



*a diverse, inclusive church experiencing and reflecting the love, hope and joy of Jesus Christ  
to each other and our community*

## **Christmas Eve Traditional Service with Lessons and Carols**

**7pm | December 24, 2025**

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Goin' to Bethlehem | Jay Althouse

Ensemble

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**WELCOME** | Pastor Cathy Johns

### **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

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

### **\* CAROL OF PRAISE**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful, verses 1,3* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 234 (verses 1,3)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**

**O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.**

**Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

*(refrain)* **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;**

**O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (refrain)**

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade | © words: public domain; music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** | Pastor Doug Johns

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

**In him was life, and that life was the light of the world.**

We light the Christ Candle, knowing that Jesus is our hope, our peace, our joy, and the source of love.

### **RESPONSE**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful, verse 6* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 234 (verse 6)

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,**

**Jesus, to thee be all glory given.**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (refrain)**

*(refrain)* **O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

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## FIRST LESSON

**Luke 2:1-5** | *Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.<sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered.<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.<sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

## CAROL

Fantasy on Five Christmas Carols | Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir; string quartet

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## SECOND LESSON

**Luke 2:6-7** | *The miracle of God's gift for those who love him.*

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

## CAROL

Hodie Christus Natus Est | Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir; String Quartet

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## THIRD LESSON

**Luke 2:8-14** | *The shepherds worship the infant King.*

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:<sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

## CAROL

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks | Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir; String Quartet

Craig Courtney, Lynda Hasseler | © 2013 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

## FOURTH LESSON

**Luke 2:15-20** | *The shepherds spread the good news.*

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them,<sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 238 (verses 1,2)

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

*(refrain)* **Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?** *(refrain)*

Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

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

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*O Holy Night* | arr. René Clausen

Chancel Choir, String Quartet

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## MESSAGE

*Christ is Born* | Pastor Cathy Johns

### \* CAROL OF JOY

*Joy to the World* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 246 (verses 1,2)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | © words: & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### \* CAROL OF PEACE

*Silent Night, Holy Night* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 239

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Please raise candles on final stanza.*

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

Franz Xaver Gruber, John Freeman Young & Joseph Mohr | © words & music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

## **\* CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

*Please extinguish your candles before leaving your seat.*

*Please deposit plastic holders, with candles if you like, in the designated boxes as you leave.*

## **\* SENDING FORTH**

## **MUSIC FOR CLOSING**

*For unto Us a Child is Born* | arr. John Innes

Wes Kassulke, piano; Chuck Stanley, organ; String Quartet

John Innes | tune and text: © 1988 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation | all rights reserved | used with permission under One License #A-726973

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

We invite you to join us on Sunday, December 28, for the 9am praise service or the 11am traditional service when Pastor Doug Johns preaches the message, God's Grace and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, based on Matthew 1:18-25.

Sunday mornings include:

**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 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.

**If you're interested in serving to make our community a better place, consider these volunteer opportunities:**

**BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** The pantry is experiencing increased demand, and your donations help families get enough to eat. 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](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)

**MARCH IN THE MLK DAY PARADE monday | january 19, 2026** Join Christ Church and walk in the King Holiday Parade in Fort Lauderdale. It's an opportunity to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. By promoting unity, celebrating diversity, and showing commitment to justice, equality and civil rights. The parade route is about one mile. Details are yet to come. If you are interested, contact Paige Darnell, [pdarnell@christchurchfl.org](mailto:pdarnell@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](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).

**If you're looking for a place to connect with others, consider these opportunities:**

**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 through 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)

**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.

**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.

**Consider the following opportunities in the children and student ministries:**

**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, learn more at **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**

**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**