

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.
- 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 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 10, 2017 - 9:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude

Listen For His Coming

Arr. Mark Hayes

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.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Chang Family

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**

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

7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. 8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light. 9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

Micah 7:7-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## The Confession of Our Sins

Gracious Father, I am not worthy of blessings and mercies. My depraved nature reveals itself in disobedience and rebellion. I am often discontented, prideful, envious, and revengeful. As I have confessed my guilt, help me to feel it deeply, to hate my sin, yet to remember there is hope in You. Help me to see the Lamb that takes away sin. Through Him may I return to You, listen to You, Trust in You, delight in Your law, obey You, and be upheld by You, for Your glory and the good of my fellow-men.

-Adapted from The Valley of Vision p.145

## Assurance of Pardon

This I call to mind and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:21-23

# The Anthem

*Good Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (English traditional carol)*  
*Arr. John Rutter*

## Choir and Congregation

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, for Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Choir

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

## Choir and Congregation

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind, and left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm and wind, and went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find: O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Choir

But when to Bethlehem they came whereat this infant lay, they found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay; His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray: O tidings of comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Choir and Congregation

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 doth bring redeeming grace: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

# The Second Scripture Lesson

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

1 John 1:1-4

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

## 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

*Christmas Night*

*John Rutter*

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light, clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas night round the stable where a virgin mother mild watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed; Seraphim in glory hover round his head. Wise men, guided by the leading of a star, bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth: Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth. 'Glory to God in highest heav'n' their joyful strain: 'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' the glad refrain.

Lullably! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby! Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby! Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day: Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today! Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away. Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav'n above: Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

## The Third Scripture Lesson

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:1-13

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

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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Hymn #196

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

### **The Offertory**

*Noël Nouvelet      Traditional French*  
*Arr. Janet Jackson 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 Church in Room 8*

## **The Message**

*Rev. John K. Keen*  
*Senior Pastor*

## **\*\*Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Hymn #194

## **\*\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*  
*Arr. Lani Smith*

# Announcements

## Youth Christmas Parties

TONIGHT

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

- Kid Builders – Join Mrs. Lang in Room 10 for fun Christmas activities and pizza!
- MS/HS Student Ministry – Meet in the Rio Center for Christmas carols, food, games, and a gift exchange, and Fugitive! ***\*Bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$5 in value)***

## Order Your Poinsettia

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

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

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 17, immediately after the morning worship service.**

The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2018 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

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? Are there some cookies that you bake each year and would be willing to share with your church family? Well, we have just the venue for you this season. Next **Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM** we will be singing our favorite carols chosen by all of you. This will be followed with a fellowship time 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. **Please RSVP TODAY** on your Connection Card if you plan to attend and if you are able to provide cookies for this event.

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

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



## Consider Joining the CE Committee!

One of the marks of discipleship is the constant pursuit of spiritual growth. To that end, the Christian Education Committee guides the educational ministry of the church with the goal of promoting spiritual growth, typically within a classroom environment. This encompasses all ages with Christ Central, from nursery/toddlers, children, youth, and adult, as well as specialized ministries like women's, men's and community groups.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more please mark "CE Committee" on your Connection Card. Note: All new members to the CE committee must be members of Christ Central and approved by the session.

## Clothing Donations Needed

You may be aware that on Thursday nights our sister church Holy Trinity hosts a neighborhood outreach dinner for the homeless and those in need of a meal. The goal of this ministry is to call men and women to faith in Jesus Christ; to connect them vitally to the local church body; and to show the compassion of God through works of mercy.

Each Thursday night there are typically 60-80 precious souls that show up, mostly men. One of the avenues for this mercy outreach is to provide clothing for those who are in need. Therefore, Holy Trinity is requesting that we participate with them in this outreach by donating clothing to be handed out each Thursday. Though some women and children do attend, it is mostly men. Therefore, men's clothing is most needed. Please search your closets and dressers for new or lightly worn clothing that can be donated (shirts, pants, shoes...) Bring these items to the church and place them in the bin near the Welcome Desk.

We will be collecting clothing for the remaining Sunday's in December.

## A Note from Pastor Keen

*Dear Church Family,*

*The Session has graciously offered me a sabbatical during the first quarter of 2018. Subsequent to some vacation time, I will be on sabbatical **January 15 - April 15** and return to the office and my normal duties on **Tuesday, April 16**. A sabbatical is a time for rest, personal prayer, study, reflection and assessment, so please pray for me while I'm away. I will not be available during the sabbatical period, but Pastor Danny Dalton and the Session will be available for all pastoral duties and related matters. Diane and I thank God for this much needed time away, and it would not be possible without a loving and supportive church, as well as an able and capable church staff, session and diaconate! Please feel free to ask me, Pastor Dalton, or any active member of the Session if you have any questions.*

*— With all my heart, Pastor John Keen*

## Adult Sunday School Classes



### **After Darkness, Light – Room 13**

*Teachers: Bryan Toenes and Randy Johnson*

What is so special about the Reformation for Presbyterians (and other Christians) today? The Reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and their disciples believed that they had recovered essential truths that had long been obscured by the Church. We can sum up these truths in the so-called “Five Solas” and “Five Points of Calvinism.” Join us this winter as we search sacred scripture to find the basis for these important doctrines, and then aim to find the relevance of these truths for our lives today.



### **Ezra and Nehemiah – Room 14**

*Teacher: Gregg Quick*

**Why Study the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah?** There’s nothing like a really good story, with characters in a setting, some sort of conflict that arises, and some kind of resolution. Ezra and Nehemiah hold the Bible’s story together - the final Old Testament episode in a story God himself began in Eden. Ezra and Nehemiah draw us to Jesus; exploring these books makes us yearn for a greater redemption. From beginning to end the books of Ezra and Nehemiah will draw you in, as each week you wonder ... what will happen next?



### **Befriend: Exploring Belonging in an Age of Judgment, Isolation, and Fear – Room 15**

*Teacher: Alex Fernandez*

This class invites you to understand and adopt Jesus’ model of radically different friendship that embraces “outsiders”.

*This Week at Christ Central*

*December 10 – December 16*

**SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:30 am  
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am  
Sunday School, 11:00 am  
MS/HS Youth Meeting (Rio Center), 5:30 pm  
Kid Builders (Room 10), 5:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

**FRIDAY:** Adult Bible Study (Room 12), 10:00 am

*December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

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

| Class/Grade                                               | Class Teacher(s)                | Class Room |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Ages 2-3/Toddlers                                         | Bev Thomson                     | 6          |
| Ages 4-7 / K4/K5 -2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Grade                | Jane Lambers & Diane<br>Keen    | 3/5        |
| Ages 8-10 /3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade     | Kelly Fernandez & Gail<br>Chang | 8          |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade | Danny Dalton                    | Rio Center |
| High School / 9th -12 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade              | Ben Lambers                     | Rio Center |
| Adult - After Darkness,<br>Light                          | Bryan Toenes &<br>Randy Johnson | 13         |
| Adult - Ezra & Nehemiah                                   | Gregg Quick                     | 14         |
| Adult - Exploring<br>Friendship                           | Alex Fernandez                  | 15         |

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

Last Sunday's Attendance: 128

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 7,640.36

*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>Greeters:</u>             | Bryan Toenes       | Alex Fernandez<br>Family |
| <u>Ordained<br/>Officer:</u> | Servy<br>Fernandez | Alex Fenandez            |
| <u>Communion<br/>Set-up:</u> | Ken Jackson        | Donna Waugh              |

## *Children's Worship Volunteers*

|          | <u>Teacher</u>     | <u>Helper</u>    |
|----------|--------------------|------------------|
| Today:   | Liz Hickerson      | Johnny Hickerson |
| Dec. 17: | Tami Pothoven      | Bryson Pothoven  |
| Dec. 24: | SUSPENDED<br>TODAY | SUSPENDED TODAY  |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Today:   | Brian Waugh  |
| Dec. 17: | Ginny Bremer |
| Dec. 24: | Rob Edwards  |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Today:   | Lisa Johnson |
| Dec. 17: | Geena Lang   |
| Dec. 24: | Tami Lang    |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                              |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next Week Dec. 17:</b><br>Andrea Cawley<br>Ananta Rivera<br>Ginny Bremer<br>Kelly Melendi | <b>Dec. 24:</b><br>Jane Lambers<br>Karen Collins<br>Glenda Williams<br>Kelly Melendi |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|