



A FESTIVAL OF
*Nine Lessons
& Carols*

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 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 with a name tag in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors.

A FESTIVAL *of* NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

The Church has always held special services to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord. However, in the late 19th century, a unique tradition was born in the Nine Lessons & Carols service.

The service was first celebrated in an English barn on Christmas Eve in 1881. A pastor, concerned that his congregation was missing the story of the Incarnation, designed the service to share the loving purposes of God for his world through a blend of Scripture lessons and Christmas carols.

Today the service is best known its performance by the Choir of King's College in Cambridge. The first Lessons and Carols there was held in 1918. Owing to the service's simplicity and beauty, the celebration grew from its humble origins to circulate the globe. Today millions of Christians gather in their own congregations to mark the birth of Jesus Christ with this service.

It is our prayer that you will find yourself swept up with the praise of the angels and shepherds from that first Christmas as they witnessed events that changed the world. Enter in with us and celebrate the miraculous coming of our Lord, the King of Kings.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

December 12 (5.30p)	Youth Christmas Party
December 16 (1p)	<i>Wrapped in Prayer</i> Meeting
December 19 (10.30a)	Communion Service
December 24 (5p)	Christmas Eve Service
December 26 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 2 (10.30a)	Worship Service

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. We will collect donations through Christmas Eve.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE: JANUARY 14-16, 2022

Join us for our Spiritual Life Conference on the weekend of January 14-16, 2022. We will begin with a Sandra McCracken concert on Friday evening and continue on Saturday and Sunday mornings with teaching from Sandy Willson. To learn more, RSVP for the conference, and purchase concert tickets, visit christchurchpresjax.org.slc.

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.

2021 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR-TO-DATE (*as of 11/30/21*)

Budget: \$737,000

Actual: \$726,686.75

Difference: -1.4%

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Advent • December 12, 2021

PRELUDE

Music Ensemble

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Osborne Family

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



INTROIT

Soloist: Meredith Williams

Once in Royal David's City
Words: Alexander | Music: Gauntlett

After the first verse, the congregation stands to join for the remaining verses.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us, he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on, to the place where he is gone.

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3.8-19

Reader, John Lawler

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CAROL

Music Ensemble

Remember, O Thou Man

Words & Music: Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man.

Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent:

Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone,

And I did what I can, therefore repent.

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man.

Remember, O thou man, that God is great,

Loving unchangeably, planned from eternity,

By his word mightily, all to create.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man.

Remember God's goodness and promise made,

Remember God's goodness, how his only Son he sent

Our sins for to redress be not afraid.

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man.

Remember, O thou man, that God above

Long before time began, knew of the sin of man

And laid redemption's plan, for he is love

And with the angels sing, praises of gladness bring

To Christ, our heavenly King, forevermore.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22.15-18

Reader, Cole Ristau

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ 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.

THIRD LESSON

Psalm 132.11-18

Reader, Meredith Williams

¹¹ The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
their sons also forever
shall sit on your throne.”

¹³ For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:

¹⁴ “This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

¹⁵ I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.

¹⁶ Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.

¹⁷ There I will make a horn to sprout for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine.”

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CAROL

Duet: Meredith Williams & Andy Zipf

I Wonder as I Wander

Words & Music: Niles

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 9.2-7

Reader, Jon Groh

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Words: Wesley & Hunt | Music: Prichard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 11.1-10

Reader, Belinda Marineau

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Music: English Melody

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you afright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.”

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1.26-38

Reader, Josh Rogers

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CAROL

Music Ensemble

The Wexford Carol

Music: Celtic Melody

*Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn'
There was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear,
"Arise and go," the angel said,
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid,
For there you'll find this happy morn',
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went that Babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side the virgin maid
As long foretold upon that morn',
There was a blessed Messiah born.*

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2.1-7

Reader, Riley Cotton

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Music Ensemble

Mary Had A Baby

Words: Barfoot | Music: Odetta

*Mary had a baby
Mary had a baby, O Lord*

*What did she name him?
What did she name him, O Lord?*

*She named King Jesus
She named King Jesus, O Lord*

*Mary had a baby
Mary had a baby, O Lord*

EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2.8-16

Reader, Aldo Mondin

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

Words: Chadwick | Music: Barnes

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus

Gloria, In excelsis Deo
Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

HOMILY

I AM the Light of the World

Chuck Colson

⊕ HYMN

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Words: Neale

Good Christian men, rejoice;
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

NINTH LESSON

John 1.1-14

Reader, Elizabeth Winings

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not over come it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Words: Watts | Music: Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

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

ENSEMBLE *of* MUSICIANS

Guitar | Andy Zipf

Mandolin & Octave Mandolin | Teri Lamarco

Guitar | Stephen Craig

Piano | David Abraham

Guitar | Jordan Winings

Percussion | Ware Colson

Bass | Jack Ferguson

Percussion | J.D. Greene

Violin | Abigail Gruber

Vocals | Meredith Williams

Cello | James Garand

Trumpet | Josh Shuck



ADVENT
at CHRIST CHURCH