



*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 | december 14, 2025**

### **PRELUDE**

*An Angelic Celebration* | arr. Joel Raney

Handbell Choir

Joel Raney | © 2014 Hope Publishing Company | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

### **WELCOME | Pastor Doug Johns**

### **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

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

Please see below.

#### **\* GATHERING HYMN | Judy O'Donnell, liturgist**

*Once in Royal David's City* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 250 (verses 1,2,4)

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander | Henry John Gauntlett | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

#### **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, who moved across the dark waters at Creation.**

**God's words "Let there be light" filled the heavens and the earth with abundant light and goodness. God loves, protects, and nurtures all of Creation.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God born among us a fragile baby.  
His birth was heralded by angels. From shepherds to kings, people  
came to worship Jesus, the infant king. His life, death,  
and resurrection continue to transform the world with God's love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us eyes to see all people as beloved children of God.  
This Spirit calls us to live in peace, and with great joy, sing with the angel chorus:  
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people of earth."**

## \* 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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## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | Dancers Lyanna Castillo, Vedha Jaumann, Kamryn Styron

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**all We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10)**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

## CAROL

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

**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**

**O tidings of comfort and joy**

**Comfort and joy**

**O tidings of comfort and joy**

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Chase and Chelsea Kulp present their daughter for Christian Baptism.

Charley Perry Kulp | June 12, 2025

*To the parents*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? If so, please say I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? If so, please say I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? If so please say I do.

Will you nurture **Charley** in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? If so please say I will.

*To the congregation*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include **Charley** now before you in your care?

**all With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround her with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

...

*To the congregation*

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and Thanksgiving, we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.**

Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**all We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*God Claims You*

*(refrain)* **Charley, Charley, God claims you, God helps you, protects you and loves you too.**

**1. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. *(refrain)***

**2. We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. *(refrain)***

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain* | arr. Dave Howland

Handbell Choir

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## SCRIPTURE

**Isaiah 41:8-10** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>8</sup>But you, Israel, my servant,

Jacob, whom I have chosen,

the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

<sup>9</sup>you whom I took from the ends of the earth

and called from its farthest corners,

saying to you, "You are my servant;

I have chosen you and not cast you off";

<sup>10</sup>do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you; I will help you;

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

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

## MESSAGE

*A Christmas Carol Revisited* | *Claiming the Future* | Pastor Doug Johns

## OFFERING | Pastor Cathy Johns

worshipping 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. Thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* | arr. Howard Helvey

Chancel Choir

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night. O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.*

Howard Helvey | © 2015 by Beckenhorst 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

### 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.**

## ENCHANTED TREE ANNOUNCEMENT | Connie Bookholt

### \* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*The First Noel* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 245 (verses 1,2)

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*(refrain)* **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *(refrain)***

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## \* SENDING FORTH

### \* RESPONSE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 230 (verse 3)

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

Dennis Allen, Lewis H. Redner & Phillips Brooks | © words: public domain | music: 1998 Pilot Point Music | CCLI License # 487103

## MUSIC FOR CLOSING

*Fantasy on a French Carol* | Robert Hughes

Chuck Stanley, organ

Robert Hughes | © 1980 Lorenz Publishing Co. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

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

Join us next Sunday for *Gloria Christmas Angels*, based on Luke 2:8-20.

## 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.

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** Today as you leave worship, pantry volunteers will offer you a bag with a shopping list of items needed to stock the pantry. Please take one and bring it back next Sunday with some of the items. The pantry is experiencing increased demand, and your donations help families get enough to eat. You can donate to the pantry at any time. 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)

**GAMES FOR TEDDER deadline today | december 14** We're just over 50 games short of the new games we're collecting for children at Tedder Elementary, the neighborhood school of the Parkway Campus. Our mission is to collect 600 games, one for each child, so they can choose a board game to take home and play with their family over the Christmas holiday. You can bring games to today's Family Christmas Concert and place them in the donation boxes in the sanctuary lobby. Learn more at [christchurchfl.org/games](http://christchurchfl.org/games)

## **CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH | [christchurchfl.org/christmas](http://christchurchfl.org/christmas)**

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT** **sunday | december 14 | 4pm** Sing carols and enjoy the harmonies of the musicians of the church and Christ Church School. Children introduce each song and read the Christmas story as a live nativity forms. It's a special Christmas tradition bringing together Christ Church, Christ Church School and all of our friends and neighbors. This service will be livestreamed at [christchurchfl.org/live](http://christchurchfl.org/live), Facebook @[@christchurchfl](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchfl) and YouTube @[@christchurchfl](https://www.youtube.com/christchurchfl)

**CCS ART SHOW** **tuesday | december 16 | 5-7pm** Artwork by the children of Christ Church School will be on display in the Fellowship Halls during this festive holiday showing. Add some light and color to your holiday season with this free show.

**GLORIA CHRISTMAS ANGELS** **sunday | december 21 | 9am & 11am** Learn about the significance of angels through readings by lay readers and Christmas carols in this unique service. The nursery will be open to children 3 and younger. Live-streamed at [christchurchfl.org/live](http://christchurchfl.org/live), Facebook @[@christchurchfl](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchfl) and YouTube @[@christchurchfl](https://www.youtube.com/christchurchfl)

**ENCHANTED TREE** **sunday | december 21 | all services** This Christmas let us give our best gift to Jesus by taking the amount we spend on the most expensive gift we purchased, add \$1 to that amount and on Sunday morning, December 21, place that amount in a gift bag (that will be provided that morning) and hang it on the bare trees in worship. Giving our best gift to Jesus, we take bare trees and turn them into Enchanted Trees! Our perfect gift to Jesus Christ will be a blessing to us and to our community.  
[christchurchfl.org/enchanted](http://christchurchfl.org/enchanted)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE | wednesday | december 24**

**5pm** child-led worship

**7pm** traditional worship with lessons & carols

**11pm** traditional worship with holy communion

### **SERVE**

**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](mailto:artf@christchurchfl.org)

**MARCH IN THE MLK DAY PARADE** **monday | january 19, 2026** 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)

**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](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

**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, 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 | 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** 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](mailto:info@christchurchfl.org) with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER SOUGHT deadline for applications: december 31** Christ Church is seeking a part-time youth ministry leader to lead, inspire and grow the faith of students in 6<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> grades. If you have a passion for leading young people to serve the church and community, to learn about God, and to lead in worship services, learn more at [christchurchfl.org/jobs](http://christchurchfl.org/jobs)

**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

**THANK YOU TO OUTGOING CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS** Please extend gratitude to Amanda Carrion-Romero and Craig Wilson, who completed their terms on the church council this month.

**CHURCH PARSONAGE BIDS DUE tuesday | december 16 | 5pm** The parsonage at 2105 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> St., Fort Lauderdale is for sale. Christ Church and Christ Church School families are being offered the first opportunity to bid on the property. Serious bids should be sent to [trustees@christchurchfl.org](mailto:trustees@christchurchfl.org) by 5pm December 16, 2025. A datasheet about the house is available in the lobby and in the Midweek Update.

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