

# *Welcome!*

We welcome you in the name of Christ! Our website [ChristCentralPCA.org](http://ChristCentralPCA.org) offers a lot of helpful information about our church family. For questions or to share a prayer concern, call the office at 813-774-3881, ext. 700 or email us at [church@ChristCentralPCA.org](mailto:church@ChristCentralPCA.org).

Here are some things that might be helpful to you:

- The Welcome Center is located in the lobby. If you are a first-time guest, we would love to meet you.
- Please join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby immediately after the worship service.
- We have bible study / Sunday school classes for all ages. You can find the time, topic, and location for each class at the Welcome Center.
- We have a clean, efficient and safe nursery available for infants and toddlers in the education wing of the church. We also have a cry room in the back of the sanctuary, so please feel free to use it when needed.
- As part of the covenant community, children are invited to participate in worship. We also offer a ***Children's Worship*** program during the sermon for children ages K4 through 2nd grade in Room 5. The children are dismissed during the singing of the Doxology by walking to the back of the sanctuary and following the Children's Worship leader out.

# *Order for the Divine Service of Worship*

*December 16, 2018 - 9:30 AM*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

## **Prelude**

*As Lately We Watched*  
*Austrian/Ken Gist*

*Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.  
Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord*

## **Silent Reflection**

Advent means “**coming.**” It is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming as well as his first. The glowing flames of the candle remind us of the star of Bethlehem, and most of all, the Light of the World Jesus Christ. The lighting of the candles calls us to worship and sets this time apart as holy.

Of the five candles, **three candles are purple, one is rose, and one is white.** The purple candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. Purple also represents the attitude of humility and repentance with which we anticipate His coming. The rose candle, the Shepherd’s candle, stands for God’s love and faithfulness. The white candle in the center represents Christ’s holiness and perfection.

The First Candle is the **prophecy candle.** It reminds us that Christ’s coming was revealed by God through the prophets of years before Christ was born.

The Second Candle is the **Bethlehem candle,** which points to the Christ becoming man in Bethlehem.

## **Welcome & Announcements**

# Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Servy and Raquel Fernandez*

The Third Candle is the **shepherd's candle**. We must recognize that we, like the shepherds, must come to Christ, believe in Him, and tell this good news to others.

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8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:8-11*

## **\*\*Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Hymn #208

## **\*\*The Invocation**

## **\*\*The Apostles' Creed**

*"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come 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 Gloria Patri**

Hymn # 734

*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.*

## The First Scripture Lesson

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:1-10 ESV

Leader:       The Word of the Lord  
People:       **Thanks be to God**

## The Confession of Our Sins

“Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; Through Jesus Christ your Son, Amen.”

Book of Common Worship, John Knox Press, 1993

## The Assurance of Pardon

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Colossians 2:13

## Anthem

*The Yearning*  
*Craig Courtney*

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow. There is a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

*Refrain: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.*  
*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.*

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing. There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

*Refrain (Refrain repeats)*

## The Second Scripture Lesson

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. <sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

*(Continued...)*

<sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:1-8 ESV

Leader: The Word of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God

## The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen*

## The Anthem

*He is Born*  
*Arr. Dave and Jean Perry*

He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.  
He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.  
Through the ages of long ago, prophets have foretold His coming;  
through the ages of long ago, now the time has come at last!  
He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily.  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.  
O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect Child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind!  
He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild!

## The Third Scripture Lesson

<sup>36</sup>“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup> For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:36-44 ESV

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## \*\*The Offertory Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen  
Hymn #211

## \*\*Offertory Prayer of Dedication

### The Offertory

*A Christmas Canon*  
*J Pachelbel/Janet Witman*

## \*\*The Doxology

Hymn # 731

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Children K4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades may be dismissed to Children's Worship in Rm. 5*

## **The Message**

*Rev. John K. Keen  
Senior Pastor*

## **\*\*Hymn**

Away in a Manger  
Hymn #204

## **\*\*Benediction**

*\*\*All who are able, please stand*

*†Unless specified, all Scriptures texts are from the NIV-1984*

## Announcements

### Order Your Poinsettia – DUE TODAY

It's time to place your orders for poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of each plant is **\$7.00**.

**Note: White poinsettias will be ordered this year.**

If you would like to place an order please respond on the Connection Card or email the following information to church@christcentralpca.org:

1. Quantity Desired
2. How the plant(s) is to be dedicated.

Please make your checks payable to CCPC (marked Poinsettias), and place them in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering is **TODAY**. Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

### Congregational Meeting Today after Worship

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting **TODAY, immediately after the morning worship service**. The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2019 Church Budget to the congregation and entertain and address any questions not already answered previously; 2) elect new officers; and, 3) to elect and seat/reseat trustees of the corporation. No other business will be discussed at this meeting (per our *Book of Church Order*).

### Cookies and Carols

Please join us **TONIGHT at 6:00 PM** as we gather together to sing some of our favorite carols! A time of fellowship will follow featuring delicious, homemade cookies. Don't miss this opportunity to invite family and *especially your neighbors* to this informal gathering where we will be singing the beautiful music of Christmas and have a time of fellowship to follow.

### Christmas Eve Worship Service

Please join us at **6:30 pm** on **Monday, December 24** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

### End of Year Contributions

This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for 2018-tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2018. Also, if you are looking for alternative ways in giving, [pcafoundation.org](http://pcafoundation.org) is a resource that may interest you. For more information, please contact Stan Wildeboer.

*This Week at Christ Central*  
*December 16 – December 22*

- SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:30 am  
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am  
Sunday School, 11:00 am
- WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- FRIDAY:** Senior Covenant Group, (Room 16), 10:00 am

*December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

## *Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children*

| Class/Grade                                                    | Class Teacher(s)                    | Class Room |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Ages 2-3/Toddlers                                              | Bev Thomson                         | 6          |
| Ages 4-5 / K4/K5                                               | Tami Lang                           | 3          |
| Ages 6-8 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades            | Raquel Fernandez                    | 5          |
| Ages 9-11 / 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades           | Gail Chang                          | 8          |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade         | Ben Lambers                         | Rio Center |
| High School / 9th -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade                      | Danny Dalton                        | Rio Center |
| Adult - Apologetics:<br>Taking Every Thought<br>Captive        | Luis Salgado                        | 13         |
| Adult - Exploring The<br>Parables                              | Randy Johnson                       | 15         |
| First Presbyterian<br>Church of Tampa Bay -<br>Apostles' Creed | Rev. Jofre Santiago<br>(Portuguese) | 12         |

### **CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP**

Last Sunday's Attendance: 141

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 7,566.58

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12*

# Volunteers

## *Greeters / Ordained Officer*

|                                 | <u>December</u> | <u>January</u>   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <u><i>Greeters:</i></u>         | Bryan Toenes    | Fernandez Family |
| <u><i>Ordained Officer:</i></u> | Servy Fernandez | Alex Fernandez   |
| <u><i>Communion Set-up:</i></u> | Ken Jackson     | Donna Waugh      |

## *Children's Worship Volunteers*

|                 | <u><i>Teacher</i></u>     | <u><i>Helper</i></u>     |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Monica Blas</i>        | <i>Rebecca Armstrong</i> |
| <i>Dec. 23:</i> | <i>Stephanie Williams</i> | <i>Courtney Williams</i> |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Jane Lambers</i>       | <i>Kaela Dalton</i>      |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Glenda Williams</i> |
| <i>Dec. 23:</i> | <i>Ginny Bremer</i>    |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Rob Edwards</i>     |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Laura Strickland</i> |
| <i>Dec. 23:</i> | <i>Jamie Dalton</i>     |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Shannon Pothoven</i> |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next Week Dec. 23:</b><br><i>Loretta Salgado</i><br><i>Glenda Williams</i><br><i>Therese McKenzie</i><br><i>Jane Lambers</i> | <b>Dec. 30:</b><br><i>Tami Pothoven</i><br><i>Holly Edwards</i><br><i>Randa Gravanti</i><br><i>Eva White</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|