

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 17, 2017 - 9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude

Noel VI

Louis-Claude D'Aquin

(1694-1772)

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

Ginny Bremer

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**

Once in Royal David's City  
Hymn #225

## **\*\*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

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 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. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:1-7

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, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, 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

In him [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 1:7

# The Anthem

*Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, Seraphim round him their vigil will keep; nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

*Candlelight, angel light firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria, Gloria in excess Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

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## The Second Scripture Lesson

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. 6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. 7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1-7

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

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*  
*American folk Song/Arr. John Rutter*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. 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. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth! Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

## The Third Scripture Lesson

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 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. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks  
Hymn #223

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

### The Offertory

*Two French Carols*  
*Arr. Brant Adams*

## **\*\*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**

What Child Is This

Hymn #213

## **\*\*Benediction**

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

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## Announcements

### Congregational Meeting

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 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

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 **Sunday, December 24** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

### 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.

### End of Year Contributions

This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for 2017-tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2017. 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 Sara Royer.

### Consider Joining the CE Committee!

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.

### 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?



### **Exploring Friendship – Room 15**

**Befriend: Exploring Belonging in an Age of Judgment, Isolation, and Fear**

*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 17 – December 23*

- SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:30 am  
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am  
Sunday School, 11:00 am  
Cookies and Carols, 6:00 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: 164  
Last Sunday's Offering: \$ TBD

*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       | Alex Fernandez<br>Family |
| <u><i>Ordained<br/>Officer:</i></u> | Servy<br>Fernandez | Alex Fenandez            |
| <u><i>Communion<br/>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>Tami Pothoven</i>  | <i>Bryson Pothoven</i> |
| <i>Dec. 24:</i> | <i>SUSPENDED</i>      | <i>SUSPENDED</i>       |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Jane Lambers</i>   | <i>Lesley McKenzie</i> |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Ginny Bremer</i> |
| <i>Dec. 24:</i> | <i>Rob Edwards</i>  |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Larry Dickey</i> |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Geena Lang</i>     |
| <i>Dec. 24:</i> | <i>Tami Lang</i>      |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Hannah Johnson</i> |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next Week Dec. 24:</b><br><i>Jane Lambers</i><br><i>Karen Collins</i><br><i>Glenda Williams</i><br><i>Kelly Melendi</i> | <b>Dec. 31:</b><br><i>Stephanie Williams</i><br><i>Beverly Thomson</i><br><i>Pam Bergen</i><br><i>Sheila Colbert</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|