

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 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

December 24, 2017 - 9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude

Pastorale in F Major (BWV 590) Movement I

J. S. Bach

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.

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.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Salgado Family

The Fourth Candle is the **angel's candle**. It anticipates Christ's second coming and focuses on His finished work of salvation.

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26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

*Luke 1:26-33*

## **\*\*The Anthem**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
*F. Mendelssohn/Arr. John Rutter*  
Hymn #203

### *Choir and Congregation*

*Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled: joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th' angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.*

### *Choir*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come offspring of a virgin's womb: veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.*

### *Choir and Congregation*

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in His wings; mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.*

## **\*\*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**

4 "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. 5 For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. 6 The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. 7 "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. 8 In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:4-8

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

## The Confession of Our Sins

Mighty God, you came in weakness: forgive our grasping for power. Prince of Peace, you came in humility: forgive us for exalting ourselves. Everlasting Father, you came in poverty: forgive us for wanting more than others. Wonderful Counselor, you came in gentleness: forgive us for the anger we speak and the pain we cause. Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today: forgive us, heal us, make us new; we join the angels in singing your praises this Christmas and all the days to come.

(Based on Isaiah 9:6)

## Assurance of Pardon

You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psalms 86:5

## Presentation of New Member

*Nicolle Anahi Rodriguez-Najera*

## The Second Scripture Lesson

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:7-14

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

*Joy to the World*

*G.F. Handel/Arr. John Rutter*

Joy to the World! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'vn and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## The Third Scripture Lesson

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

John 3:16-21

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## \*\*The Offertory Hymn

Away In A Manger

Hymn #204

## \*\*Offertory Prayer of Dedication

## **The Offertory**

*Ding Dong, Merrily on High!/He is Born*  
*Arr. Anna Laura Page*

## **\*\*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. John K. Keen*  
*Senior Pastor*

## **\*\*Hymn**

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen  
Hymn #211

## **\*\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*In Dulci Jubilo*  
*Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

# ***Announcements***

## **Welcome New Member**

Nicolle Rodriguez is a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School. Nicolle loves to sing, write stories, play soccer, and spend time with friends and family. The thing she loves most about Christ Central Presbyterian is how loving and supporting the people are. She hopes to continue learning more about faith in Christ and aspires to go to Covenant College.

## **Program Note Reminder**

Just a reminder that we will not have Sunday School today or next week, December 31 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, please join us for Coffee and Conversation immediately after the worship service.

## **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Please join us at **6:30 pm** TONIGHT for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

## **No Choir Rehearsal**

There will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, December 27. Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

## **Church Office Hours**

The church office will be closed the week of December 25 through December 29.

## **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.

## **Clothing Donations Needed**

Our sister church, Holy Trinity is requesting that we participate with them in their outreach ministry for the homeless by donating clothing to be handed out each Thursday at their neighborhood outreach dinner. 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.

## ESL Training Weekend

Mark your calendars for the ESL Training Weekend that will be held Friday, January 19 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm and Saturday, January 20 from 8:45 am – 4:30 pm.

Training Cost:

\$25 for CCPC Members and Regular Attendees

\$35 for Non CCPC Guests

Please RSVP if you are interested in attending, or if you know anyone interested in starting an ESL ministry at their church please have them RSVP to Lisa Johnson at [church@christcentralpca.org](mailto:church@christcentralpca.org) as they are welcome to join our training.

## 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*

*This Week at Christ Central*

*December 24 – December 30*

**SUNDAY:**

Morning Worship, 9:30 am  
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am  
Sunday School, 11:00 am  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 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 Keen       | 3/5        |
| Ages 8-10 /3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade     | Kelly Fernandez & Gail 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: 129

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 20,956.70

December 10, 2017 Offerings: \$ 9,010.50

*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*

# Volunteers

## *Greeters / Ordained Officer*

|                                 | <u>December</u>    | <u>January</u>           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <u><i>Greeters:</i></u>         | Bryan Toenes       | Alex Fernandez<br>Family |
| <u><i>Ordained Officer:</i></u> | Servy<br>Fernandez | Alex Fenandez            |
| <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>SUSPENDED</i>      | <i>SUSPENDED</i>       |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Jane Lambers</i>   | <i>Lesley McKenzie</i> |
| <i>Jan. 7:</i>  | <i>Deana Johnson</i>  | <i>Ashley Johnson</i>  |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Rob Edwards</i>      |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Larry Dickey</i>     |
| <i>Jan. 7:</i>  | <i>Steve Strickland</i> |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Tami Lang</i>      |
| <i>Dec. 31:</i> | <i>Hannah Johnson</i> |
| <i>Jan. 7:</i>  | <i>Marilyn Horst</i>  |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Next Week Dec. 31:</b><br/> <i>Stephanie Williams</i><br/> <i>Beverly Thomson</i><br/> <i>Pam Bergen</i><br/> <i>Sheila Colbert</i></p> | <p><b>Jan. 7:</b><br/> <i>Lisa Johnson</i><br/> <i>Andy Thomson</i><br/> <i>Diane Keen</i><br/> <i>Carol Moberg</i></p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|