

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 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

November 29, 2020 - 11:00 AM

First Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Arr. Taylor

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 blue, one is rose, and one is white**. The blue candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. Blue 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Lambers Family

The First Candle is the **prophecy candle**. It reminds us that Christ’s coming was revealed by God through the prophets hundreds of years before Christ was born.

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

***Hymn**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Hymn #235

****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

"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. ²"Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins." ³A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴"Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley;

(Continued...)

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. ⁹ Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him. ¹¹ Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Isaiah 40:1-11 NASB

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Confession of Our Sins

“Receive my confession, O most loving and gracious Heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only hope for the salvation of my soul. Grant to me true contrition, so that day and night I may be sorry from the heart for my sins. Savior of the world, O good Jesus, who gave yourself to the death of the cross to save sinners, look upon me, most wretched of all sinners; have pity on me, and give me the light to know my sins, true sorrow for them, and a firm purpose of never committing them again. Amen.”

Assurance of Pardon

Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

Isaiah 38:17

The Second Scripture Lesson

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 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.

Special Music

Holly Edwards Solo

I Wonder As I Wander

The Third Scripture Lesson

Now in those days John the Baptist *came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight!’” ⁴Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; ⁶and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

(Continued...)

¹⁰ The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Matthew 3:1-12 NASB

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**

At the conclusion of the service, tithes and offerings can be placed in trays held by ushers as you exit from the sanctuary.

****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
John K. Keen
Senior Pastor

****Hymn**
Once in Royal David's City
Hymn #225

****Benediction**

Postlude

***All who are able, please stand*
**Unless specified, all Scripture texts are from the NIV-1984*

Announcements

Congregational Meeting

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 13, immediately after the morning worship service.**

The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2021 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*).

Covid-19 Update (as of November 17, 2020)

Resuming In-Person Sunday School (Face masks still required)

As your Session continues to study and prayerfully reevaluate our strategies to mitigate the threat of Covid-19 at our church gatherings, we have come to the decision at our November stated meeting to resume in-person Sunday School, beginning December 6, 2020!

The nursery will be open and classes will be offered for: Toddlers, Elementary, Middle School, High School as well as two Adult classes. A bulletin insert containing Sunday School topics and room assignments will be provided shortly.

The Session will continue to regularly reevaluate our safety requirements. Until changes are made known, please adhere to the following requirements:

- While inside the building, all attendees are to wear a face mask, though teachers may be unmasked while teaching at the front of the room. We have a limited supply of masks available. If you do not have one, simply ask one of our ushers.
- We ask that all attendees adhere to social distancing while on the church campus.
- When sanctuary seating is at capacity, latecomers will be seated in the church lobby, which has a TV displaying the service.

If you are experiencing any symptoms or if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive to the coronavirus, out of an abundance of caution, please refrain from attending.

All Church Service Opportunity

We will be partnering with Metropolitan Ministries, a local organization that cares for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. This is a great way to live out 1 John 3:18, which states, "let us not love with words or tongue, but with action and in truth." There are three tangible opportunities for our entire church to be involved in serving this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

(1) Monday, December 21 from 8:15 am-11:30 am

- Serve in-person at the Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Tent with a group from Christ Central.
- Group size is limited to 15.
- All volunteers are required to wear masks and undergo a temperature checks upon arrival. If you are interested in serving, mark your Connection Card with "MM Dec. 21" (or email the church [office: church@ChristCentralpca.org](mailto:office:church@ChristCentralpca.org)) and we will provide you with instructions of where to meet and how to pre-register with our group.
- Unless we reach a group size of 15 first, the sign up deadline is Tuesday, December 1.

(2) Food & Christmas Gift Donation

- If you are unable to serve in-person, you can still be involved by donating needed food and Christmas gift items.
- Most needed Food items: canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruits, rice, pasta, boxed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and dessert mixes.
- Most needed gift items: teen girl and boy gifts (age 13-17)
- Please place your donated food/gift items in the Donation Box located in the church Lobby.
- Items will be collected the church through Sunday, December 13

This Week at Christ Central
November 29 – December 5

SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 11:00 am

CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 90

Last Sunday's Offering: \$6,106.00

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

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays