



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 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

January 3 (10.30a)

Worship Service

January 10 (9.30a)

Congregational Meeting

January 10 (10.30a)

Worship Service

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.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 10

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 10th at 9.30a in the Sanctuary for the election of new ruling elders. During this time we will also present the 2021 budget and discuss our ministry plan for the year. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

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

⊕ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him!

The LORD has made known his salvation!

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations! He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

INVOCATION

HYMN

Joy to the World

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Hide your face from our sins and blot out our iniquity. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⊕ 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!

HYMN

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Words & Music: Work

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When high above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

And lo, when they had heard it,
They all bowed down and prayed;
They traveled on together
To where the babe was laid.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

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 40

- ¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- ² He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.
- ⁴ Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,
who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!
- ⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!
I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than can be told.
- ⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
- ⁷ Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
- ⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."
- ⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.
- ¹⁰ I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

¹¹ As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
your mercy from me;
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will
ever preserve me!

¹² For evils have encompassed me
beyond number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,
and I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head;
my heart fails me.

¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!

¹⁴ Let those be put to shame and disappointed
altogether who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who delight in my hurt!

¹⁵ Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

¹⁶ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

¹⁷ As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the LORD takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!

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!

¹ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Waiting Patiently
John Lawler

RESPOND *to* GOD

⊕ HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Words: Oakeley | Music: Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of angels;

Chorus

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest;

Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Words & Music: Holst

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him? Give my heart.*

⊕ 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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DEPART *in* PEACE

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Words: Montgomery | Music: Smart

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:

BENEDICTION

MINISTRY *of the* WEEK

LOCAL

For over 25 years, Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida has prepared pastors, teachers, counselors, and missionaries through a program of graduate theological education that is rooted in God's authoritative and all-sufficient Word, informed by the riches of our Reformed heritage, and aimed at the glory of God and the good of his people.

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.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

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

STAFF *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Chuck Colson | Pastor | ccolson@christchurchpresjax.org

John Lawler | Assistant Pastor | jlawler@christchurchpresjax.org

Alec Cotton | Assistant Pastor of Youth | acotton@christchurchpresjax.org

Charlotte Reeves | Administrative Assistant | admin@christchurchpresjax.org

Allison Ristau | Children's Ministry Coordinator | aristau@christchurchpresjax.org

Andy Zipf | Director of Music & Artist in Residence | azipf@christchurchpresjax.org

ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

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

David Ristau | Cannon Simpson



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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America
9794 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 262-5588 www.christchurchpresjax.org