



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 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 6 (5p)	Community Cookout
December 6 (6p)	Alec Cotton's Ordination Service
December 7 (6.30p)	Session Meeting
December 13 (10.30a)	Nine Lessons & Carols Service
December 20 (10.30a)	Communion Service
December 24 (5p)	Christmas Eve Service
January 10 (9.30a)	Congregational Meeting

ALEC COTTON'S ORDINATION SERVICE & COOKOUT

Please join us this afternoon for a community cookout on the front lawn at 5p, followed by Alec Cotton's ordination service at 6p in the Sanctuary.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

By listening to the Scripture story read and sung, we are reminded that all of Scripture points to our Lord, Jesus. Join us on December 13th at 10.30a to participate in our annual Nine Lessons & Carols service, and celebrate the first advent of Jesus Christ. Nursery will be provided for ages 0-2.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 10, 2021

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

SEAMARK RANCH WHITE CHRISTMAS

You're invited to help bring a White Christmas to Seamark Ranch! We will collect donations in the Narthex beginning this week through Christmas Eve. To help the Seamark Ranch homes prepare for the busy holiday season and 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 (all sizes), laundry detergent, & dishwasher detergent.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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: Coffin | Music: Neale

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, O Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell your people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

O come, O Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

O Come, O Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by your drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Heavenly Father, nothing is hidden from your sight; we cannot cover our sins or conceal our faults from you. We confess that we've walked in darkness rather than light, failing to obey your law in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Pardon our guilt, for it is great. Through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sins and strengthen us to walk as children of light to the glory and praise of your Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⊕ HYMN

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

Words: Francis | Music: Williams

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee.

HYMN

By Thy Mercy
Words & Music: Mejas

Jesus, Lord of life and glory,
Bend from Heaven thy gracious ear,
While our waiting souls adore thee,
Friend of helpless sinners hear:

Chorus:

By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord

From the depth of nature's blindness,
From the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
From the pride that lurks within:

When the world around is smiling,
In the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,
In the day of health and peace:

In the solemn hour of dying,
In the awful judgment day,
May our souls on thee relying,
Find thee still our Rock and Stay.

— CELEBRATE *the* COVENANT *of* BAPTISM —

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

VOWS OF THE COVENANT

⊕ 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.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BAPTISM OF ELIZABETH (LILLA) MAE IVEY

HYMN

Savior, In Your Promise
Words: Colson | Music: Bradbury

Savior in your promise, you take,
This lil' lamb into your care;
Keep and guard her for your name's sake,
All her troubles may you bear.

Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Listen to our humble prayer!
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Listen to our humble prayer!

Dear child, trust in him forever;
Follow him all of your days;
Hold to him who faileth never,
He is true and strong to save.

Trust in Jesus! Trust in Jesus!
Follow him all of your days.
Trust in Jesus! Trust in Jesus!
Follow him all of your days.

HEAR *the* WORD of GOD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 62

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

³ How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴ They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion;
set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken;

twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

¹² and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

For you will render to a man

according to his work.

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 5.5b-11

^{5b} Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Waiting in Weakness
Chuck Colson

RESPOND *to* GOD

⊕ HYMN

All Must Be Well
Words: Peters | Music: Smith

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well;
Free and changeless is his favor, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us;
Perfect is the grace that sealed us;
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us;
All must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well;
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well.
Happy still in God confiding;
Fruitful if in Christ abiding;
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding;
All must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well;
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well.
On our Father's love relying;
Jesus every need supplying;
Yes, in living or in dying;
All must be well.

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.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Carol Arnold

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

Psalm 62 (My Soul Finds Rest)

Words & Music: McCracken

*Oh my God hear my cry
From the depths I call out to you
You give your mercy and light
In the dark, in the wilderness*

*My soul finds rest in God alone
My salvation comes from him
My soul finds rest, God is my hope
I will not be shaken, I will not be shaken*

*You are my shield and my strength
Train my feet for this battle
Our God is mighty to save
I will wait, I will wait for him*

*O my strength, I sing praise to you
O my strength, I sing praise to you
In joy or pain, I sing praise to you
Night or day, I sing praise to you*

⊕ 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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Words: Showalter | Music: Hoffman

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

BENEDICTION

MINISTRY *of the* WEEK

LOCAL

First Coast Women's Services (FCWS) provides free-of-charge medical services and accurate evidence-based education on all options regarding unplanned pregnancy. They desire to help women and men understand all their options in a safe and respectful environment by providing lab grade pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, options counseling, and community referrals from a professional, and caring staff.

INTERNATIONAL

Jim Fitzgerald, serves as a missionary to North Africa and the Middle East. He is adjunct professor of Humanities, and has also taught courses in World Religions, Bible, Philosophy of Religion, and History. His vision is to equip pastors in North Africa and the Middle East where Islam is firmly entrenched. This region was once the intellectual and theological capital of the Christian world, and Jim desires to see its true Christian heritage recovered.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

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

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ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

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

David Ristau | Cannon Simpson



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