



*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 | september 13, 2026

WELCOME | Pastor Jad Denmark

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

This Little Light of Mine | arr. Mary McDonald

Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

Mary Elizabeth McDonald | arrangement © 2018 The Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) | all rights reserved
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*** CALL TO WORSHIP** | Richard Sheffield, liturgist

Come, all who have experienced loss, disappointment, grief, or uncertainty.

We come trusting that God meets us even in the darkest places.

When Lazarus was in the tomb and all hope seemed lost, Jesus arrived—unhurried,
yet perfectly on time.

God meets us in our darkest moments, when the way forward feels impossible.

We come today carrying our own tombs—fear, grief, exhaustion, uncertainty.

Christ calls us by name, leading us toward the light of resurrection.

Let us worship the one who unbinds us, restores us, and makes us whole.

We lift our hearts to the God of resurrection hope.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 139 (verses 1,2,3,5)

Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning

bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his keeping maintaining.

God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.

Ponder anew what the almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.

Catherine Winkworth & Joachim Neander | © words: public domain | music: public domain | CCLI License # 487103

*** OPENING PRAYER**

God of life and love, you meet us in the places we least expect— in the shadows of disappointment, in the heaviness of grief, in the moments when we feel sealed off from joy. Speak to us today your words of life. Call us out of what binds us. Unwrap the fear, the doubt, the weariness that clings like grave clothes. Remind us that your love can open a path where we can see no possibility at all. Lead us into the fresh air of resurrection, where your Spirit breathes possibility, and your love makes all things new. Make us people of new life—alive and ready to walk in your light. Amen.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Modern Affirmation

leader Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

all **We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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

Cry No More | Dan Forrest

Jerry Ferguson, bass

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PASTORAL 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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Third Grade Bible Sunday

Campus Ministries

OFFERING

worshipping 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, which helps the church reflect the love, hope and joy of Jesus to our community.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Let it Rain | David Angerman

Chancel Choir

A voice cried out to the cloudless sky, "Our hope alone is you. Our land is parched, our wells are dry. We long to be renewed." The thunder clapped, the sky grew dark. The sound of rain was heard. Come, let the celebration start, for the Lord has kept his word! In my life Lord, let it rain. Refresh my soul, I pray. Wash me in your glory, Lord, so I can live again. Pour on us your power, O Lord, your love along sustains. Lord, I lift my cup to you, O let it start, flood my heart, pour out your love! Let it rain! Forgive us, Lord, come, heal us, Lord. Wash teardrops from our eyes. Refresh us, Lord, with perfect peace and open up the skies! Let it rain!

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* 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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SCRIPTURE

John 11:1–6, 17–27, 32–36, 38–44 | New Revised Standard Version, updated edition

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ...

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ...

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also

weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ...

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

MESSAGE

Jesus and ... | Jesus and his Friends | Pastor Jad Denmark

* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Guide Us to Openness, Spirit of Mercy | W. Robert Martin

**Guide us to openness, Spirit of mercy,
Aid us in seeking God's justice and grace.
Move us to show Christ's compassion through witness
Love first to offer and hate to erase.**

(refrain) **Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!**

**Let no one ever be shunned or denied.
Make of the church a bold place of compassion,
That all who seek you may come and abide.**

**Spirit of tenderness, impart your presence,
Fill both our hearts and our hands with your care.
Let no one suffer or grieve unattended,
Grant us your kindness and warmth here to share. *(refrain)***

**Though there are those who would limit Christ's graces,
Still we refuse to believe in such lies,
For in this time we have made a commitment
Never to limit love's power or size. *(refrain)***

W. Robert Martin & William M. Runyan | text: © W. Robert Martin, III. | music: public domain | all rights reserved

WAYS TO CONNECT | christchurchfl.org/ways2connect

Please see below.

* 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.

John Wimber | © 1979 Mercy | Vineyard Publishing | CCLI License # 487103

MUSIC FOR CLOSING

Praise Him! Praise Him! | arr. Mary McDonald

Chuck Stanley, organ

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Join us next Sunday, as we begin the new series, *Faith Works*, with the message *A Faith That Endures*, based on James 1:1-8.

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 so we can help you get connected. 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.

TAKE A BAG FOR BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY Today is the second Sunday of the month, the day to take a bag and shopping list for the Blessings Food Pantry. Your donations help keep up with the growing needs of our neighbors. Here are the most-needed items: 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, 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

FREEWAY SCHOOL YEAR KICK-OFF today | september 13 | 5-7pm | gym All 5th-12th graders are invited to come play some Crazy Games at Freeway's School Year Kick-off. Bring a friend or two. Of course, there'll be food. Questions? Contact Mr. W, director of student ministry, at pwoodard@christchurchfl.org

SERVE

TRUNK OR TREAT saturday | october 17 | 5-7:30pm | christ church field Help welcome thousands of guests to the giant party on the field. Please bring lots and lots of individually wrapped candy, which will be given to the young ghouls and goblins that night. We are still seeking sponsors for the event. Also needed: lots of volunteers for that night. Perhaps you'd like to decorate a car and give out candy. Check out all of the ways you can serve this outreach event at christchurchfl.org/TrunkorTreat

ENCOURAGE VOTERS sunday | september 27 | 10am The Anti-Racism Task Force invites you to take a stand against voter suppression by filling out postcards to Black voters in the Selma, Alabama, area. We'll provide the script, the postcard and the postage. You supply energy and encouraging words for those who have been discouraged from voting. Just join the task force after the 9am Praise Service.

BRING A DISH TO SHARE FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP WORKSHOP sunday | october 4 | 10am | fellowship halls 2-4 World Communion Sunday is the day we join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion and remember that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language or culture. At 10am that Sunday, we will come together in Fellowship Halls 2-4 to share food from our family heritage and learn more about Holy Communion practices. Please participate by bringing a dish from your heritage and culture. Let us know what you're bringing at christchurchfl.org/events

SERVE A MEAL AT PARKWAY sundays 8:30-10:30am | wednesdays 4-6pm You are invited to share the joy of serving a hot meal to our neighbors and friends on the Parkway Campus. You'll serve alongside more experienced volunteers, serving food, welcoming guests, and helping to clean up after the meal. Students who serve can receive service hours. If you are interested, please send an email to info@christchurchfl.org

ARTF GATHERING sunday | october 11 | 12:15pm | fellowship halls 2-4 The Anti-Racism Task Force, a group focused on bringing an end to racism within and outside the church, will gather at 12:15pm on Sunday, October 11, to plan events for the next couple of months. All are welcome to come learn about the initiative and plan ways to share with others. For more information, email ARTF leader Susan Spragg, sspragg@christchurchfl.org

ZOE EMPOWERS We support the Arise and Shine Kironya Empowerment Group of 24 orphaned and abandoned teens and young adults as they learn 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

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 info@christchurchfl.org if your family or group can help.

HEAT DINNERS FOR PARKWAY On Wednesdays, we prepare 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 info@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**](https://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

DECISION 2026: BE READY TO VOTE saturday | october 10 | 10am | fellowship halls 2-4 Invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this nonpartisan voter education event on Saturday, October 10. Learn how to confirm your voter registration information and where you can vote for the November 3, 2026, election. Learn about the state, county and municipal issues on the November ballot, and ways to educate yourself further about each issue. Decision 2026 is co-presented by the Christ Church Anti-Racism Task Force and the League of Women Voters of Broward, a nonpartisan organization supporting voter rights. The United Methodist Church affirms the right to vote as a basic human right for adult citizens. Mark your calendar now for this important gathering.

SHARED MEALS You are invited to share a meal and community twice each week on the Parkway Campus. On Wednesday, 4:30-5:30pm, 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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED deadline: september 15 The Christ Church Scholarship Committee will accept applications for programs that begin in January 2027. Scholarship applications are available to all who are attending college, graduate school, technical school, seminary and career advancing programs. Learn more and find the application at [**christchurchfl.org/scholarships**](https://christchurchfl.org/scholarships)

WOMEN OF FAITH noon wednesdays on zoom Women of all ages are invited to join Women of Faith. This lunch hour group welcomes all who want to learn and pray together. For the rest of the summer, they will be studying the book of Acts. If you're interested, contact group leader Cynthia Metzger Phipps, [**cmetzgerphipps@christchurchfl.org**](mailto:cmetzgerphipps@christchurchfl.org)

MORNING PRAYERS Join your church family for morning prayers Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30am 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.

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

FREEWAY SCHOOL YEAR KICK-OFF sunday | september 13 | 5-7pm | gym Mr. W has some Crazy Games in mind for Freeway's School Year Kick-off. All 5th-12th graders are invited. Bring a friend or two. Of course, there'll be food. Questions? Contact Mr. W, director of student ministry, 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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING monday | september 14 | 6:30pm The Church Council will next meet on Monday, September 14, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Halls.