



*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 | april 12, 2026**

**WELCOME** | Connie Bookholt, liturgist

## **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

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

Please see below.

## **PRELUDE**

*Were You There with Crown Him with Many Crowns* | arr. Marilyn Ham

Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

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## **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, even with your questions and uncertainties.

**We come seeking the presence of the risen Christ.**

When fear closes doors and doubt fills our hearts—

**Christ comes among us with peace.**

When we struggle to believe what we cannot see—

**We are invited to trust beyond our understanding.**

Come, let us worship the risen one who brings peace and calls us to believe.

**With hope and trust, we gather in Christ's name.**

## **\* GATHERING HYMN**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 327 (verses 1,2,3,4)

**Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon his throne.**

**Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.**

**Awake my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,**

**and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,**

**and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.**

**His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,**

**who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways**

**from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet**

**fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

George Job Elvey, Godfrey Thring & Matthew Bridges | words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

## **\* OPENING PRAYER**

**Gracious God, you know the places where we struggle to trust, the moments when doubt rises, and the questions we carry quietly within. You do not turn us away when we struggle to understand, but instead draw near with patience, peace, and grace. As we gather in your presence, open our hearts to recognize the ways you are already among us. Strengthen our faith to believe, even when we cannot see the whole path ahead. Give us courage to lean into your promises and the confidence to follow your call. Meet us here just as you met those first disciples—calm our fears, deepen our trust, and send us out with renewed faith to live as your people in the world. Amen.**

## **\* AN EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a God who astounds us! God created towering mountains, sparkling sandy beaches, lush green meadows, and dazzling wonders in the night sky. From the hummingbird to the whale, all creation sings your praise. God surprises and astounds us in places where we expected God was absent.**

**We believe in Jesus, the Son of God, whose life, death, and resurrection transforms the world with the power of God’s love. His body, crucified and buried, was placed in a tomb. Three days later, he rose from the dead. Jesus, our Risen Savior, embraces us with new life saying, “Because I live, you also will live.”**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be an Easter people, calling us to be witnesses to the resurrection. The Spirit fills us with strength and sends us out into the world to proclaim the good news: Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

## **\* 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**

*Christ is Risen, Alleluia* | Jay Althouse

Leigh Neely, soprano; Carrie Brooke, alto

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## **SCRIPTURE**

**John 20:19-31** | Common English Bible

<sup>19</sup>It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup>Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup>After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup>Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

<sup>30</sup>Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup>But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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

## **SKIT** | *Thomas the Skeptic*

Brian McComb and Leigh Neely

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## **MESSAGE**

*A Bad Rap* | Brian McComb

## **OFFERING**

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.

Today we are taking a special, extra-mile offering for Jamaica Hurricane Relief through United Methodist Committee on Relief. If you would like to make a gift, please place it in an offering envelope and write Jamaica on the envelope, or **[christchurchfl.org/give](http://christchurchfl.org/give)** and scroll down to the designated gifts section, or bring a gift for Jamaica Hurricane Relief to the church office later in the week.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Awake, Awake!* | Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

*Awake, awake! Let every heart in loudest praise adore the great eternal Lord of all, who reigns forevermore. He paints the orient sky of morn, he gives the flower its hue, and gently over its fragrant leaves, he drops the pearly dew. Sons and daughters of the king, let your endless praises ring: Christ the Lord is risen on high; he lives, no more to die. Awake, exalt his glorious name; and on this holy day, rejoicing in the house of prayer, your grateful homage pay. As over the earth the genial sun a radiant luster throws, so in the bosom where he dwells the light of mercy glows. How sweet when human voices join to sing his pardoning love, while angels waft the joyful strain, to purer worlds above. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

Craig Courtney | © 1992 Beckenhorst press | 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

*When Thomas Heard from Jesus* | LANCASHIRE

**When Thomas heard from Jesus, "now come and follow me,"  
he surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.  
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;  
he found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.**

**When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,  
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."  
He ate at Jesus's table, partaking wine and bread;  
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.**

**What joy on Easter evening when many say the Lord!  
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.  
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;  
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.**

**That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;  
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.  
O Lord, may we, like Thomas, keep growing day by day;  
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the way.**

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## \* SENDING FORTH

## \* RESPONSE

*He Lives* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 310 (refrain)

**He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives. He lives within my heart.**

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## MUSIC FOR CLOSING

*Easter Joy ("Mfurahini Haleluya")* | Phil Lehenbauer

Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday as we begin the new series, *Signs of the Kingdom*, with the message, *The Rich Man and Lazarus*, based on Luke 16:19-31.

## **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.

**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JAMAICA HURRICANE RELIEF today | april 12 | 9am & 11am services** Responding to concerns by a group of Christ Church community members, a special offering will be taken to help people in Jamaica recover from Hurricane Melissa. The storm, the strongest Atlantic storm to make landfall, devastated homes and communities, and the recovery is continuing. If you would like to make a special gift to help our brothers and sisters in Jamaica, please go to [christchurchfl.org/give](http://christchurchfl.org/give) and scroll down to the special link for Jamaica gifts, or place it in an offering envelope and write Jamaica Relief on the envelope. Together we can make a difference in the lives affected by Melissa.

**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.

**ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE today | 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)

**CHURCH CONFERENCE today | april 12 | 4pm | sanctuary** Christ Church members will vote on plans to add a middle school to Christ Church School at a special church conference today at 4pm in the sanctuary. There will also be a vote on Matt Till as a certified candidate for ministry. All church members have voice and vote in this Church Conference.

### **SERVE**

**VOLUNTEER FOR THE TEDDER BOOK FAIR april 13-17 | 9:30am-1:50pm | Tedder Elementary** Tedder Elementary, our partner school in the Parkway neighborhood, will host a Spring Scholastic Book Fair April 13-17. There are lots of opportunities for volunteers between 9:30am and 1:50pm those days. Volunteers need to be approved through the Broward County Public Schools. If you can make a difference in this way, please contact Val Proffer with the days and times you can help. Go to [christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events) to sign up.

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** Pick up a shopping bag with a list of needed items as you leave worship today, and then return it next Sunday, filled with food and blessings for guests of the Blessings Food Pantry. The Blessings Food Pantry welcomes donations any time. The following items would be greatly appreciated: canned tuna and 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)

**DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & DISCUSSION thursday | april 30 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls 1-3** The Anti-Racism Task Force will sponsor a free screening of the documentary, *Jesus was a Migrant*, on Thursday evening, April 30. The film follows Dr. Jemar Tisby to the U.S.-Mexico border to examine a theological tension at the heart of American Christianity: the asylum seekers and the people who turned them away share the same faith. It addresses immigration and Christian Nationalism in light of the January 20, 2025 shut down of CBP One app and canceling asylum appointments at the southwest border, affecting thousands of immigrants. A community discussion will follow the film. Popcorn and beverages will be ready at 6pm, before the film begins at 6:30. Please let us know you're coming by signing up here: [christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events)

**ZOE EMPOWERS** We support the Arise and Shine Kironya Empowerment Group of 24 orphaned and abandoned teens and young adults as they learn the skills to be self-supporting 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. 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

**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 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**

**LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CLASSES saturday | may 2 | 7:30am-6pm** Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most impactful lay leadership development programs within the United Methodist connection. It equips and empowers laity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ—and to lead others into discipleship through service, teaching, and witness. Three courses will be offered: Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course; Each one a Minister (Using God's Gifts for Ministry); and Afire with God (Becoming Spirited Stewards). The course fee is \$50 and includes course materials, light breakfast and lunch. For additional information, email Connie Bookholt, [cbookholt@nationalgroup.com](mailto:cbookholt@nationalgroup.com)

**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 7:30am, a recording of morning prayers is available on Facebook.

## **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.

## **STUDENTS**

**FREEWAY'S FIRST EVENING EVENT sunday | april 19 | 6-8pm** All 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, plus fifth-graders from Christ Church School and Christ Church, are invited to Flagged Manhunt & Food next Sunday evening. Gather in the gym lobby at 6pm before we brainstorm a bit, head to the lawn around the pavilion for manhunt, then break out the pizza. If you have questions, please contact youth ministry leader Phil Woodard, known as Mr. W, at [pwoodard@christchurchfl.org](mailto: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](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.