



*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 21, 2025

WELCOME | Pastor Cathy Johns

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

*** GATHERING HYMN** | Leigh Neely, liturgist

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 240 (verses 1,2,3)

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King",
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

(refrain) **Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *(refrain)***

**Hail the heaven-born, Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *(refrain)***

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*** 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 | Brian McComb, reader

Dancers Lyanna Castillo, Mary Campbell, Caroline Kretzschmar & Noelle Neal

Today we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

all With Mary and Joseph we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 230 (verse 1)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Candlelight Carol | John Rutter

Chancel Choir, Brubeck Brass

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow. Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, the Christ child is born. Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep; nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger; Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay. God-head incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

John Rutter | © 1985 by Oxford University Press | 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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

INTRODUCTION TO ANGELS

CAROL

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 218 (verses 1, 4)

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

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ANGELS PREPARE

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Angel Gabriel | arr. Joel Raney
Ensemble

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ANGELS PRAISE

MUSIC MINISTRY

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks | Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground. The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shown around. "Fear not" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind. "To you in David's town this day is born, of David's line the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign: The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapt in swathing bands and in a manger laid. All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace: Good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease.

Craig Courtney, Lynda Hasseler | © 2013 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

MEDITATION

Gloria! | Pastor Cathy Johns

ANGELS PROCLAIM

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 238 (verses 1,2,3,4)
(Please bring your gift for Jesus forward and place on The Enchanted Tree)

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

(refrain) **Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?** (refrain)

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.** (refrain)

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choir of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.** (refrain)

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MUSIC MINISTRY

Gloria | Antonio Vivaldi
Chancel Choir, Brubeck brass
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Antonio Vivaldi, Elmer Robert Thomas | © 1985 Roger Dean Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services)
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* SENDING FORTH

MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Fanfare on "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" | arr. Clark Cothorn
Brubeck Brass

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

Join us Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, for one of three services:

5pm child-led worship

7pm traditional worship with lessons & carols and

11pm traditional worship with holy communion

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 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.

ENCHANTED TREE today | 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

SERVE

BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY Thank you to everyone who brought food for the pantry today. If you forgot, 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, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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** Pastor Cathy Johns will continue her discussion of Great Books with *The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of Religious Imagination*, by Esther de Waal. Secure your own book and read before the discussion.

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 & 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 6th –12th 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

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

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

CHURCH HOLIDAY HOURS The Christ Church office will be open 9am-4pm the next two weeks, with the following exceptions: Wednesday, December 24: 9am-12noon; Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26: closed; Thursday, January 1, closed. **The Blessings Food Pantry will be open Monday & Tuesday, December 22 & 23 and December 29 & 30, 9-11:30am. The campus will be closed Wednesday-Friday, December 24-26 and December 31-January 2. Sunday breakfast will be shared December 28 and January 4.**

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