



*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 | november 9, 2025

PRELUDE

Love Divine All Love Excelling | arr. John Leavitt

Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

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WELCOME | Pastor Doug Johns

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Susan Spragg, liturgist

Come, all who have wandered and all who have stayed close.

God's love calls us home again and again.

Come, all who feel lost and all who feel found.

God's arms are open wide to receive us.

God's love is bold, relentless, and extravagant.

Even when we turn away, God searches for us.

Let us open our hearts to the one who welcomes us without condition.

Let us worship with joy the God who restores, renews, and rejoices over us.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

To God Be the Glory | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 98 (verses 1,2,3)

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his son,

who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

(refrain) **Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!**

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God;

the vilest offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *(refrain)*

**Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (refrain)**

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*** OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious and loving God, we come with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the faithfulness and unfailing love you have shown toward us. You are the one who calls us back when we've settled into patterns that keep us distant. You are the one who seeks us when we have lost our way. Your love reaches beyond our fears and failures and draws us back into your embrace. We thank you for never giving up on us—for welcoming us home with grace instead of judgment. Open our hearts to the depth of your love. Free us from whatever keeps us distant from you. Remind us of who we are—beloved, sought after, and welcomed by you. Amen.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God the Creator,
who created and is creating everything.
God loves and cares for all creatures great and small,
and provides food to sustain all Creation.**

**We believe in Jesus, The Christ,
who redeemed and is redeeming all things:
The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus reveals the depth of God's love for the world.
We are all unique, individual and beloved.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who guided and is guiding everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us.
The Holy Spirit flows through the Church, the Body of Christ,
to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the world.**

**We believe that God is present among us, working in and through our lives.
God is continuing to restore all of Creation and make all things new.**

*** 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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MUSIC MINISTRY

My Lord, What a Morning | arr. Jay Althouse
Leigh Neely, soprano

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SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give

me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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

MESSAGE

Unstuck | When Plan "B" is Plan "A" | Pastor Doug Johns

OFFERING

worshipping through the offering of our lives and gifts

- Place offerings in the plates or wooden boxes
- Give online at **christchurchfl.org/give**
- Text GIVE to 954.880.3885
- Mail a check to Christ Church, 4845 NE 25th 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

Let All the People Say Amen! | Allen Pote

Chancel Choir

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. Save us, Lord. Gather us together, that we may give thanks to your holy name. From everlasting to everlasting, the steadfast love of God endures. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

From the east, from the west, from the north, from the south, O give thanks for God is good! Then let all the people say, Amen!

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*** 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

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.

*** HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

God, in Christ You Give Salvation | CWM RHONDDA

**God, in Christ you give salvation,
And in him, the old has gone.
We are made a new creation;
Now we sing: the new has come!
Side by side, we serve together,
Telling news of what you've done,
Telling news of what you've done!**

**Called by Christ, we live as brothers,
Strong and faithful, bound to you.
May we reach to lift up others
So that they will know Christ, too.
Side by side, we serve together,
Salt and light in all we do,
Salt and light in all we do!**

**Sent by Christ, we go with courage,
Feed the hungry, help the poor,
Strengthen families, live your message,
Work for justice, heal, restore.
Side by side, we serve together:
May we daily serve you more,
May we daily serve you more!**

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*** SENDING FORTH**

* RESPONSE

Spirit Song | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 347

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.

Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.

**O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

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MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Trumpet Tune in D | Paul Fey

Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday with the series *Things Jesus Never Said* with the message *Everything Happens for a Reason* based on Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.

WAYS TO CONNECT | 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**.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE TIME On Sundays, coffee and snacks are available before the 9am and 11am services. Join your friends this week in the breezeway for coffee and conversation.

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

BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY The pantry is serving an increasing number of people each week, and we need your help to keep the shelves stocked. Please take a bag with a list as you leave worship today. 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, with Blessings Pantry in the comment field, or make out a check to Christ Church and write Blessings Pantry on the memo line. Learn more at **christchurchfl.org/blessings**

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL sunday | november 23 | 4-5pm Join us on the Fort Lauderdale Campus for an interfaith prayer vigil in solidarity with the vigil held at the Everglades Detention Center. Persons of faith and conscience lift their voices for justice and care of our immigrant neighbors. Sponsored by the Anti-Racism Task Force. Questions? Email Susan Spragg, sspragg@christchurchfl.org.

BLOOD DRIVE sunday | november 23 | 9:30am-12:30pm | fort lauderdale campus Plan to serve and worship on the same morning, November 2. The Big Red Bus for blood donations will be on the Fort Lauderdale Campus, 9:30am-12:30pm. Did you know a single blood donation can save three lives? Sign up opportunities will be open soon.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH sunday | november 23 | 1-4pm | sanctuary Deck the halls of the Fort Lauderdale Sanctuary after the 11am worship service on Sunday, November 23. No experience necessary, just willing hands and heart.

SERVE AT THE TEDDER BOOK FAIR december 1-5 | 9:30am-1:50pm | Tedder Elementary | 4157 NE 1st Terrace | Deerfield Beach Tedder Elementary plans a Scholastic Book Fair December 1-5, at Tedder Elementary. It's an event that children get excited about, and we've been asked to provide volunteers for those days. **Email Val Proffer to sign up**

COMMIT FOR 2026 We are still in our season of commitment to Christ Church for 2026. On the seats next you, you will see commitment cards. Please prayerfully fill one out and place it in the offering plate later in the service. Please print your name next to your signature. If you need additional time, you may pledge online at christchurchfl.org/pledge

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE sunday | january 11, 2026 | 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

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 will run 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

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 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.

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**](https://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

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 44th 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 38th Street, Oakland Park, on Monday nights.

WELCOME BRUNCH **sunday | february 22, 2026 | 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, 2026 | 2pm | 2nd floor conference room** 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 to church membership, Pastor Cathy Johns will offer the class, United Methodist 101, on Sunday, November 2, at 2pm. Email Pastor Cathy Johns to let her know you're interested, [**cjohns@christchurchfl.org**](mailto:cjohns@christchurchfl.org)

GROW

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION | *Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything and Still Does* **thursday | december 4 | 1:30pm & 5:30pm** You are invited to join Pastor Cathy for a book discussion on the impact of Christ's birth in the world, then and now. Take a deep dive into a story that is both familiar and extraordinary. Explore the biblical and historical context of the birth of Christ as best-selling author Scott Hann unpacks how a baby born in Bethlehem, surrounded by a star, shepherds, angels, an emperor, and animals changed the world forever. We'll discuss the book at 1:30pm at a location to be named and 5:30pm at Christ Church. Participants will acquire their own books; it is also available online with Kindle and audiobook options. Child care is available with advance reservation for the evening option; email Lisa Jones, [**ljones@christchurchfl.org**](mailto:ljones@christchurchfl.org)

MORNING PRAYERS 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.

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 with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.

CHILDREN

LEAD THE LORD'S PRAYER & APOSTLES CREED first sundays Students 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

CREATIVE SPIRIT | paint a wooden nativity set | sunday | november 16 | 4-7pm Children kindergarten and older with their moms are invited to join Pastor Monique for a special time of painting your own wooden nativity set. Cost is \$30 per family to cover supplies, with a check to Christ Church or cash. A-L last names bring a savory treat to share. M-Z, a sweet treat to share. Limited to 30 families. RSVP with an email to Pastor Monique. mmcbride@ccsfl.org

ADVENT DANCING Girls are invited to dance in the candles of Advent into worship services at 9am and 11am on the four Sundays of Advent and at the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. Dresses are provided for this special opportunity. Dancers are welcome to sign up for one or more dates and times. Sign up at christchurchfl.org/events

CROSSWALK COOKIE EXCHANGE & FAMILY PARTY sunday | december 7 | 10am Families are invited to gather at 10am Sunday, December 7. Bring 4 dozen of one kind of Christmas cookies to trade and a container to bring your cookies home. RSVP to Lisa Jones. ljones@christchurchfl.org

PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT sunday | december 14 | 4pm It's time to prepare for the Family Christmas Concert! Children are welcome to volunteer for various roles in this special tradition of Christ Church. Children PK4- first grade are invited to dress as the people of the Christmas story and stand on the altar steps as the story of Christmas is read. Costumes are provided. Children second through eighth grade are invited to be readers and introduce the musical performances and tell the Christmas story in rhyme. Christmas best attire is requested for readers. All children are invited to sing as *Joy to the World* is sung by all. Sign up at christchurchfl.org/events

HAVE A ROLE IN THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE wednesday | december 24 | 5pm Children and students are invited to be readers, greeters and ushers at the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Email Pastor Monique if you would like to take a role. 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

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHARGE CONFERENCE monday | november 17 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls 1-3 A charge conference will be held to vote on the sale of the parsonage at 2105 NE 63rd St., Fort Lauderdale All church members have a voice at a charge conference; the church council has a voice and vote.

CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2026 The following members were elected for 2026 at the annual Charge Conference on Sunday, November 2.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Holly Aragon Jones, chair; Linda Bajkowsky; Malia Goodwin; Matt Till

Finance: Laura Bailey, chair; Mark Harris; Lucas Styron

Trustees: Connie Booth, chair; Dick Behn; Norliza Batts

Treasurer: Connie Bookholt

Chair of Council: Nathan Hickman

Church Lay Leader: Patty Goff