

Welcome!

We welcome you in the name of Christ! Our website 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.

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.
- 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.
- Please join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby before the worship service.
- 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 8. 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 6, 2020 - 11:00 AM

Second Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Two French Carols

Arr. Kosche

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 blue, one is rose, and one is white**. The blue candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. Blue 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Tom and Alice Tietjen

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

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"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." *Micah 5:2*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

## \*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Hymn #203

## \*\*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**

“Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; they have laid siege against us; with a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek. <sup>2</sup>“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” <sup>3</sup> Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth.

Micah 5:1-4 NASB

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God

## **The Confession of Our Sins**

“Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns eternally with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forevermore, Amen.”

Book of Common Worship, 1993, p.88

## **Assurance of Pardon**

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Jeremiah 33:8

## The Second Scripture Lesson

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. <sup>16</sup>For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 2:14-18 NASB

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.*

## Special Music *Ensemble*

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night*

## The Third Scripture Lesson

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; <sup>8</sup>for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup>I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; <sup>10</sup>and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

*(Continued...)*

<sup>11</sup> I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:6-19 NASB

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

## **\*\*The Offertory Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Hymn #194

## **\*\*Offertory Prayer of Dedication**

*At the conclusion of the service, tithes and offerings can be placed in trays held by ushers as you exit from the sanctuary.*

## **\*\*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.*

## **The Message**

*John K. Keen  
Senior Pastor*

## **\*\*Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn #193

(v. 1-2)

## **The Words of Institution & The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

*Wine is served in the outer most ring of the tray; Grape juice in the inner rings.  
Communion bread is gluten-free.*

*- Each row will be dismissed by one of our deacons in order to come forward to receive the elements.*

*- Please return to your seat with the bread and cup, as we will all partake together.*

## **\*\*Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn #193

(v. 3-4)

## **\*\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

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

*\*Unless specified, all Scripture texts are from the NIV-1984*

# ***Announcements***

## **Congregational Meeting**

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 13, immediately after the morning worship service.**

The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2021 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*).

## **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Please join us at **6:30 pm** on **Tuesday, December 24** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

## **Covid-19 Update (as of November 17, 2020)**

### **Resuming In-Person Sunday School (Face masks still required)**

As your Session continues to study and prayerfully reevaluate our strategies to mitigate the threat of Covid-19 at our church gatherings, we have come to the decision at our November stated meeting to resume in-person Sunday School, beginning December 6, 2020!

The nursery will be open and classes will be offered for: Toddlers, Elementary, Middle School, High School as well as two Adult classes. A bulletin insert containing Sunday School topics and room assignments will be provided shortly.

The Session will continue to regularly reevaluate our safety requirements. Until changes are made known, please adhere to the following requirements:

- While inside the building, all attendees are to wear a face mask, though teachers may be unmasked while teaching at the front of the room. We have a limited supply of masks available. If you do not have one, simply ask one of our ushers.
- We ask that all attendees adhere to social distancing while on the church campus.
- When sanctuary seating is at capacity, latecomers will be seated in the church lobby, which has a TV displaying the service.

If you are experiencing any symptoms or if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive to the coronavirus, out of an abundance of caution, please refrain from attending.

## All Church Service Opportunity

We will be partnering with Metropolitan Ministries, a local organization that cares for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. This is a great way to live out 1 John 3:18, which states, “let us not love with words or tongue, but with action and in truth.” There are three tangible opportunities for our entire church to be involved in serving this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

### **(1) Monday, December 21 from 8:15 am-11:30 am**

- Serve in-person at the Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Tent with a group from Christ Central.
- Group size is limited to 15.
- All volunteers are required to wear masks and undergo a temperature checks upon arrival. If you are interested in serving, mark your Connection Card with “MM Dec. 21” (or email the church [office: church@ChristCentralpca.org](mailto:office:church@ChristCentralpca.org)) and we will provide you with instructions of where to meet and how to pre-register with our group.
- Unless we reach a group size of 15 first, the sign up deadline is Tuesday, December 1.

### **(2) Food & Christmas Gift Donation**

- If you are unable to serve in-person, you can still be involved by donating needed food and Christmas gift items.
- Most needed Food items: canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruits, rice, pasta, boxed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and dessert mixes.
- Most needed gift items: teen girl and boy gifts (age 13-17)
- Please place your donated food/gift items in the Donation Box located in the church Lobby.
- Items will be collected the church through Sunday, December 13

***This Week at Christ Central***  
***December 6 – December 12***

**SUNDAY:** Sunday School, 9:30 am  
Morning Worship, 11:00am  
Costa Rica Mission Team Meeting, 12:15 pm

**CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP**  
Last Sunday's Attendance: 73  
Last Sunday's Offering: \$5,734.50

*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*

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

| Class/Grade                                            | Class Teacher(s) | Class Room      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ages 2-5/Toddlers - K                                  | Bev Thomson      | 6               |
| Ages 6-10 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades   | Jane Lambers     | 8               |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Danny Dalton     | Rio Center      |
| High School / 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | Ben Lambers      | Rio Center      |
| Adult - Outreach                                       | Randy Johnson    | Fellowship Hall |
| Adult - Chosen By God                                  | Luis Salgado     | 15              |

# *December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*