



CHRIST CHURCH
— PCA —
MANDARIN

ORDER *of* WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2020

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 with a name tag in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors.

KIDS *during* WORSHIP

During our service, we encourage parents of young children to keep their kids in worship as long as they like. We also provide age-appropriate care and instruction for kids. Parents with children 2-years old or younger may drop-off their children in the Nursery where a team of trained child-care professionals and volunteers await them. Children, ages 3-1st grade, are dismissed for Children's Chapel after we recite the Apostles' Creed. They break into two groups to study God's Word. All children above nursery age return to the sanctuary for the offering so that we close our worship with the family of God together.

LIFE *in* EXILE

While renovating and expanding our church facility, our congregation's normal patterns of worship and ministry will be different than normal. Our relocation to the Ramada Inn impacts our ability to hold Sunday School while also affecting our weekly slate of Bible studies and fellowship opportunities. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to organize and enjoy informal means of fellowship on Sundays after church and throughout the week. We appreciate your patience during this transition!

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

February 26 (7p)	High Life at the Ringhavers'
March 1 (10.30a)	Worship Service
March 8 (9.30a)	Building Committee Forum Meeting
March 8 (10.30a)	Communion Service
March 21 (9a-3p)	Women's Retreat

SCHEDULE CHANGE: BUILDING COMMITTEE FORUM, MARCH 8, 9.30AM

Due to some conflicts in the schedule, we plan to host our forum with the Building Committee on Sunday, March 8, at 9.30am in the sanctuary at the Ramada. The committee will be able to share a full update after their meeting with the general contractor earlier that week. We will also communicate our transition plans for our return to the building and the various ministry opportunities that lie ahead of our community. Please do not miss out! This will be the final major update before we move back to our campus!

WOMEN'S RETREAT: SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 9a-3p

Christ Church women, please join us Saturday, March 21st from 9a-3p at the Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra Beach for our 2020 Women's Retreat. Our speaker will be Jessica Fitzpatrick Thompson and the topic will be *Everyday Grace*. The cost of the retreat is \$40. Visit the church website to register online. Financial assistance is available and can be requested by checking the appropriate box on the sign up form online. For more information, contact the church office.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

In partnership with Trinity Church and Iglesia La Travesia in Puerto Rico, we are excited to send a short-term mission team to Dorado, PR to serve a small community that was devastated by Hurricane Maria two years ago. We will serve the community through aiding in the construction process to rebuild homes and restore lives. The dates for the trip are May 2-8. If you are interested, please contact John Lawler.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Lawler

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

⊕ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 146

Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live!

I will sing praises to my God!

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation!

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob!

Whose hope is in the Lord his God!

INVOCATION

HYMN

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

Music: Mason

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blest whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning prisoner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

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

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Words: Wesley Music: Campbell

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?

Chorus

Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine;
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

GREETING GOD'S PEOPLE

The peace of the LORD be always with you!

And also with you!

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.*

HEAR *the* WORD of GOD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73

- ¹ Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
- ³ For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ⁴ For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
- ⁵ They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
- ⁷ Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
- ⁸ They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
- ⁹ They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
- ¹⁰ Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
- ¹¹ And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- ¹² Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
- ¹³ All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴ For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
- ¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

- ¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.
- ¹⁸ Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
- ¹⁹ How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
- ²⁰ Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
- ²¹ When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
²² I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
- ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
- ²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

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!

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. ³⁷ For,

“Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Jesus: A Better Possession

John Lawler

RESPOND *to* GOD

⊕ HYMN

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Words: Lyte Music: Poirier

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition God and heav'n are still my own.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me, heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.
O 'tis not in grief to harm me while thy love is left to me;
O 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with thee.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;
joy to find in ev'ry station something still to do or bear;
think what Spirit dwells within thee, what a Father's smile is thine,
what a Savior died to win thee: child of heav'n, shouldst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory armed by faith and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal days before thee God's own hand shall guide thee there
Soon shall close thy earthly mission soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition faith to sight, and prayer to praise

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Roger Bosma

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

My Help, My God
Words & Music: McCracken

⊕ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DEPART *in* PEACE

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

Words: Funk Music: Rippon

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

BENEDICTION

MINISTRY *of the* WEEK

INTERNATIONAL

In 1997, Carol Arnold and her husband, Jack, began Equipping Pastors International (EPI). Carol has traveled to all six continents, speaking at conferences and seminars to both pastors and their wives, as well as to lay women of all denominations. Since Jack's death in January 2005, she has continued as a full-time missionary with EPI.

LOCAL

Seamark Ranch is a nurturing Christian home and family system that gives children from families in crisis the tools they need for a brighter future. Through a family home model, a specialized residential school, and the lessons of life on a working farm community, Seamark Ranch provides the ideal setting for love, stabilization, healing, education, and empowerment.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

HEALTH CONCERNS: Steve Beaver; Branson Bishop; Tad Duke; Sue Forsyth; Gar Gurganious; Hector Harima; Jay Kirk; Barb Moore; George Mitchell; Lindsey & Valyn Ragland; Corky Rogers; Dianne Smith; Mason Yost

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Dave Lowe | David Ristau | Cannon Simpson



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