



*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 14, 2025**

### **PRELUDE**

Set Down, Servant | arr. Marilyn Ham  
Wes Kassulke, piano; Doug Friend, percussion

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**WELCOME** | Pastor Cathy Johns

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

Please see below.

### **WELCOME ONE ANOTHER**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** | Jeanne Deinken, liturgist  
Come, beloved of God, we gather today as children of truth,  
**Called to walk in love, just as we have been loved.**  
The commandment is not new, but it is ever urgent:  
**That we love one another, from the heart and in action.**  
In a world of shifting voices, we hold fast to the word.  
**In the light of Christ, we find our way and our witness.**  
Let us rejoice in the truth that lives within us.  
**And let us worship the God whose love never fails.**

### **\* GATHERING HYMN**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing* | The United Methodist Hymnal No. 158 (verses 1,2,3)

**Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**loud praise to Christ our king: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;**  
**praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;**  
**His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,**  
**singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

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## **\* OPENING PRAYER**

God of endless love, we rejoice today that you have called us to walk in the truth of your word. You have shown us what love is in Jesus Christ, and you invite us to live out that love with one another. Keep us steadfast in your teaching, so that we do not wander from the path of life. Guard our hearts from distractions and false voices, and guide our steps in the way of Christ. Shape our lives so that others may glimpse your love through us. Teach us to love as freely, as fully, and as faithfully as you have loved us. Let our worship today be a reflection of your enduring love and a renewal of our commitment to live as you have taught us. Amen.

## **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God above us, creator of all things, sustainer of all life. God calls us to love and care for one another and all things that God has made.

We believe in Jesus, The Christ beside us, companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe. He invites us to love boldly as his hands and feet in the world today.

We believe in Spirit deep within us, advocate and guide. The Holy Spirit moves among us to teach and strengthen us in our daily walk and lives within us eternally.

We believe in God's work of resurrection in the created world, where all things are restored, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.

We believe in God above, beside, within: God yesterday, today and forever.

## **\* 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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## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Blake and Jessica Johns present their daughter for Christian Baptism.

Sophie Renee Johns | August 26, 2024

*To the parents*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture Sophie in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

*To the congregation*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?  
**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Sophie now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.  
We will surround her with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that she may grow in her service to others.  
We will pray for her,  
that she may be true disciple  
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

...

*To the congregation*  
Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit  
into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving,  
we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.**

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.

**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 faithfully to 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.**

*God Claims You*  
(refrain) **Sophie, Sophie, God claims you, God helps you, protects you and loves you too.**  
1. **We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.** (refrain)  
2. **We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way.** (refrain)

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## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* | Nichole Nordeman, Christ Stevens & Matt Maher  
Connie Bookholt, alto

Chris Stevens | Helen H. Lemmel | Matt Maher | Nichole Nordeman | © 2013 Birdboy Songs | Birdwing Music | Meaux Mercy | Moody Producer Music  
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## **SCRIPTURE**

**2 John 1:4-8** | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>4</sup>I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father. <sup>5</sup>But now, dear lady, I ask you, not as though I were writing you a new commandment but one we have had from the beginning: let us love one another. <sup>6</sup>And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning—you must walk in it.

<sup>7</sup>Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist! <sup>8</sup>Be on your guard, so that you do not lose what we have worked for but may receive a full reward.

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

## MESSAGE

*The Anatomy of Love | And the Truth Shall Set You Free* | Pastor Cathy Johns

## OFFERING | Pastor Doug Johns

worshipping 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

*The Greatest Gift is Love* | Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

*Though I speak with tongues of angels, though my voice is touched with gold, without love each word is discord, clanging brass and cymbals bold. Though I know as much as prophets, though my faith is strong and sure, without love these are as nothing, neither words nor works endure. Though I give my goods to others, and my flesh I give to burn, without love each gift is worthless, till the gift of love I learn. Love is always kind and patient, neither jealous, boastful, rude; neither selfish nor conceited, but with every grace imbued. Love releases all resentment, takes no pleasure in the wrong; love finds truth delightful always and endures what comes along. Though not easily offended, love is eager to forgive, always trusting, always hoping, precious love will always live! In a world that is imperfect, many gifts will pass away; faith and hope and love are endless; these and these alone will stay. To a world where all is changing comes this promise from above: faith and hope will last forever, but the greatest gift is love.*

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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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## 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

*They'll Know we are Christians* | The Faith we Sing Hymnal No. 2223 (verses 1,2,3)

**We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord.**

**We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord.**

**And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

*(refrain)* **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.**  
**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.**  
**And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.** *(refrain)*

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side.**  
**We will work with each other, we will work side by side.**  
**And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.** *(refrain)*

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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**

*They'll Know we are Christians by our Love* | arr. Lani Smith  
Chuck Stanley, organ

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

Join us next Sunday, as we conclude the series, *The Anatomy of Love*, with the message *Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing*, based on 1 John 4:7-8, 16-21.

**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)**.

**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.

## CONNECT

**CREATIVE SPIRIT sunday | september 21 | 4-7pm | walkway room** Women and girls are invited to devotions and guided artwork with Pastor Monique McBride, CCS art teacher and pastor to school and families. The group will paint faux pumpkins. This class is open to girls in 4th grade and up, as well as adult women. Cost is \$10 per class to cover supplies, and scholarships are available. Please bring a refreshment to share: last name A-L bring something savory, M-Z bring something sweet. Additional Creative Spirit gatherings are planned for November 16, January 25, and March 8. RSVP by Wednesday, September 17, to Pastor Monique, [mmcbride@ccsfl.org](mailto:mmcbride@ccsfl.org)

**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

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA IMMIGRATION TOWN HALL saturday | september 20 | 9:30am-12noon** Hear how increased immigration enforcement is affecting our neighbors, then learn what you can do to help vulnerable people. The Christ Church Anti-Racism Task Force and the Florida Immigration Coalition will bring together people from throughout South Florida on Saturday, September 20, 9:30am-12noon, at Christ Church. The day will start with a time of networking at 9:30am, followed by a Unity Session moderated by District Superintendent Rev. Vidalis Lopez, with speakers from the University of Miami Immigration Center and the ACLU of Florida, among others. Then, at 11am, you can attend a breakout session where you will be equipped to take action in an area that speaks to your gifts and heart. Sign up at [christchurchfl.org/immigration](http://christchurchfl.org/immigration) Please sign up in advance to take action to protect our vulnerable 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.

**ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE sunday | october 5 | 12:15pm | fellowship hall 1** 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 on the first Sunday 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)

**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

**TRUNK OR TREAT saturday | october 19 | 5-7:30pm** We are getting ready for Christ Church's giant party on the field, Trunk or Treat. There are many ways to help get ready -- and to serve the night of the party. Here are some of them:

**BE A SPONSOR** Help make sure our thousands of guests have a great time.

**DECORATE A TRUNK** Church and school families are invited to decorate a trunk and give out candy, after all, that's what Trunk or Treat is all about! If you're a business, you too can decorate a trunk and give away candy that you provide, as well as approved marketing materials.

**DONATE CANDY** Candy is the star of the night. And we give away lots of it. Donations of individually wrapped candy can be sent or brought to the church.

**DONATE SOFT DRINKS & SPORTS DRINKS** Trunk or treating can make one thirsty. Donate cans of Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and LaCroix and individual-size bottles of Gatorade.

**MOST OF ALL, VOLUNTEER** We want every guest to feel welcome, and that takes lots of people! There are many opportunities to serve and have fun together.

For all of the details about this exciting night, go to our website. [christchurchfl.org/boo](http://christchurchfl.org/boo)

**PAINT CEILING TILES FOR PARKWAY wednesday | september 17 | 4-6pm | walkway room** Families with children age PK-4 and up are invited to the Walkway Room to paint ceiling tiles for the Parkway Center. Pastor Monique McBride, art teacher Christ Church School, will lead the way. Children PK4 through fifth grade must be accompanied by a parent. Sixth-12th graders must have a signed liability form. We'll have a creative time together. RSVP to Lisa Jones, coordinator of children's ministries, [ljones@christchurchfl.org](mailto:ljones@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)

**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 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.

## YOUTH

**SERVICE PROJECT KICKOFF friday | september 19 | 6-8pm | fellowship hall 1 & gym** Discover how we'll make an impact this season. Brainstorm, dream big, and start something meaningful. All 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited and invited to bring a friend. Questions? Contact Jess Woolverton, leader of Freeway Student Ministry, [jwoolverton@christchurchfl.org](mailto:jwoolverton@christchurchfl.org)

## CHURCH BUSINESS

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

**BISHOP'S LISTENING SESSIONS thursday | september 25** Clergy and laity are invited to attend the South East District Fall Listening Tour: A Conversation with Bishop Tom Berlin, Alex Shanks, Molly McEntire, and Jenn Stiles-Williams. The gatherings will be held on Thursday, September 25. The first will be 10:30am-12noon at Kendall UMC, 7600 SW 104<sup>th</sup> St., Miami. The second will be 5:30-9pm at First UMC Stuart, 1500 S. Kanner Highway, Stuart, 34994. Registration is required. Go to <http://bit.ly/4mhlRiD>