat, Croatia  
The Rev. Bisoke Balikenga, Democratic Republic of Congo  
David & Betsy, Turkey  
His Love in Action School for the Deaf in Honduras  
Miriam Brinckley, YWAM-Harpenden, England  
CMJ-Israel (Church's Ministry Among Jewish People)

### WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH:

Diocese of San Joaquin

### AND THE DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:

Resurrection Anglican Church, • Midlothian, VA  
Resurrection Church • Emporia, VA

*If you would like our prayer ministry to pray for a special need, please submit a confidential Prayer Request online at [www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/contact](http://www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/contact). Please indicate if you would like your prayer request included in the bulletin, sent only to the prayer team, or both.*



*Our mission is to make tangible the life-transforming power of God's love so that all may come to know Christ.*



**Fourth Sunday in Advent December 21, 2025**

**816 Kempsville Road • Chesapeake, VA 23320**

**Phone:** 757-436-2545 **Email:** [Messiah@ChurchoftheMessiah.org](mailto:Messiah@ChurchoftheMessiah.org)

**Web:** [ChurchoftheMessiah.org](http://ChurchoftheMessiah.org) **Facebook:** [ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheMessiahChesapeake)

**RECTOR:** The Rev. Dr. Martin K. O'Rourke

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** The Rev. Dr. Ken Shomo

**DEACON:** The Rev. Tom Sweeney

WEEKLY SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday Service with Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

In-Person or Livestream at [www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream](http://www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream)

Children’s Church · Fellowship Hall (After Worship until Communion)

Today’s Teachers: Aaron Bennett, Lauren Coleman,  
Mary Stern, Peggy Burkhardt

Monday Prayer Meeting · Online at 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent · December 21, 2025

**PRAYER:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading:** Psalm 34:1-8 **Page 478**

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 **Page 1047**

(Response after each lesson: *Thanks be to God.*)

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25 **Page 827**

(Responses: *Glory to You, Lord Christ. ... Praise to You, Lord Christ.*)

**Sermon:** *Salvation’s Joy* / Pastor Ken Shomo

**Reader:** Debbie White

**Eucharistic Ministers:** John & Marcia Curtis

**Prayer Team:** Ellen Belfi & Julie Hall

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

|           |          |   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Today     | 10:00 am | Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream) |
| Monday    | 7:00 pm  | Parish Prayer Meeting (online via Zoom) |
| Wednesday |          | CHRISTMAS EVE—OFFICE CLOS               |
|           | 6:30 pm  | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service       |
|           | 10:00 pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service       |
| Thursday  |          | CHRISTMAS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED             |
| Friday    |          | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY—OFFICE CLOSED         |

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

OUR CHILDREN ARE PRESENTING TWO CHRISTMAS SONGS TODAY!

Messiah’s kids are excited to share the joy of the season with us; thank you to Wendy O’Rourke for coordinating this special treat!



**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** will be held at 6:30 pm and 10:00 pm. The early service is family friendly and includes a children’s sermon. Both services feature traditional music and candle-lighting. Invitations are available in the foyer — invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers!

**LAST SUNDAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS!** Use the attached form to order and dedicate poinsettias to be placed around the altar on Christmas Eve. Each plant is \$13 (non-deductible), and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.



**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:** The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve, and will reopen on Monday, December 29. We will also be closed New Year’s Day. The clergy and staff of Messiah wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year!

**JOIN THE C.A.S.T.!** Help Messiah and the Chesapeake Area Shelter Team provide food, shelter, and compassionate care to those in need during the week of **February 11–17**. Please consider joining us or co-leading one of our teams. There are several ways to support our efforts—even if you are unable to be present while we are hosting guests. In addition, we are helping on **January 1, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, so C.A.S.T. guests have a warm, safe place to stay. If your able to help contact Niketa.

**ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.** There will be no online prayer meetings on December 22, 29 or January 5. Join us next on Zoom on January 12.



**EPIPHANY PRAYER MEETING:** Plan now to join us in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 6, to pray that God will use us in the coming year to bring the Good News of His love to our community and the world. There will be no online prayer meeting that day.

**YEAR-END IS APPROACHING** along with the deadline to make tax-deductible contributions for 2024. Please remember that gifts must be dropped off or post-marked on or before December 31. Thank you!

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** We’d love to get to know you! Please fill in the attached “Welcome Visitors” form and drop it in the offering box, Contact us at 757-436-2545 or [messiah@churchofthemessiah.org](mailto:messiah@churchofthemessiah.org) with questions.



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase and dedicate poinsettias to decorate the altar on Christmas Eve, please fill out this form, detach it, and place it in the offering box along with your payment. If you cannot pay today, please indicate this below and bring your payment by December 22. Poinsettias are \$13 each and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

Given by:

Dedication: To the Glory of God and

☐ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$13 per plant, non-deductible)

☐ Check\* ☐ Cash

\*Please write “Poinsettias” on your check.

☐ Please order and I will pay later.