



*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 22, 2026

WELCOME | Pastor Doug Johns

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

PRELUDE

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley | James Michael Stevens

Wes Kassulke, piano; Dr. Bruce Kraemer, bassoon

James Michael Stevens | © 2018 James M. Stevens Music ASCAP | used by permission | all rights reserved

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Jeanne Deinken, liturgist

Come, people of God, and bring your whole selves—your faith and your fears.

We come seeking the one who is stronger than all that troubles us.

When shadows gather and uncertainty surrounds us—

God is our light and our courage.

There is one thing we seek: to dwell in God's presence and trust in God's care.

In every moment, God meets us and holds us fast.

Come, let us worship the one who is greater than fear.

With hope and confidence, we draw near to God.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

O God Our Help in Ages Past | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 117 (verses 1,2,3,6)

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.**

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

Isaac Watts | William Croft | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

* OPENING PRAYER

Steadfast and ever-present God, in moments when fear feels close and the path ahead seems uncertain, you are already there. You meet us not only in places of light and clarity, but also in the shadows where we feel most vulnerable. Remind us today that you are greater than anything that unsettles our hearts. When we feel overwhelmed, be our calm. When we feel threatened, be our refuge. When we feel uncertain, be our steady guide. Draw us deeper into your presence, where fear loses its hold and trust begins to grow. Fill us with the courage that comes from knowing you are with us in every moment—even in the darkness. 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

I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary | William Gaither

Brian McComb, bass

Dale Oldham, Gloria Gaither & William J. Gaither | © 1968 William J. Gaither, Inc. | CCLI License # 487103

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 27:1-4, 14 | New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple. ...

¹⁴Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

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

MESSAGE

Greater Than | God > Fear | 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. We thank you for your faithfulness as we reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Psalm 46 | John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth be removed, and the mountains be carried away to the very midst of the sea, though the waters roar and the mountains quake at His majesty. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle, the holy place of the Lord. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; he shall defend her from the night through the dawn. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. I will be exalted above the nations. I will be exalted upon the earth. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. His everlasting love will guide us from above. All glory to his name, from age to age the same: his kingdom is forever. Amen.

John Ness Beck | © 1983 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.

* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Standing on the Promises | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 374 (verses 1,2,4)

**Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.**

(refrain) **Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. *(refrain)***

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. *(refrain)***

Russell Kelso Carter | © words & music: public domain

* SENDING FORTH

* RESPONSE

Let There be Peace on Earth | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 431

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

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MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Solemn March | arr. George Blake

Chuck Stanley, organ

Felix Mendelssohn & George Blake | ©1988 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services)
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**** please stand in body or spirit.***

Join us next Sunday as we continue the series, *Greater Than*, with the message, *Hope > Despair*, based on Matthew 21:1-10, 27:27-31.

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 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 sundays | 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 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.

YOUTH FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS every sunday in march | 10am | fellowship hall 4 All sixth-12th 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

EASTER PLANTS deadline: today, March 22 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. Plants are \$15. Make your dedication online at christchurchfl.org/easter-plants

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday | March 29

9am praise service

11am traditional service

children's palm parade into both services

Maundy Thursday | April 2

7pm worship in the sanctuary followed by experiential seder in the gym with Holy Communion

Good Friday | April 3

7pm traditional service including Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*

EASTER SUNDAY | April 5

6:30am Sunrise Service on Christ Church Field

9am praise service

10:30am children's egg hunt on the lawn east of the sanctuary

11am traditional service

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

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.

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

SERVE

BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY Donations are welcomed 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, 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

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

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

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

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. 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

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

DENOMINATION-WIDE WEBINAR 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>**

ORGAN RECITAL sunday | april 19 | 4pm | sanctuary Daniel Colaner will be the featured organist at the Emerging Artist Recital sponsored by the tri-county chapter of the American Guild of Organists in the Christ Church Sanctuary. Colaner has received numerous honors, including the 2023 National YoungArts Winner with Distinction in Organ/Classical Music. He has been featured on PBS with the American Pops Orchestra and on NPR’s *From the Top* (Show #377). He holds the Dr. Mi Wha Lee Fellowship at the Curtis Institute of Music and serves as the Michael Stairs Organ Scholar at the Church of The Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Penn. The recital is free.

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.

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 with your contact information. A Faith Caring Group leader will get back to you.

STUDENTS

EARN SERVICE HOURS Students in 6th to 12th grades are invited to help with the Palm Sunday parade on March 29 and with the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5. **On Palm Sunday, 8:45-11:15am, students will** help children with palm branches in the 9am and 11am services; label chalk for Easter Sunday; and fold children’s bulletins. On Easter Sunday, 8:30-11am, students will hide eggs, draw on sidewalks with chalk, and help children at the egg hunt. Participating students meet in the gym lobby both days. For more information, contact Mr. W at pwoodard@christchurchfl.org

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

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

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHURCH CONFERENCE Christ Church members will vote on plans to add middle school grades to Christ Church School at a special church conference on Sunday, April 12, at 4pm. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Membership Secretary Claudia Bhatt, cbhatt@christchurchfl.org

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