



*a diverse, inclusive church experiencing and reflecting the love, hope and joy of Jesus Christ  
to each other and our community*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP | 11am | sunday | january 4, 2026**

**WELCOME** | Pastor Cathy Johns

## **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

## **WAYS TO CONNECT | [christchurchfl.org/ways2connect](http://christchurchfl.org/ways2connect)**

Please see below.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Rise Up Shepherd and Follow* | arr. Mark Hayes

Carrie Brooke, alto

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### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP** | Judy O'Donnell, liturgist

Arise, people of God, for Christ's light has come.

**We come to worship the one revealed to the world.**

From distant lands, seekers followed the star.

**Guided by wonder and hope, they found the Christ.**

The light of Jesus shines beyond all borders and boundaries.

**God's love is made known for all people everywhere.**

Come, let us worship the Christ who is revealed among us.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate Christ, the light of all nations!**

### **\* GATHERING HYMN**

*There's a Song in the Air* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 249 (verses 1,2,3,4)

**There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!**

**There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!**

**And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;  
and that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing  
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!**

**We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!**

Josiah Gilbert Holland | Karl Pomeroy Harrington | words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

## **\* OPENING PRAYER**

**God of light and revelation, we give thanks for the light of Christ, made known not only to a few, but to the whole world. You guide seekers by unexpected paths and meet them with grace, truth, and joy. Open our hearts to recognize Jesus anew—in your word, in this gathered community, and in the needs of our neighbors. As you once guided faithful travelers to Christ, guide us by your Spirit today. Shape us into people who follow with trust, offer our lives with humility, and live in ways that make Christ known. Awaken wonder within us and send us out as bearers of Christ’s love to a world still longing for hope. Amen.**

## **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, Maker of heaven and earth. God shattered the darkness with light, setting in the sky a radiant sun. God transformed the night sky with brilliant stars. God overcomes every darkness with glorious light. God placed a star in the sky to guide people near and far to Jesus, The Christ-Child.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. He brings hope to those filled with grief and sorrow. He brings healing and strength to the weak. He brings direction and purpose to those who have lost their way. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus revealed the depths of God’s love for all people.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who activates the light of Christ within us, calling us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. The Spirit shapes all who follow Jesus into the image and likeness of Christ, equipping us to serve one another in His name. We believe that Christ’s light still shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.**

## **\* GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

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## **OFFERING** | Pastor Doug Johns

worshiping through the offering of our lives and gifts

- Place offerings in the plates or wooden boxes
- Give online at **[christchurchfl.org/give](http://christchurchfl.org/give)**
- Text GIVE to 954.880.3885
- Mail a check to Christ Church, 4845 NE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Connect cards may also be placed with your offering. Christ Church is a congregationally supported ministry. We thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*We Three Kings* | Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

Craig Courtney | © 2010 by Beckenhurst Press, Inc. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

## \* 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.**

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## MORNING PRAYER

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | Pastor Monique McBride

## SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 2:1-12** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

These are the words of God for us, the people of God. **Thanks be to God**

## MESSAGE

*Do you believe in Magi?* | Pastor Cathy Johns

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, in the beginning there was darkness, mystery, and you. By your own word, you shattered the beams of darkness with light. You set in the sky radiant beams of sunlight and punctured the night sky with sparkling jewels. You forever changed our darkness.

You have placed your word in us to be a lamp for our feet. You have given us your Spirit like a bright and guiding star. You fill us with your love as glorious as the sun.

God of the sun and stars, we praise you. With your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Ever-persistent and ever-loving God, you placed a star in the sky to guide people from far and near to your child. Jesus became the Light of the World, drawing the lost and forgotten, the hurt and the wounded, the oppressed and depressed to the wellsprings of life.

He changed water into wine, called unheralded workers to be disciples, preached good news to the poor, healed the sick and beckoned people to love their neighbor.

By his baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection he revealed the depths of your love and the power of light over darkness.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your holy Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and cup, that through Christ's presence we may become a beacon of holy light, a source of joy, a witness for peace.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, one with seekers far and near, and one in ministry to all the world until we feast at the heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your hold church,  
All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray together:*

## 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*You do not need to be a member of Christ Church or a United Methodist to come to the table. Christ himself is host and welcomes all.*

## GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*all* **Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy ministry in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others.**  
**In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

### \* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 251 (verses 1,2,3)

*(refrain)* **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
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. (refrain)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! Above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. (refrain)**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (refrain)**

John W. Work Jr. & William Farley Smith | words: public domain | music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House | CCLI License # 487103

### \* SENDING FORTH

### \* RESPONSE

*Joy to the World* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 246 (verses 1)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts © music & words: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

## MUSIC FOR CLOSING

*The March of the Three Kings* | Stewart Landon

Chuck Stanley, organ

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**\* please stand in body or spirit.**

Join us next Sunday for worship and the message *Breakthrough Prayer - How God Answers Prayer!* based on Romans 8:24-30.

**WAYS TO CONNECT | [christchurchfl.org/ways2connect](http://christchurchfl.org/ways2connect)**

### TODAY

**CONNECT CARDS** We want to know how you're doing. Please fill out a Connect Card, to tell us that you are here, how we can pray for you, and which ministries you're called to. We'd love to hear your ideas also. You'll find paper Connect Cards in the worship space and digital cards at **[christchurchfl.org/connectcard](http://christchurchfl.org/connectcard)**.

**HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE TIME** On Sundays, coffee and snacks are available before the 9am and 11am services. Join your friends for coffee and conversation outside the kitchen window in the gym lobby.

**AT THE TABLE today | 10:05am | fellowship hall 1** *At the Table* is a time to explore the scripture of the day and meet new people as you do. Invite friends and newcomers to join you. Plan to stay after the 9am service or come early for the 11am service; you don't need to hear the day's message to participate in the conversation. Holy Grounds will be open, so plan to grab a snack and coffee, and join us.

### SERVE

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL** **january 11 | 10am & january 21 | 8:30am**

As Christ Church and Christ Church School move toward meeting the educational needs of middle schoolers, two town hall are planned for interested persons to learn more and to ask questions. The first will be Sunday, January 11, at 10am in the gym. The second will be Wednesday, January 21, at 8:30am in the Fellowship Halls. For answers to some frequently asked questions, go to the church website. **[christchurchfl.org/FAQ](http://christchurchfl.org/FAQ)**

**ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE** **sunday | january 11 | 12:15pm | fellowship halls** The mission of the Anti-Racism Task Force is to confront the sin of racism in ourselves, our church, and in the world. Join us as we work toward a church community that reflects the beautiful diversity of the Kingdom of God. ARTF meets quarterly on the first Sunday after the 11am Traditional Worship Service, around 12:15pm. Questions? Contact Susan Spragg, leader of the Anti-Racism Task Force, **[artf@christchurchfl.org](mailto:artf@christchurchfl.org)**

**MARCH IN THE MLK DAY PARADE** **monday | january 19** Join Christ Church and walk in the King Holiday Parade in Fort Lauderdale. It's an opportunity to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by promoting unity, celebrating diversity, and showing commitment to justice, equality and civil rights. The parade route is about one mile. Details are yet to come. If you are interested, contact Paige Darnell, **[pdarnell@christchurchfl.org](mailto:pdarnell@christchurchfl.org)**

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** You can donate to the Blessings Food Pantry at any time. The pantry is serving about 800 families a month, making all donations extremely valuable. The following items would be greatly appreciated: canned tuna or chicken, canned or boxed soups, cereals, instant potatoes, tomato sauce, rice, pasta, mac-and-cheese, canned beans, canned vegetables, jelly, peanut butter, coffee/tea, canned fruit, canned ravioli, canned meat such as Spam, and cereal bars. If you'd like us to do the shopping, donations can be made at [christchurchfl.org/give](http://christchurchfl.org/give), with Blessings Pantry in the notes field, or make out a check to Christ Church and write Blessings Pantry on the memo line. Learn more at [christchurchfl.org/blessings](http://christchurchfl.org/blessings)

**ZOE EMPOWERS** Please pick up a prayer card for a family that's part of the Arise and Shine Kironya Empowerment Group, our Zoe Empowers group. We will be supporting this group of 24 orphaned and abandoned teens and young adults as they learn the skills to be self-supporting and join in community through Zoe Empowers. Our partnership with them runs through December 2027. The skills taught by Zoe will help each young adult support themselves and their families in their context. You can learn more at [christchurchfl.org/zoe](http://christchurchfl.org/zoe)

**PREPARE BREAKFAST FOR PARKWAY** The Parkway community breakfast is prepared in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen early Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together, wrapping and heating breakfast sandwiches. Students can earn service hours. Send an email to Outreach Coordinator Paige Darnell, [pdarnell@christchurchfl.org](mailto:pdarnell@christchurchfl.org) if you, your family or group can help.

**HEAT DINNERS FOR PARKWAY** On Wednesdays, we're preparing Christ Church's famous and tasty meatloaf and side dishes in the Fort Lauderdale kitchen for our guests on the Parkway Campus. Flex volunteer time 2-4pm. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together after school. Students can earn service hours. If you are interested, please send an email to Outreach Coordinator Paige Darnell, [pdarnell@christchurchfl.org](mailto:pdarnell@christchurchfl.org).

**JOIN THE WELCOME TEAM** Do you enjoy greeting your church family and welcoming guests? The Welcome Team would be a great place for you to serve. Welcome Team members also help serve communion and collect the offering. Some welcome team members serve as ushers and greeters for memorial services and other special events. Linda Bajkowsky coordinates the team and would love your help. Serving with the Welcome Team is a great way to get to know your church family. Sign up at [christchurchfl.org/serve](http://christchurchfl.org/serve)

**BE PART OF THE WORSHIP TECH TEAM** Put your tech skills to work for God. If you would like to be part of the team that helps run the cameras and visuals for worship, send an email to [info@christchurchfl.org](mailto:info@christchurchfl.org)

## **CONNECT**

### **CREATIVE SPIRIT PAINTING CLASS FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN sunday | january 25 | 4-7pm**

Join Pastor Monique for the next Creative Spirit painting class and time of devotion. Open to women and children kindergarten and up, this class will be a time of painting a beautiful positive and negative space art using shapes that bring joy and positivity for the new year. This class will be Sunday, January 25, 4-7pm. Cost is \$15 per person and includes one canvas and all materials needed. A-L last names, bring something savory to share. M-Z last names, bring something sweet to share. RSVP by Wednesday, January 21, to Pastor Monique, [mmcbride@ccsfl.org](mailto:mmcbride@ccsfl.org). Limit 50 people.

**SHARED MEALS** You are invited to share a meal and community twice each week on the Parkway Campus. On Wednesday, 4:30-6pm, dinner is served to all who come. On Sunday, breakfast is shared 9-10am. This is a great way to build community with our neighbors. The Parkway Campus is located at 100 NE 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Deerfield Beach.

**CHRIST CHURCH AT TRIVIA NIGHT mondays | 7:30pm | Funky Buddha Brewery** Join us as we play trivia. It's an informal gathering of folks who have fun trying to answer the questions and catching up on one another's lives. Look for the Christ Church team at the Funky Buddha, 1201 NE 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland Park, on Monday nights.

**WELCOME BRUNCH sunday | february 22 | 10am | fellowship hall 1** If you are new to Christ Church, we'd love to get acquainted at the next Welcome brunch. If you sit next to someone new, please walk with them to the brunch. This is an opportunity to learn more about the church and meet others. If you're interested or have questions, please send an email to [welcome@christchurchfl.org](mailto:welcome@christchurchfl.org)

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS PLANNED sunday | march 8 | 2pm | fellowship hall 1** Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church, as servants, musicians, in bible studies and more. If you are interested in deepening your participation through church membership, Pastor Cathy Johns will offer the class, United Methodist 101, on Sunday, March 8, at 2pm. Email Pastor Cathy Johns to let her know you're interested, [cjohns@christchurchfl.org](mailto:cjohns@christchurchfl.org)

## **GROW**

**MORNING PRAYERS** Morning prayers are on break until Monday, January 5. At that time, join your church family for morning prayers Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30am. Begin the day praying with your church family on the Christ Church Facebook page, [@christchurchfl](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchfl). If you can't be online at 7:30, a recording of morning prayers is available on Facebook. Morning prayers take a break on church and federal holidays.

**GREAT READ sunday | march 15 | 4pm | fellowship halls & tuesday | march 17 | 1:30pm | John Knox Village** You are invited to join Pastor Cathy for a discussion of the book *The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of Religious Imagination*. Readers will discover the history, folklore, and liturgy of the Celtic people. The author, Esther deWaal, a world-renowned Celtic scholar, leads readers on a journey of monastic prayer and praise -- the foundation stone of Celtic Christianity -- early Irish litanies, medieval Welsh praise poems, and the wealth of blessings derived from an oral tradition that made prayer a part of daily life. Secure your own book and read before the discussion; audio versions are available online. Child care for the Sunday discussion is available by advance reservation to Lisa Jones, [ljones@christchurchfl.org](mailto:ljones@christchurchfl.org).

## **HEALING**

**FAITH CARING GROUP mondays | 1pm** The Faith Caring Group reflects and addresses the need for caring and assistance as well as grief support. The group meets on Zoom every Monday of the month, except the second Monday when members have lunch at H2Ocean, 5975 N Federal Hwy #103, Fort Lauderdale. For more information, send an email to [info@christchurchfl.org](mailto:info@christchurchfl.org) with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.



## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**LEAD THE LORD'S PRAYER & APOSTLES CREED first sundays** Children are invited to lead the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed in the 9am and 11am services on the first Sunday of each month. Email Pastor Monique to volunteer, [mmcbride@ccsfl.org](mailto:mmcbride@ccsfl.org)

**i9 SPORTS AT CHRIST CHURCH** Soccer, flag football, basketball and multi-sport programs are open for children age 3 and up. January sessions are now open. i9 is a community-based program devoted to helping children succeed. Learn about all of the opportunities on the i9 website. [i9sports.com](http://i9sports.com)

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

**JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING monday | january 5 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls** The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, January 5, at 6:30pm.