



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

WELCOME *to* CHRIST CHURCH

Thanks for joining us for worship this morning! We gather each week because we believe Jesus Christ is the one true hope for our tired and broken world. So, wherever your walk is with God, we are glad you are here to be part of our celebration of God's generosity to us in Jesus.

Christ Church is an inter-generational congregation rooted in our common faith in Christ and commitment to serving His kingdom. These commitments propel us into the future as we continue our congregation's thirty-year tradition of joyful and reverent worship, dedication to spiritual growth, and passion for advancing the Gospel in Jacksonville and around the world.

If you have any questions about Christ Church, please don't hesitate to ask an usher, a friendly face with a name tag in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors.

KIDS *during* WORSHIP

During our service, we encourage parents of young children to keep their kids in worship as long as they like. We also provide age-appropriate care and instruction for kids. Parents with children 2-years old or younger may drop-off their children in the Nursery (0-Walking) or the Toddler Room (Walking-2) where a team of trained child-care professionals and volunteers await them. Children ages 3-1st grade are dismissed for Children's Chapel after we recite the Apostles' Creed. They exit the sanctuary through the back doors to study God's Word. All children above nursery age return to the sanctuary for the offering so that we close our worship with the family of God together.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

January 2 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 9 (9.30a)	School of Discipleship Resumes
January 9 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 11 (6.30p)	Joint Officers' Meeting
January 14-16	Spiritual Life Conference

SEAMARK RANCH WHITE CHRISTMAS

To help Seamark Ranch prepare for the year ahead, please consider donating items from their wish list: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, strong paper plates, kitchen trash bags, outdoor trash bags, ziplock storage bags, laundry detergent, & dishwasher detergent.

STAFF & MISSIONARY OFFERING

The Session will be collecting a special offering that will be designated and distributed to our mission partners and staff members as an end-of-year gift. Labeled envelopes will be inserted in your bulletins and can be placed in the offering plates.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity towards Christ Church during 2021. We are in good position to end our fiscal year in solid shape; however, we need a strong close to the year in order to finish in a good position. Please remember that all end of the year donations given by mail must be postmarked by December 31, 2021 to count towards this tax year.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE: JANUARY 14-16, 2022

Join us for our Spiritual Life Conference on the weekend of January 14-16, 2022. We will begin with a Sandra McCracken concert on Friday evening and continue on Saturday and Sunday mornings with teaching from Sandy Willson. To learn more, RSVP for the conference, and purchase concert tickets, visit christchurchpresjax.org.sl.c.

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————— ENTER *the* PRESENCE *of* GOD —————

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship, and silence all mobile devices.

⊕ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him!

The LORD has made known his salvation!

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations! He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

INVOCATION

HYMN

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Words: Watts | Music: Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love

CONFESSION OF SIN

Prior to the corporate prayer, we take a moment to confess our sins in silence.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, we have sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Hide your face from our sins and blot out our iniquity. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⊕ HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Music: English Melody

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you afright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.”

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Words & Music: Work

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When high above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

And lo, when they had heard it,
They all bowed down and prayed;
They traveled on together
To where the Babe was laid.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

And, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The "holy catholic Church" refers to the entire company of God's redeemed people throughout the world and across the centuries.*

Children, ages 3-1st grade, are dismissed for Children's Chapel. Children exit the sanctuary through the main rear doors. They will return for the Offering.

HEAR *the* WORD of GOD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,

pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD?

Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

- ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- ²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

After the Psalm, we respond:

All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God stands forever!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13.36-14.9

13³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

14¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life
Alec Cotton

RESPOND *to* GOD

⊕ HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Words: Oakeley | Music: Wade

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;

Chorus

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,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest;

Yea Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

After our congregational supplications, we say the prayer our Savior has taught us.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

Words & Music: Holst

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him? Give my heart.*

⊕ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son;
And praise the Spirit three in one!
O Praise him, O Praise him;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DEPART *in* PEACE

HYMN

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Words & Music: Neale

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

BENEDICTION

MINISTRIES *of the* WEEK

LOCAL

For over 25 years, Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida has prepared pastors, teachers, counselors, and missionaries through a program of graduate theological education that is rooted in God's authoritative and all sufficient Word, informed by the riches of our Reformed heritage, and aimed at the glory of God and the good of his people.

INTERNATIONAL

In 1997, Carol Arnold and her husband, Jack, began Equipping Pastors International (EPI). Carol has traveled to all six continents, speaking at conferences and seminars to both pastors and their wives, as well as to lay women of all denominations. Since Jack's death in January 2005, she has continued as a full-time missionary with EPI.

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

HEALTH CONCERNS: Steve Beaver; Barb Day (*cancer*); Louis Fassnacht; Sue Forsyth (*back*); Elizabeth Garnett (*cancer*); Gar Gurganious (*cancer*); Hector (*dementia*) & V'Elna Harima; Wayne Noble; Sandy Reynolds; Jewell Smith (*back*)

EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Katie Lakey; Abigail Waddell

DEPLOYMENTS: Jonathan Waddell (Abigail)

STAFF *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Chuck Colson | Pastor | ccolson@christchurchpresjax.org

John Lawler | Associate Pastor | jlawler@christchurchpresjax.org

Alec Cotton | Assistant Pastor of Youth | acotton@christchurchpresjax.org

Charlotte Cox | Administrator | admin@christchurchpresjax.org

Allison Ristau | Children's Ministry Coordinator | aristau@christchurchpresjax.org

Andy Zipf | Director of Music & Artist in Residence | azipf@christchurchpresjax.org

ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Steve Beaver | Roger Bosma | Jim Dickenson | Jon Groh | Rob Hiday | Dave Lowe

Hugh Morris | David Ristau | Spence Romine | Cannon Simpson



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America
9794 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 262-5588 www.christchurchpresjax.org