



*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 | march 15, 2026**

**WELCOME** | Pastor Cathy Johns

## **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

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

Please see below.

## **PRELUDE**

*Wayfarin' Stranger* | Mary McDonald

Wes Kassulke, piano

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**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** | Connie Bookholt, liturgist

We gather to remember the one who calls us to grow in grace and strength.

**Christ shapes our lives and leads us forward.**

When the path is steep and the weight feels heavy, we look to the one who endured for our sake.

**We will not give up, for Christ has gone before us.**

Surrounded by God's faithful people through every generation—

**We run the race set before us.**

Let us run with hope, trusting that transformation is already at work within us.

**We worship the God who strengthens, guides, and sustains.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 529 (verses 1,2,3,5)

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,**

**is laid for your faith in his excellent word!**

**What more can he say than to you he hath said,**

**to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,**

**for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;**

**I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand**

**upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,**

**the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;**

**for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless**

**and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”**

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## **\* OPENING PRAYER**

**Faithful and sustaining God, you call us to lives that reflect the love, courage, and faithfulness of Christ. Yet we know that following this path is not always easy. There are moments when we grow tired, when obstacles rise before us, and when the journey feels longer than we expected. In those times, remind us of the strength we find in Christ, who endured suffering and never turned away from the path of love. Help us keep our eyes fixed on him, trusting that the same grace that carried him forward is at work within us. Shape our hearts through every challenge we face. Transform us more and more into the likeness of Christ, so that our lives reflect your hope, your strength, and your love in the world. Amen.**

## **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** | *A Lenten Affirmation of Faith*

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs. We believe that God has a purpose for our lives and walks with us daily. We believe that Christ is the divine child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe that Jesus, The Word made flesh, is the ultimate expression of the depth of God’s love for humanity. We believe that Christ frees us for joyful obedience and that we are called to love one another, for love is of God. We believe in the renewing, enabling Spirit of God who sets us free, allowing us to accept ourselves and love God and neighbor. We believe the Holy Spirit binds us together with all believers into one Body of Christ, The Church. We are called to transform the world with God’s love. This we believe.**

## **\* 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**

*Come Follow Me* | Jay Althouse & Sally Albrecht

Leigh Neely, soprano

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## **SCRIPTURE**

**Hebrews 12:1-3, 12-13** | New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls or lose heart. ...

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

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

## MESSAGE

*Greater Than* | *God > Discouragement* | Pastor Cathy Johns

## 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](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. We thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*Do Not Pass Me By* | Reginal Wright

Chancel Choir

*Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by. I'm calling Savior, hear my humble cry; do not pass me by. Trusting only in thy merit, I seek thy face; heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace. Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me, Savior on earth beside thee whom in heaven but thee? While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.*

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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

*Stand by Me* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 512 (verses 1,2,4)

**When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;**

**when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.**

**When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea,**

**thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.**

**In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;**

**in the midst of tribulation, stand by me.**

**When the host of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,**

**thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.**

**In the midst of persecution, stand by me;  
in the midst of persecution, stand by me.  
When my foes in battle array undertake to stop my way,  
thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me.**

Charles Albert Tindly | William Farley Smith | © words: public domain | music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House | CCLI License # 487103

## \* **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**

*Postlude in g Minor* | Mark L. Williams  
Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday as we continue the series, *Greater Than*, with the message, *God > Fear*, based on Psalm 27:1-4 and 14.

**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** 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.

**PARKWAY INFORMATION MEETING today | march 15 | 12:15pm | fellowship halls** The Parkway Study Group will update us on the exciting proposed future of our Parkway Campus. The group will share the vision and strategic goals for long-term sustainability of our outreach ministry there. Save the date and plan to stay after worship to learn more!

**YOUTH FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS every sunday in march | 10am | fellowship hall 4** All sixth-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join Mr. W for snacks, games and conversation starting in Fellowship Hall 4 and spreading into the breezeway for lots of room. Christ Church and CCS fifth-graders are invited to come see what youth group is about. Parents are invited to meet Mr. W, who is also the CCS music teacher, Phil Woodard. Questions? Email Mr. W at [pwoodard@christchurchfl.org](mailto:pwoodard@christchurchfl.org)

**GREAT READ today | march 15 | 2pm | 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.

**SPECIAL NOVA SINGERS CONCERT today | march 15 | 4pm | fort lauderdale sanctuary** The Nova Singers and the Florida Singing Sons, both celebrating their 50th year of singing in South Florida, will join in a concert featuring John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*. Each group will also perform songs from its 50th anniversary repertoire, from Broadway to spirituals to contemporary anthems. The Nova Singers are under the direction of Christ Church Traditional Music Director Chuck Stanley; the Florida Singing Sons, under the direction of Daniel Bates. City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis will present proclamations to each organization in honor of their respective 50th anniversary. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Children 12 and younger, plus students any age with school ID, are admitted free. Buy tickets in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/NovaSonsMarch26>

## **SERVE HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

**HELP WITH MAUNDY THURSDAY EXPERIENTIAL SEDER** Maundy Thursday, which is April 2, is observed with worship in the sanctuary and an experiential seder in the gym. Pastor Monique is seeking help in the following areas:

**Table Hosts** Part of the Passover Seder is welcoming guests into your home to enjoy hospitality. To symbolize this beauty, 10 table hosts are needed, each host bringing 8 ceramic dinner plates, 8 cloth napkins, and 8 sets of silverware. Items need to be at the church by 4pm Wednesday, April 1. All items will be returned.

**Setup Shift 1: Thursday, April 2, 9:30am-12noon** Volunteers prepare food and help set tables.

**Setup Shift 2: Thursday, April 2, 5-7pm** Volunteers set out food.

**Cleanup: Thursday, April 2, 8:30pm** Volunteers clean up.

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Pastor Monique, [mmcbride@ccsfl.org](mailto:mmcbride@ccsfl.org)

**SERVE ON EASTER SUNDAY** There are lots of way you can help welcome guests and offer hospitality on Easter Sunday. We'll need help greeting folks and serving coffee at the Sunrise Service, serving treats after the service and then moving equipment into the gym for the 9am service. There are Easter eggs to hide, pastries to plate, and many other opportunities to make guests feel at home. If you can help in any way, please let us know at [christchurchfl.org/serve-easter](http://christchurchfl.org/serve-easter)

**EASTER PLANTS** You are invited to purchase an Easter plant for worship on Easter Sunday. Several types of spring plants will be ordered. You may designate your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. Easter plants may be taken home after 12noon on Easter Sunday. The deadline is March 22. Plants are \$15. Make your dedication online at [christchurchfl.org/easter-plants](http://christchurchfl.org/easter-plants)

**BRING MUFFINS AND COOKIES FOR EASTER** We want to welcome guests on Easter morning with coffee and treats. Your contributions would be much appreciated. You may bring cookies, muffins and other handheld treats to church before the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Thank you in advance for any contributions.

**HIDE EASTER EGGS easter sunday | 8am** Volunteers are needed to help hide Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday. Sign up with Lisa Jones, [ljones@christchurchfl.org](mailto:ljones@christchurchfl.org) to volunteer.

## **SERVE**

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** Thank you for bringing donations for the Blessings Food Pantry. We welcome donations 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, saltine crackers, 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)

**LEARN ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL PLANS** As you leave worship today, pick up a copy of the Building Committee's most recent newsletter describing the exciting progress toward serving middle schoolers and their families. You'll find previous updates on tables as you leave worship and online. For answers to some frequently asked questions, go to the church website. [christchurchfl.org/FAQ](http://christchurchfl.org/FAQ)

**ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE sunday | april 12 | 12:15pm | fellowship halls 1-3** 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 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)

**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 runs 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. Michele Apple and Jeanne Deinken lead this team. 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

**AT THE TABLE next sunday | 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. *At the Table* is taking a break today so everyone can attend the Parkway Informational Meetings. Next Sunday, plan to stay after the 9am service or come early for the 11am service for this time together; 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.

**MEMBERSHIP CLASSES thursday | march 19 | 8:30am | fellowship hall 1** We are glad you are connected to Christ Church. If you are interested in deepening your participation through church membership, Pastor Cathy Johns will offer the class, United Methodist 101, on Thursday, March 19, at 8:30am. Child care will be available. This 90-minute class includes the history, beliefs, and structure of the United Methodist Church. Members of Christ Church serve Christ and our community in significant ways including: voting at Church Conferences (where all members have voice

and vote); helping to advance the priorities of Christ Church (ministry to children and families, welcoming new people to become disciples of Jesus, and outreach - serving our neighbors); serving on administrative committees. Email Pastor Cathy Johns to let her know you're interested, [cjohns@christchurchfl.org](mailto:cjohns@christchurchfl.org)

**DENOMINATION-WIDE WEBINARS** The United Methodist Council of Bishops encourages you to participate in the following denomination-wide webinar to help discern our Wesleyan identity and new vision:

- **March 21 | 10-11:30am** Wesleyan Leadership, "Lead Courageously"

Those who register in advance will have an opportunity to submit questions. All webinars are recorded and available for later viewing. **More information, previous videos, and the link to register for the upcoming webinar can be found at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/council-of-bishops-leadership-gathering>**

**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.

## **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**

**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. 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**

**APRIL COUNCIL MEETING** The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, April 13, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Halls 1-3.