



*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 | august 17, 2025**

### **PRELUDE**

*When in Our Music God is Glorified* | arr. Mark Hayes

Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

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**WELCOME** | Pastor Monique McBride

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

Please see below.

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

Come, people of God, bringing your doubts and your questions, your hopes and your fears.

**Christ welcomes those who are searching.**

When the road ahead is hidden and the path feels unclear—

**We will trust in Jesus, our shepherd and our guide.**

When the storms of life rise up and fear takes hold—

**We will rest in Jesus, our refuge and our peace.**

Come, let us lift our voices in worship to the one who is faithful.

**In Christ, we find the courage to trust, the strength to hope, and the grace to walk by faith.**

#### **\* 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**

Faithful God, thank you for the call to be your disciples. We acknowledge that the path of a disciple can be challenging, filled with twists and turns, moments of doubt, and times of great joy. When we cannot see the way forward, remind us that you are the way. When fear rises, speak your peace over our hearts. When our strength fails, fill us with the strength that comes from your Spirit. Teach us to count on you—not just in moments of triumph, but in the quiet struggles, the unseen battles, and the daily walk of faith. Help us to rest in your promises, to lean on your strength, and to walk by faith in your unfailing love. We place our journey in your hands, knowing you will never let us go. Amen.

## **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*World Methodist Social Affirmation of Faith*

**We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;  
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again;  
and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.**

**We rejoice in every sign of God’s kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community;  
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;  
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;  
in the abundance of God’s gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough;  
in all responsible use of the earth’s resources.**

**We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action:  
through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, sexual identity, nation, or faith;  
through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference;  
through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life;  
through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence;  
through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.**

**We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ:  
to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;  
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God’s kingdom may come.**

## **\* 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**

*Lead Me, Lord* | arr. Carl Fredrickson  
Michael Marks, tenor

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## **SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 12:49-56** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided,

three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." <sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

### **Hebrews 12:1-2** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which 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 our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

## **MESSAGE**

*A Good Word for Hard Times* | Bishop Jane Middleton

### **WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER** | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 607

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

**thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

## **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.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

*Fairest Lord Jesus* | arr. Jack Schrader

Chancel Choir

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

Jack Schrader | © 2010 by Hope Publishing 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

*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 savèd Paul and Silas, stand by me.**

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## \* 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

*Festive Postlude* | Paul Fey

Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday for the message *Remember and Repeat*, based on Exodus 3:13-15.

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

## TODAY

**CONNECT CARDS** We want to stay in touch. 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)**.

**BLOOD DRIVE today | august 17 | 8:30am-12:30pm** You serve your community when you come to worship on Sunday, August 17. The Big Red Bus for blood donations will be here. Did you know one donation can save three lives? Sign up to be a donor that morning. You'll find the link at **[christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events)**

**HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE TIME** Every Sunday, coffee and snacks are available before the 9am and 11am services. Join your friends at the kitchen window in the gym lobby for coffee and conversation.

**AT THE TABLE today | 10:05am | fellowship halls 1-3** *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 is open, so grab a snack and coffee, and join us.

**INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL today | august 17 | 5-6pm | sanctuary** Join us to pray and witness against the inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of our neighbors held at the Everglades Detention camp, derisively called Alligator Alcatraz. Every Sunday at 5pm, persons of faith and conscience from across Florida are holding an interfaith vigil outside the detention camp. If you can't travel there this Sunday, you are invited to pray together in our sanctuary. We will follow the same prayers and liturgy as the Everglades vigil. On Sunday, August 24, the vigil will move to the United Church of Christ, 2501 NE 30th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306

## CONNECT

**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 | october 19 | 10am | fellowship hall 1** If you or someone you sit next to during worship is new to Christ Church, we'd love to get acquainted at the next Welcome 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)

## GROW

**INVITATION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT** required orientation **wednesday, september 10 | 6:30-8pm**  
**8 sessions september 24 | october 1, 8, 15, and 29 | november 5, 12, 19** Join Pastor Cathy for this 8-week covenant learning community that will explore the wonder of Creation, important wisdom teaching that shapes our faith, voices of the prophets, and the beauty of poetry. It is appropriate for those new to Bible study, as well as those with Bible study experience. Participants secure their own book before orientation on September 10. Sign up for the class by September 3. Child care is provided with advance registration to Lisa Jones, coordinator of Children's Ministry. Get all of the details and sign up at [christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events)

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IMMIGRATION TOWN HALL** **saturday | september 20 | 9:30am-12noon** District Superintendent Vidalis Lopez will lead the main session of this interfaith initiative. Join the Anti-Racism Task Force and the Florida Immigration Coalition to be inspired and take action in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors. If you can volunteer for the morning, contact Susan Spragg, [sspragg@christchurchfl.org](mailto:sspragg@christchurchfl.org), or Linda Bajkowsky. Bring friends and neighbors to stand up for human dignity. Sign up at [christchurchfl.org/immigration](http://christchurchfl.org/immigration)

**MORNING PRAYERS** Join your church family for morning prayers Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 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.

## SERVE

**PARKWAY LUNCH** **sunday | august 24 | 12noon** Come enjoy great food to support the outreach ministries on the Parkway Campus. This is an opportunity to financially support Parkway's outstanding ministries: feeding people and helping those in crisis. The second mini-fundraiser is lunch on Sunday, August 24, after the 11am service. We'll be treated to music by musicians of the traditional service. Suggested donation day of the event: \$20/person or \$50/family. You'll hear more about outreach at Parkway and perhaps be inspired to volunteer. If

you attended last month's brunch, you're welcome to attend the lunch as well. Just RSVP by filling out a card on the tables as you enter worship or online at [christchurchfl.org/events](http://christchurchfl.org/events)

**CHURCH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS** *"Here I Am Lord, Send Me!"* These words from the prophet Isaiah ring through the centuries to today. The Leadership Development Team invites you to pray about using your gifts as a member of the Christ Church Council. We are seeking people with a heart to serve Christ, a strong desire to bless others with the love, joy, and hope of Christ, and a willingness to be servant leaders in our faith community. If you have questions, please see Pastor Cathy Johns or Brian McComb. You can pick up an application on tables outside of worship spaces or fill out the online application, [christchurchfl.org/leadership](http://christchurchfl.org/leadership).

**SAVE THE DATE | TRUNK OR TREAT saturday | october 19 | 5-7:30pm** Get the word out! Christ Church's annual Halloween fun on the field will be Saturday, October 19, 5-7:30pm. There will be plenty of ways to be involved before, during and after the event. But for now, just put that date on your calendar and plan to join the party!

**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)

**FOOD FOR THE BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY** 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. Items may be taken to the pantry during pantry hours, 9-11am Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or brought to the Fort Lauderdale campus on Sunday morning. Learn more at [christchurchfl.org/ blessings](http://christchurchfl.org/ blessings)

**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. Linda Bajkowsky coordinates the team and would love your help. 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)

## 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 the Fort Lauderdale Olive Garden. 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 & STUDENTS

**FREEWAY KICK-OFF PARTY sunday | august 24 | 12noon-1:30pm | fellowship halls** Freeway, the group for 6th-12th graders, is launching into a year of faith, fun, and connection like never before. This is your chance to be part of a group that's open, welcoming, impactful, and ready to make a difference — together. On Sunday, August 24, we'll get together for games & challenges, snacks & hangout time, a sneak peek at our events calendar through December, and space to connect, laugh, and share. Bring your friends. Bring your energy. Let's make this the start of something unforgettable. Questions? Contact Jess Woolverson, director of student ministry, [jwoolverton@christchurchfl.org](mailto:jwoolverton@christchurchfl.org)

## CHURCH BUSINESS

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT INSTALLATION sunday | september 7 | 4 pm | plantation umc** Rev. Vidalis Lopez will be installed as Superintendent of the South East District of the Florida Conference on Sunday, September 7, at 4pm, at Plantation United Methodist Church, 1001 NW 70th Ave, Plantation, 33313 *Where Hope Grows* is the theme for this service. All are welcome.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING monday | september 8 | 6:30pm | fellowship halls 1-3**