



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. Please feel free to call us anytime at 757-436-2545 or visit our website, 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:

12.15.2024

Celebrations

Happy Birthday

December 19: Doris Gomez

Happy Anniversary

December 15: Gary & Misty Taylor

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:

Susan Bohannon, Debi Balch, Chris Woodland, Kathy Hopkins, Sandra Brown, Josh Corona, Tom Waldman, Aaron Woodward (son of Ellen Belfi), our healthcare workers, 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:

The Provincial Office

AND THE DIOCESE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:

Incarnation Anglican Church • Williamsburg, VA
Korean Anglican Church in Maryland • Baltimore, MD

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. 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.



The Third Sunday in Advent • December 15, 2024

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

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: The Rev. Nile Gomez

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

DEACONS: The Rev. Tom Sweeney, The Rev. Vivian Hayes

WEEKLY SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday Service with Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

In-Person or Livestream at www.ChurchoftheMessiah.org/Livestream
Children's Church · Fellowship Hall (After Worship until Communion)

Today's Teachers: Wendy O'Rourke, Colleen Lucas

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

Via Zoom · Meeting ID 928 2372 1136

The Third Sunday in Advent · December 15, 2024

PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20 **Page 703**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4–9 **Page 874**

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

Gospel: Luke 3:7–20 **Page 763**

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

Sermon: **Rejoice Always —** Pastor Nile Gomez
The Advent of True Joy

Reader: Cherry Jenson

Eucharistic Ministers: Marshall Crow, Ron Jenson, Cherry Jenson

Prayer Team: Ellen Belfi, Colleen Lucas

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today 10:00 am Sunday Service (Sanctuary & Livestream)
Monday 7:00 pm Parish Prayer Meeting (online via Zoom)

MESSIAH BUDGET NEWS

As of November 30, 2024: Year to Date Required: \$375,491.68
Year to Date Received: 371,855.87
Shortage of: \$ 3,635.81

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SONGS: Messiah kids are excited to present two songs in church next Sunday, December 22. Please bring them to the sanctuary by 9:15 am to rehearse, and have them wear "Sunday best" clothing in Christmas colors if possible. The kids will enjoy a Christmas party during the regular Messiah Kids time, and visitors are welcome. See Ken Shomo or Wendy O'Rourke for questions.



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!



STAFF & CLERGY CHRISTMAS GIFT: A tradition began at Messiah's first Christmas service that has continued for over 40 years. The Vestry and church family gave a gift to the clergy and staff, blessing them with a little something extra that holiday year. Your vestry is asking you to join them in continuing this tradition for the 41st Christmas at Church of the Messiah. Any amount would be appreciated. Just write "Christmas Gift" in the memo line and forward it to the church.



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.



EPIPHANY PRAYER MEETING: Plan now to join us in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm on Monday, 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.



THE LADIES' CHRISTMAS BRUNCH yesterday was a joyous time of music, fellowship and worship. Thank you to all those who contributed to the Glad Tidings of Great Joy Christmas Brunch with their presence, prayers, talents, gifts, and contributions of sacrificial and joyful service prior, during, and after the event, bringing food and making Christmas special for children at Sanctuary of Hope.



CHANUKAH BEGINS DECEMBER 25! Cards are available in the foyer to send Chanukah greetings to your Jewish friends or family members.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS will be held the first Sunday in February. Up to three new Vestry members may be elected this year, so please begin to prayerfully consider individuals (including yourself) who you feel may be called to this leadership role.

JOIN THE C.A.S.T.! Help Messiah and the Chesapeake Area Shelter Team provide food, shelter and more to those in need the week of February 19-26. Join or co-lead one or more of the 10 teams by signing up in the foyer. There are ways to support some of the teams even if you cannot be present while we are hosting guests.



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.