

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.
- 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.
- Please join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby before 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.
- 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 22, 2019 - 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. Mark Hayes

*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 White 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**

Angels We Have Heard on High  
Hymn #214

## **\*\*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**

Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>“Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!” <sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup>Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, <sup>6</sup>“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” <sup>7</sup>“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup>‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. <sup>9</sup>‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’” <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Psalm 2 NASB

**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

“For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 57:15

## Anthem

*Away in a Manger*

*Arr. John Rutter*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

## The Second Scripture Lesson

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, <sup>2</sup>to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. <sup>3</sup>For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup>He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:1-7 NASB

**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 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

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all he inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup>in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

*(Continued...)*

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared 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 men with whom He is pleased." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Luke 2:1-20 NASB

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

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Hymn #208

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

### **The Offertory**

*God Rest Merry, Gentlemen*  
*Arr. Larry Shackely*

## **\*\*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**

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

Hymn #195

## **\*\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Joy to the World*

*Arr. Fred Bock*

*\*\*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 next week December 29 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. Morning worship will begin at its regular 11:00 am scheduled time following a time for coffee and conversation at 10:30 am.

### **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

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

### **Church Office Hours**

The church office will be closed the week of December 23 through December 27.

### **No Choir Practice**

Due to the holidays, choir practice will be suspended for the next two weeks and will resume its normal schedule on Wednesday, January 8.

### **End of Year Contributions**

This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for 2019-tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2019. 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.

### **Save the Date for a Trip Around the World!**

No plane ticket or luggage needed! Let's celebrate our church's diversity at the **Third Annual International Dinner**.

Our trip will take off **Saturday, January 25 at 5:30 PM** here in our church fellowship hall. We'll travel from table to table, sampling delicacies from around the globe. This is a potluck-style event with a sign-up in the church foyer or through a link in an upcoming email.

What's new this year? We will discuss our Spanish Church Plant embedded within Christ Central. Also, prizes will be awarded for best table display, best regional costume, and best dish! There will also be a "people's choice award" where you'll pick your favorite participant.

Questions? Please contact Tami Lang at 813-240-7780 (talk or text) or at [tamilang1@verizon.net](mailto:tamilang1@verizon.net).

Everyone is invited to our global celebration, so please bring a traveling companion or two!

*This Week at Christ Central*  
*December 22 – December*

- SUNDAY:** Coffee and Conversation, 10:30 am  
Morning Worship, 11:00 am
- TUESDAY:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 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 4-6/ K4 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade                          | Tami Lang & Raquel Fernandez     | 5               |
| Ages 7-10 / 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades          | Kelly Fernandez & Donna Waugh    | 8               |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade        | Steve Pothoven                   | Rio Center      |
| High School / 9th -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     | Ben Lambers                      | Rio Center      |
| Adult - Worship                                               | Danny Dalton                     | Fellowship Hall |
| Adult - Exploring 1 & 2 Peter                                 | Randy Johnson                    | 15              |
| First Presbyterian Church of Tampa Bay - Learning How to Pray | Rev. Jofre Santiago (Portuguese) | 12              |

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

Last Sunday's Attendance: 156  
 Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 11,844.32

*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    | Fernandez Family |
| <u>Ordained Officer:</u> | Servy Fernandez | Alex Fernandez   |
| <u>Communion Set-up:</u> | Randa Gravanti  | Donna Waugh      |

## *Children's Worship Volunteers*

|          | <u>Teacher</u> | <u>Helper</u>     |
|----------|----------------|-------------------|
| Today:   | Jamie Dalton   | Rebecca Armstrong |
| Dec. 29: | Lisa Johnson   | TBA               |
| Jan. 5:  | Tami Pothoven  | Bryson Pothoven   |

## *Coffee Volunteers*

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Today:   | Larry Dickey   |
| Dec. 29: | Jackie Toenes  |
| Jan. 5:  | Randa Gravanti |

## *Nursery Volunteers*

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Today:   | Tami Lang     |
| Dec. 29: | Deana Johnson |
| Jan. 5:  | Marilyn Horst |

## *Fellowship Snacks*

|                                                                                           |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next Week Dec. 29:</b><br>Cathy Armstrong<br>Holly Edwards<br>Donna Waugh<br>Eva White | <b>Jan. 5:</b><br>Kelly Fernandez<br>Gail Chang<br>Tami Pothoven<br>Raquel Fernandez |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|