

# *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.
- 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.

# *Order for the Divine Service of Worship*

*January 3, 2021 - 11:00 AM*

*Epiphany Sunday*

## **Silent Reflection**

**Epiphany:** In the liturgical calendar, today we recognize Epiphany, because this is the Sunday immediately prior to January 6. Epiphany occurs on the twelfth day of Christmas and concludes the Christmas season. (After January 6, all those Christmas decorations should be taken down, just like we're doing in the sanctuary later today!)

Epiphany acknowledges the appearance of the divine Son of God on earth *and* the radical increase of the enfolding of Gentiles (non-Jews) into the church. On this day we remember the coming of the wise men from the east, who were the first Gentiles to publicly recognize the divinity of Jesus by worshiping this newborn King and presenting him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## **Prelude**

*We Three Kings*

*Arr. Mark Hayes*

*Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.*

*Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord.*

## **Welcome & Announcements**

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 67*

**Leader:** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

**People:** **May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.**

**Leader:** May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

**People:** **May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.**

**Leader:** Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

**All:** **God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

## \*Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old  
Hymn #226

## \*\*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

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" <sup>2</sup> The Lord said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." <sup>3</sup> And Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you." So Simeon went with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Judah went up and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. <sup>5</sup> They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. <sup>6</sup> Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. <sup>7</sup> And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there. <sup>8</sup> And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. <sup>9</sup> And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland. <sup>10</sup> And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai. <sup>11</sup> From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher. <sup>12</sup> And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife." <sup>13</sup> And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife. <sup>14</sup> When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" <sup>15</sup> She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs. <sup>16</sup> And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people. <sup>17</sup> And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it to destruction. So the name of the city was called Hormah. <sup>18</sup> Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

Judges 1:1-18 ESV

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

## The Confession of Our Sins

O God of all goodness, what shall we render to thee for the gift of gifts, thine own dear Son, our redeemer, proxy, surety, and substitute? Herein is love: he came below to raise me above, was born like me that I might become like him. Herein is wisdom: when I was undone, with no will to return to him, he came, God-incarnate, to save me from my sin, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf, to work out perfect righteousness for me. O God, let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore and serve, to the glory of Thy holy Name. AMEN

*-Adapted from The Valley of Vision p.16*

## Assurance of Pardon

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

## \*Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen  
Hymn #211

## The Second Scripture Lesson

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron. <sup>20</sup> And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak. <sup>21</sup> But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. <sup>22</sup> The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the Lord was with them. <sup>23</sup> And the house of Joseph scouted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz.) <sup>24</sup> And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, “Please show us the way into the city, and we will deal kindly with you.” <sup>25</sup> And he showed them the way into the city. And they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go. <sup>26</sup> And the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city and called its name Luz. That is its name to this day.

*(Continued...)*

<sup>27</sup> Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land. <sup>28</sup> When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely. <sup>29</sup> And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them. <sup>30</sup> Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, so the Canaanites lived among them, but became subject to forced labor. <sup>31</sup> Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon or of Ahlab or of Achzib or of Helbah or of Aphik or of Rehob, <sup>32</sup> so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not drive them out. <sup>33</sup> Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them. <sup>34</sup> The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain. <sup>35</sup> The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to forced labor. <sup>36</sup> And the border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akkrabbim, from Sela and upward.

Judges 1:19-36 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 Third Scripture Lesson

Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, <sup>2</sup>and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? <sup>3</sup>So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." <sup>4</sup>As soon as the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>5</sup>And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the Lord.

Judges 2:1-5 ESV

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

## \*\*The Offertory Hymn

A Few More Years Shall Roll  
Hymn #540

## \*\*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

*Rev. Daniel Dalton  
Associate Pastor*

## \*\*Hymn

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing  
Hymn #420  
(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**

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing  
Hymn #420  
(v. 3)

## **\*\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

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

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



## ***Announcements***

### **Unhanging of the Green**

Please join us after worship **TODAY** as we'll need quite a bit of help taking down the Advent decorations! This task should not take very long, but a snack will be provided to stave off any hunger pangs!

### **Costa Rica Christmas Tree**

We are excited to announce that we have begun the process of preparing for our service experience in Costa Rica. We had our first team meeting and training on December 6. As a kickoff fundraiser towards our goal of raising \$5000, we have set up a Christmas giving tree located in the lobby. If you would like to donate, please select an ornament with the desired amount on it and return the amount in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Please be sure to designate the funds to the Costa Rica Service Experience on any checks or to use an envelope with the same designation for cash. Thank you, church family, for all your support.

### **Metropolitan Ministries Update**

Here is an update concerning our Metropolitan Ministries Food drive. This congregation donated 413 pounds of food! To those who participated, thank you so much for your generosity.

### **Thank You from our Staff!**

On behalf of the pastoral, music, and administrative staff we would like to express our gratitude for the gifts that were given for us to receive a Christmas bonus. Thank you to each of you who helped contribute towards this gift. It is greatly appreciated. It is truly a joy to serve this congregation. You make it very easy to repeat the words of Paul: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil 1:3-5). May God richly bless each of you as we eagerly worship Jesus together.

## 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. See chart below for Sunday school topics and room assignments.

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.

*This Week at Christ Central*  
*January 3 – January 9*

**SUNDAY:**

Morning Worship, 11:00am

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

<b>Class/Grade</b>	<b>Class Teacher(s)</b>	<b>Class Room</b>
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

**CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP**

Last Sunday's Attendance: 88

Last Sunday's Offering: 6,331.39

December 20, 2020 Offering: 21,294.00

*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*

*January Birthdays & Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

## *Compromised Obedience*

Judges 1:1-2:5

**Main Point: Compromised obedience is disobedience, therefore the only cure is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.**

1. Walk by faith because God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the needs of his people.
2. A compromised obedience reveals a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ and begins the slow slide of becoming indistinguishable from the world.
3. God disciplines his disobedient people to draw them to \_\_\_\_\_.