



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

WELCOME *to* CHRIST CHURCH

Thanks for joining us for worship this morning! We gather each week because we believe Jesus Christ is the one true hope for our tired and broken world. So, wherever your walk is with God, we are glad you are here to be part of our celebration of God's generosity to us in Jesus.

Christ Church is an inter-generational congregation rooted in our common faith in Christ and commitment to serving His kingdom. These commitments propel us into the future as we continue our congregation's thirty-year tradition of joyful and reverent worship, dedication to spiritual growth, and passion for advancing the Gospel in Jacksonville and around the world.

If you have any questions about Christ Church, please don't hesitate to ask an usher, a friendly face in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors.

KIDS *during* WORSHIP

This Sunday we celebrate Holy Communion. Children, ages 3-1st grade, are dismissed before the Scripture readings and return during the offering to join us for our celebration of the Lord's Supper. While many of our kids are not prepared to share in the Lord's Table, we believe there is great value to including them in this celebratory feast. This tangible expression of God's grace in Jesus Christ often provokes great discussions for families with even the youngest of children. Additionally, the elders serving the meal pray for all non-communing children.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| December 24 (5p) | Christmas Eve Service |
| December 26 (10.30a) | Worship Service |
| January 2 (10.30a) | Worship Service |
| January 9 (9.30a) | School of Discipleship Resumes |
| January 9 (10.30a) | Worship Service |
| January 11 (6.30p) | Joint Officers' Meeting |

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Join us on at Christ Church on Christmas Eve to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus. We will begin promptly at 5p with lessons read by our kids and hymns and carols sung together. Please join us in the Narthex before the service at 4.30p for cookies and hot apple cider.

SEAMARK RANCH WHITE CHRISTMAS

To help Seamark Ranch prepare for the year ahead, please consider donating items from their wish list: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, strong paper plates, kitchen trash bags, outdoor trash bags, ziplock storage bags, laundry detergent, & dishwasher detergent.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity towards Christ Church during 2021. We are in good position to end our fiscal year in solid shape; however, we need a strong month of congregational participation to do so. As of 12/16/21, we have received \$35,920.21 towards our \$67,000.00 monthly budget.

STAFF & MISSIONARY OFFERING

The Session will be collecting a special offering that will be designated and distributed to our mission partners and staff members as an end-of-year gift. Labeled envelopes will be inserted in your bulletins and can be placed in the offering plates.

DEACONS' FUND OFFERING

Along with Communion, we will have a special Deacons' Fund offering. If you would like to participate, please designate a check for the Deacons' Fund and place it in the offering plate. Please place cash donations to the Deacons' Fund in a labeled envelope.

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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————— ENTER *the* PRESENCE *of* GOD —————

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

David & Dixie Long

Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship, and silence all mobile devices.

⊕ CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him!

Let all the upright in heart exult!

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart! Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,

And give thanks to his holy name!

INVOCATION

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words: Neale | Music: Helmore

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Prior to the corporate prayer, we take a moment to confess our sins in silence.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⊕ HYMN

Before the Throne of God Above

Words: Bancroft | Music: Cook

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God.

HYMN

Abide with Me

Words: Lyte | Music: Monk

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide:
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes:
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

And, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The "holy catholic Church" refers to the entire company of God's redeemed people throughout the world and across the centuries.*

Children, ages 3-1st grade, are dismissed for Children's Chapel. Children exit the sanctuary through the main rear doors. They will return for the Offering.

HEAR *the* WORD of GOD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 95

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice,
- ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- ⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways.”
- ¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

After the Psalm, we respond:

All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God stands forever!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 6.41-51

⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

I AM the Bread of Life
Chuck Colson

RESPOND *to* GOD

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

After our congregational supplications, we say the prayer our Savior has taught us.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

⊕ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son;
And praise the Spirit three in one!
O Praise him, O Praise him;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.**

CELEBRATE *the* LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THANKSGIVING & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory! Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Then, the pastor continues in prayer by giving thanks to God for our salvation in Jesus Christ and sets apart the bread and wine for the meal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the outer aisles. When the usher invites you, step up to the communion rail to receive the bread and cup. You will then return to your seat down the center aisle.

All baptized Christians, who are seeking to walk in repentance and faith, are welcome to join us at the table. Children, who are not communing members of the church, are invited to come forward with their families for prayer.

HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Words & Music: Moultrie

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth, descendeth;
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful;
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven,
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish,
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, Lord Most High!
Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, Lord Most High!

HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Words: Brownlie | Tune: Morning Song

The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills,
And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old, a little child
To bear, and fight, and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun,
That lights the morning sky.

O, brighter than that glorious morn,
Shall this fair morning be,
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
And we his face shall see!

The King shall come when morning dawns,
And earth's dark night is past—
O, haste the rising of that morn,
That day that aye shall last.

The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,
Come quickly, King of kings!

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Words: Williams | Music: Hughes

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

⊕ HYMN

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Words: Hustad | Music: McIntosh

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus

I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, I am bound,
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain, and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place
And be forever blest?
When shall I see my Father's face
And in his bosom rest?

DEPART *in* PEACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

MINISTRY *of the* WEEK

LOCAL

City Rescue Mission (CRM) exists to transform the lives of the homeless and needy in Jacksonville, serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. CRM accomplishes this mission by providing multiple programs including addiction recovery, emergency services, meals, job training, and resourcing.

INTERNATIONAL

Kurt Nelson is President and CEO of East-West Ministries International. He provides leadership and oversight to all worldwide ministry endeavors in the 50+ countries in which East-West currently operates. Kurt also personally leads East-West short-term trips to India, Russia, Kazakhstan, East Asia, and Cuba.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

HEALTH CONCERNS: Steve Beaver; Barb Day (*cancer*); Louis Fassnacht; Sue Forsyth (*back*); Elizabeth Garnett (*cancer*); Gar Gurganious (*cancer*); Hector (*dementia*) & V'Elna Harima; Wayne Noble; Sandy Reynolds; Jewell Smith (*back*)

EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Katie Lakey; Abigail Waddell

DEPLOYMENTS: Jonathan Waddell

STAFF *of* CHRIST CHURCH

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ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Steve Beaver | Roger Bosma | Jim Dickenson | Jon Groh | Rob Hiday | Dave Lowe

Hugh Morris | David Ristau | Spence Romine | Cannon Simpson



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