



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 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.

GUIDELINES *for* WORSHIP

With the spread of disease around our country, it is important for us, as a church, to be responsive to the circumstances. While we have aggressively implemented social distancing protocols and cleaning regimens, we cannot guarantee a non-compromised environment. All common areas of the church building must be used at one's own risk. Please follow these guidelines:

- In keeping with our mayor's order, face masks are required of all attendees over six years of age. If you do not have a mask, or perhaps forget to bring one, we have face coverings available in the Narthex.
- Please allow for six feet of distance between you and others not in your immediate family unit. Additionally, please refrain from physical greetings and congregating in the aisles and Narthex.
- We will not pass offering plates to collect our tithes and offerings. Rather, after the service, gifts can be deposited in the box labeled *Tithes & Offerings* located just outside the sanctuary doors in the Narthex. Also, financial gifts can always be submitted online through the website.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

December 24 (5p)	Christmas Eve Service
December 27 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 3 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 10 (9.30a)	Congregational Meeting
January 10 (10.30a)	Worship Service

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your warm response to the congregational letter sent out at the beginning of November regarding our finances. In November, we made up significant ground. That noted, we need a strong close to the year in order to finish in good shape.

DECEMBER 2020

Giving (as of 12/17)	\$32,924
Monthly Budget	\$65,500

SEAMARK RANCH WHITE CHRISTMAS

To help Seamark Ranch prepare for the busy holiday season and the year ahead, please help us fill the Narthex with items from their wish list: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, strong paper plates, kitchen trash bags, outdoor trash bags, ziplock storage bags (all sizes), laundry detergent, & dishwasher detergent.

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 worship bulletins and can be placed in the tithes and offerings box in the Narthex. Any offerings received in these envelopes will be set aside for this fund.

AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE

Giving tithes & offerings just got easier at Christ Church. We are moving to a new online platform called PushPay. This new secure giving option will allow for both online giving and text giving. See christchurchpresjax.org/giving for details. Or to give by smart phone, text CCJACKSONVILLE to 779777.

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

David & Vickie Burke

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

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.

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

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.

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 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

⁹ Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

but the LORD will take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,

and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

¹² Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they breathe out violence.

¹³ I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD

in the land of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the LORD!

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!

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 1.3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Waiting in Uncertainty
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

Tithes & Offerings may be deposited after the service in the offering box outside the sanctuary doors. Alternately, gifts can be made online at www.christchurchpresjax.org or mailed to the church office.

OFFERTORY

Your Face, O Lord, Do I Seek (Psalm 27)

Words: Colson & Zipf | Music: Zipf

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
When my enemy, comes to assail me;
They will stumble for he covers me.*

Chorus

*Hear, O Lord, when I cry;
be gracious and answer me!
You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart replies,
"Your face, O Lord, do I seek."*

Hide not your face, Lord, turn not away.

I am forsake;, come take me in.

Teach me your way, Lord, and lead me on

A path that is level and safe from harm.

Let me dwell in the house of the Lord forever

To gaze upon his beauty and think upon his ways.

Hide me in your shelter in the day of trouble.

Lord, conceal me under your wing.

And my head shall be lifted;

I will offer shouts of joy, and sing a melody.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord

In the land of the living! I will sing! I will sing!

⊕ 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 center aisle. Please take your place as a family unit on the designated floor markers. When the minister invites you, step up to the table to receive the bread and cup. Please consume at the table. A trash receptacle will be available as you return to your seat by the outside 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: 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 heavenly 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 powers 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!

HYMN

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

Words: Houghton | Music: Campbell

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger did surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God Beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Words: Reed | Music: Polish Melody

Infant holy infant, lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

⊕ 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!

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

Third Millennium Ministries seeks to equip church leaders in their own lands by creating a multimedia seminary curriculum in five major languages. Their goal is to provide Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry by publishing and globally distributing a free multilingual, multimedia, digital seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian, and Spanish.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

HEALTH CONCERNS: Barb Day (*Cancer*); Gar Gurganious (*Cancer*); Hector (*Dementia*) & V'Elna Harima; Wayne Noble

BEREAVEMENTS: Branson Bishop (*Cards & condolences to Julian & Barbara Byers | 2637 Loretta Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32223*)

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ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Carl Ashauer | Steve Beaver | Roger Bosma | Jim Dickenson | Jon Groh | Dave Lowe

David Ristau | Cannon Simpson



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

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