



*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 7, 2025**

**WELCOME** | Pastor Cathy Johns

## **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

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

Please see below.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child* | arr. Mark Hayes

Carrie Brooke, alto; Leigh Neely, soprano & Mel White, bass

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### **\* GATHERING HYMN** | Introduced by Connie Booth, liturgist

*O Come O Come Emmanuel* | *The United Methodist Hymnal* No. 211 (verses 1,2,3,4)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.**

*(refrain)* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. *(refrain)***

**O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. *(refrain)***

**O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;  
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. *(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 | Dancers Charlotte Castelein & Arabella Hall

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6)

**all Today we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.**

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

## CAROL

*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.**

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## OFFERING | Pastor Doug Johns

worshipping through the offering of our lives and gifts

- Place offerings in the plates or wooden boxes
- Give online at [christchurchfl.org/give](https://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

*Celtic Advent Carol* | Michael Barrett

Chancel Choir

*Be not afraid, I bring you good news. The Savior is coming in glory to you. He shall be called “God’s Holy One.” Will you be ready for him when he comes? Light the candle, Jesus is coming. Open your hearts, prepare ye the way. Sleepers awake, for soon is the dawning. He will turn night into glorious day. Be of good cheer and put away fear, the light now is coming to dry every tear. Love now with us, God’s perfect Son. He will turn night into glorious day. Veni Emmanuel. Captivum solve Israel. Jesus is coming. Could he be coming today? Light the candle, Jesus is coming.*

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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.**

## MORNING PRAYER

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | Pastor Monique McBride

#### SCRIPTURE

**Mark 1:1-8** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight,' "

<sup>4</sup>so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

#### MESSAGE

*A Christmas Carol Revisited | Untangling the Present* | 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 to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of our salvation,

Your love is steadfast and you lavish it upon us.

Not being content to be apart from us,

You came to us in human form,  
putting on flesh and becoming one of us.

You are not a God that is removed from our reality  
but is intimately present in our lives and our struggles.

We lift up to you our thanks for your presence among us.

We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ,  
the very incarnation of your being on this earth.

With all of creation, with your people in every time and place and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join the 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.**

We remember how you called your servant Mary to bear your son,  
how you called your servant Joseph to accompany her,  
how you called the wise men to search and the shepherds to ponder,  
how you called John to proclaim and Jesus to be baptized,  
how you called Peter and the disciples to follow and serve.

As we wait, during this blessed season of Advent, we remember 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.**

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty 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**

*John Spoke as a Prophet* | TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**John spoke as a prophet, a voice to be heard.  
He preached in the desert, proclaiming God's word:  
"Come here and be baptized, and God will forgive!"  
He taught all those people a new way to live.**

*(refrain)* **God of truth! God of grace! Hear our cry and forgive!  
May your church in this place find a new way to live.  
Confront us and heal us, until we all learn  
The life that is ours when we're willing to turn.**

**We find that we're busy and weary each day;  
We're worn and distracted, forgetting to pray.  
It feels like we're walking on unsteady ground;  
God, change us and mold us and turn us around. (refrain)**

**The valleys below will be filled to the brim,  
The mountains above will be made low for him,  
The rough, crooked ways will be made smooth and broad,  
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (refrain)**

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## **\* SENDING FORTH**

### **\* RESPONSE**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 230 (verse 2)

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**

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## **MUSIC FOR CLOSING**

*A Festive Trumpet Tune* | Gilbert M. Martin

Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday as we continue the Advent series *A Christmas Carol Revisited* with the message *Claiming the Future*, based on Isaiah 41:8-10.

## **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.

**POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS by today | december 7** You are invited to make a donation, \$10 per plant, and have a poinsettia dedicated in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. The lists will appear on the screens on Sunday, December 14, and in the Midweek Update on December 17. Please make your donation and dedication online at [christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events).

**CHURCH PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE today | 1-3pm** 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. One remaining open house is scheduled for today, December 7, 1-3pm. Serious bids should be sent to **trustees@christchurchfl.org** by 5pm December 16, 2025. A datasheet about the house is available in the lobby and in the Midweek Update.

## **SERVE**

**GAMES FOR TEDDER by december 14** We're collecting new games for the children of 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. If you need ideas of what to shop for, you'll find a list of games to print out and take to the store and an Amazon shopping list at **christchurchfl.org/games**

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** 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**

**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**

**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 to 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, you can learn more at [christchurchfl.org/jobs](https://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)

**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](https://christchurchfl.org/events)

**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**

## **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** and YouTube **@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 | 11pm** Learn about the significance of angels through readings by lay readers and Christmas carols accompanied by a brass ensemble 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** and YouTube **@christchurchfl**

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

**5pm** child-led worship

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

**11pm** traditional worship with holy communion

### **CHURCH BUSINESS**

**DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING** **monday | december 8 | 6:30pm** The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, December 8, at 6:30pm on Zoom. Please contact Pastor Doug, **[djohns@christchurchfl.org](mailto:djohns@christchurchfl.org)**, or Nathan Hickman, chair of council, to get connected.