

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 5. 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 23, 2018 - 9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

*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 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 Waugh 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*

## **\*\*Hymn**

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come  
Hymn #195

## **\*\*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**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35 ESV

**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. AMEN

(Based on Isaiah 9:6)

## The Assurance of Pardon

O LORD, You showed favor to Your land; You restored the captive City of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.

Psalm 85:1-2

## The Choral Response

*Dresden Amen*

## The Second Scripture Lesson

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Revelation 21:1-8 ESV

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

## The Presentation of New Members

*Jessie and Monica Blas and their children, Charles and Elena*

## 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*

## 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.

*Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria,*

*gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.*

## The Third Scripture Lesson

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:1-20 ESV

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

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Hymn #201

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

### **The Offertory**

*Still, Still, Still*

*Austrian Christmas Carol*

### **\*\*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 Worship in Rm. 5*

### **The Message**

*Rev. John K. Keen*

*Senior Pastor*

### **\*\*Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*F. Mendelssohn/Arr. John Rutter*

#### **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'nborn 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.*



## **\*\*Benediction**

*Joy to the World*

*Frank Ritter/Smith*

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

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

# *Announcements*

## Program Note Reminder

Just a reminder that CCPC will not have Sunday School today or next week, December 30 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, The First Presbyterian Church of Tampa Bay (Portuguese) will continue to meet for Bible study on these day. Please join us for Coffee and Conversation immediately after the worship service.

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

Please join us at TOMORROW evening at **6:30 pm** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

## Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed the week of December 24 through December 28.

## International Dinner

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** for our annual International Dinner. You will be truly amazed to learn how many different regions of the world are represented here at Christ Central. We will have a variety of foods to sample from around the world. Please invite your family and friends! **RSVP to Lisa Johnson by January 13<sup>th</sup>** ([church@christcentralpca.org](mailto:church@christcentralpca.org) or 813-453-3221). If you would like to volunteer to bring a dish/dessert or to help with decorations etc., please contact Lisa.

## End of Year Contributions

This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for 2018-tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2018. 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 Stan Wildeboer.

*This Week at Christ Central*

*December 23 – December 29*

- SUNDAY:** Morning Worship, 9:30 am  
Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am
- WEDNESDAY:** Choir Practice, 7:30 pm
- FRIDAY:** Senior Covenant Group, (Room 16), 10:00 am

*December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

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

| Class/Grade                                                    | Class Teacher(s)                    | Class Room |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Ages 2-3/Toddlers                                              | Bev Thomson                         | 6          |
| Ages 4-5 / K4/K5                                               | Tami Lang                           | 3          |
| Ages 6-8 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades            | Raquel Fernandez                    | 5          |
| Ages 9-11 / 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades           | Gail Chang                          | 8          |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade         | Ben Lambers                         | Rio Center |
| High School / 9th -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade                      | Danny Dalton                        | Rio Center |
| Adult - Apologetics:<br>Taking Every Thought<br>Captive        | Luis Salgado                        | 13         |
| Adult - Exploring The<br>Parables                              | Randy Johnson                       | 15         |
| First Presbyterian<br>Church of Tampa Bay -<br>Apostles' Creed | Rev. Jofre Santiago<br>(Portuguese) | 12         |

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

Last Sunday's Attendance: 145

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 9,558.80

*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    | Fernandez Family |
| <u><i>Ordained Officer:</i></u> | Servy Fernandez | Alex Fernandez   |
| <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>Stephanie Williams</i> | <i>Courtney Williams</i> |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Jane Lambers</i>       | <i>Kaela Dalton</i>      |
| <i>Jan. 6:</i>  | <i>Therese McKenzie</i>   | <i>Lesley McKenzie</i>   |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Ginny Bremer</i>     |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Rob Edwards</i>      |
| <i>Jan. 6:</i>  | <i>Steve Strickland</i> |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Today:</i>   | <i>Jamie Dalton</i>  |
| <i>Dec. 30:</i> | <i>Liz Hickerson</i> |
| <i>Jan. 6:</i>  | <i>Tami Lang</i>     |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Next Week Dec. 30:</b> | <b>Jan. 6:</b>          |
| <i>Tami Pothoven</i>      | <i>Kelly Fernandez</i>  |
| <i>Holly Edwards</i>      | <i>Gail Chang</i>       |
| <i>Randa Gravanti</i>     | <i>Cathy Armstrong</i>  |
| <i>Eva White</i>          | <i>Raquel Fernandez</i> |