



*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 28, 2025

PRELUDE

I Wonder as I Wander | John Jacob Niles

Pastor Cathy Johns, alto

© words & music public domain | CCLI License # 487103

WELCOME | Pastor Doug Johns

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Richard Sheffield, liturgist

The light that was born in Bethlehem still shines among us.

We come to worship the Christ who dwells with us.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We rejoice, for Christ is born, and God's love is with us.

Come, let us worship the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

With hearts full of praise, we lift our voices to Emmanuel—God with us!

*** GATHERING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 234 (verses 1,3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

(refrain) **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *(refrain)*

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade | © words: public domain; music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

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

**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.**

Edmund Sears & Richard Willis | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

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)***

© words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

*** OPENING PRAYER**

**Gracious and loving God, we gather in the glow of Christmas joy, still marveling at the gift of your Son.
The light of your love has entered our world, shining in the darkness and bringing hope to all people.
Renew our faith and remind us that your light shines in our everyday lives. Give us the courage to
reflect this light so that our neighbors may see your love through our words and deeds. As we step into
a new year, let the wonder of Jesus' birth continue to shape who we are and how we live out our call to
be your disciple. Amen.**

*** 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 call 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.**

Henry W. Greatorex | public domain | CCLI License # 487103

MUSIC MINISTRY

Away in a Manger | arr. Gilbert Martin
Chancel Choir

© 1986 by Hinshaw Music, Inc. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

MESSAGE

God's Grace and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer | Pastor Doug Johns

OFFERING | Pastor Cathy 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

The Light in the Night | John C. Reim
Chancel Choir

Piercing through the shadows of the night, suddenly there shone a brilliant light. To some shepherds came an angel bright, an angel sent with a word from God. On the ground the frightened shepherds lay, till they heard the holy angel say, "Do not fear; I bring good tidings, joyous news for people near and far. For to you is born this day in David's town a tiny baby boy, the Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you'll find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and in a manger bed reclined." Straight away this joyous news would fly. This joyous news would fly. Hosts and hosts of heaven filled the sky, shouting praises high and announcing peace on the earth. Filled with joy, the shepherds soon agreed, "Let us now go and run without delay. Let us now go to David's town and see. They've told us things in which we still rejoice." "For to us is born this day in David's town a tiny baby boy, the Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. When the shepherds saw the Blessed One, with the news they soon

were on the run, praising God for all that he had done, for wondrous things they had seen and heard. As they ran to spread the news abroad, telling all about the gift of God, may we, too, be on our way to say, "The Savior of the world has come!" Come to the Light that shines in the night! He, who once was laid in manger bed, came down to suffer in our stead, and to rise on high! Him we glorify! Alleluia!

© 2012 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers | 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.

Bourgeois & Ken | public domain | CCLI License # 487103

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**

Joy to the World | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 246 (verses 1,2,4)

**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.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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

*** SENDING FORTH**

*** RESPONSE**

O Little Town of Bethlehem | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 230 (verses 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.**

Lewis Henry Redner | Phillips Brooks | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

MUSIC FOR CLOSING

O Come, All Ye Faithful | arr. Mary McDonald
Chuck Stanley, organ

© 2014 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of the Lorenz Corporation | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

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

Join us next Sunday for the message *Do you believe in Magi?* based on Matthew 2:1-12.

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.

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

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

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, 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

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 & 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. Childcare is available by advance reservation to Lisa Jones, 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 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 this week, except Thursday, when it will be closed for the New Year's Day holiday. **The Blessings Food Pantry will be open Monday & Tuesday, December 29 & 30, 9-11:30am. The campus will be closed Wednesday-Friday, December 31-January 2. Sunday breakfast will be shared today 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.