



*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 | Palm Sunday | march 29, 2026

WELCOME | Pastor Cathy Johns

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

PRELUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns | arr. Derek Hakes

Handbell Choir

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Judy O'Donnell, liturgist

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Today we celebrate the king who rides on a donkey.

Humble, gentle, and riding toward the cross.

Today we begin the journey to Jerusalem.

A journey from triumph to trial, from palms to passion.

Come, let us follow Jesus through this holy week.

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*** GATHERING HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 280 (verses 1,2,3,4)

(refrain) **All glory, laud, and honor, to thee, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the king of Israel, thou David's royal son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the king and blessed one. (refrain)**

**The company of angels are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. (refrain)**

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our prayer and praise and anthems before thee we present. (refrain)**

**To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted our melody we raise. (refrain)**

John Mason Neale, Melchior Teschner & Theodulph of Orleans | © words and music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

* OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for Jesus—who set his face toward Jerusalem with unwavering resolve, embracing the way of suffering out of love for us. Teach us to follow Christ not only when the road is bright and full of celebration, but also when the days require strength, patience, and mercy. Shape us into people who do not shrink from hard places, but who rely on your presence in every step. Prepare our hearts for the days ahead—for Maundy Thursday's table, for Good Friday's cross, and for Easter's glorious dawn. May we walk this journey fully, so that we might truly understand the depth of your love and the power of resurrection. 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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INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS | Bev McMahan & Suzy Geist

...

pastor Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

all We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jesus Paid it All | arr. Jason W. Krug

Handbell Choir

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SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-10 | New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs

them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

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

MESSAGE

Greater Than | Hope > Despair | 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
- 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.

Each 5th Sunday we take an over-and-above offering for Residing Hope, the former Florida United Methodist Children's home. If you would like to make a gift to Residing Hope, you may place the gift in an offering envelope and write Residing Hope on the envelope. Or, you can go to christchurchfl.org/give and scroll below the primary giving form to the list of designated gift recipients. Or you may bring or mail a gift to the church office.

MUSIC MINISTRY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | Gilbert Martin
Chancel Choir

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts, Gilbert Martin | © 1970, Theodore Presser Co. | 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

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 301 (verses 1,2,3)

**Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.**

(refrain) **In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *(refrain)***

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *(refrain)***

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* SENDING FORTH

* RESPONSE

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 301 (verse 4)

**Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.**

**In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

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MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Trumpet Tune on "St. Theodulph" | Michael Helman

Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us for special services this week, Holy Week, and for Easter Sunday services.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER | details at christchurchfl.org/easter

Maundy Thursday | april 2

traditional worship & experiential seder | 7pm | fort lauderdale sanctuary and gym

Good Friday | april 3

traditional service | 7pm | fort lauderdale sanctuary

EASTER | april 5

6:30am | sunrise service | christ church field | come as you are | coffee will be ready

9am | praise service | gym

10:30am | egg hunt

11am | traditional service | fort lauderdale sanctuary

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 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 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.

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:

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

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. Later in the morning, there'll be pastries to plate, and opportunities to make guests feel at home. If you can help in any way, please let us know at christchurchfl.org/serve-easter

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

BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY Donations are welcome 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 March newsletter describing the exciting progress toward serving middle schoolers and their families. Learn all about the Church Conference to approve preliminary middle school plans on Sunday, April 12, at 4pm. 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 the task force as it plans activities for the second quarter of the year and works 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

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](#). 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 Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5. On Easter Sunday, 8:30-11am, students will hide eggs, create chalk drawings on the sidewalks, and help children at the egg hunt. Participating students meet in the gym lobby. 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**

BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH

CAMPUSES CLOSED APRIL 6 Christ Church campuses, including the Blessings Food Pantry, will be closed Monday, April 6, for Easter Monday. Regular hours will return on Tuesday, April 7.

CHURCH CONFERENCE Christ Church members will vote on plans to add a middle school to Christ Church School at a special church conference on Sunday, April 12, at 4pm. There will also be a vote on Matt Till as a certified candidate for ministry. 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.