

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

December 13, 2020 - 11:00 AM

Third Sunday in Advent

Prelude

English Carole Medley

Arr. 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 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.

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

Randa Gravanti

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

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

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God

## **The Confession of Our Sins**

“Jesus, for your name sake, do that which your name proclaims. Jesus, pardon the pride that pains you and look upon the unhappy one that calls upon your tender name—name of comfort, name of delight, and to sinners, name of blessed hope. For what does your name mean, Jesus, but Savior? Therefore, for your name’s sake, be to me, Jesus, a merciful Savior. Amen”

--Prayer of St. Augustine

## Assurance of Pardon

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:18-19

## The Second Scripture Lesson

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. <sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— <sup>6</sup>and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:1-8 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**     *Ensemble*  
*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

**The Third Scripture Lesson**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” <sup>24</sup> And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25 NASB

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

**\*\*The Offertory Hymn**

Away in a Manger  
Hymn #204

**\*\*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**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
Hymn #196

### **\*\*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 **TODAY, 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*).

## Birth Announcement

Congratulations on the recent birth of a new grandchild to Ines Lopez de Lara Ahued! **Luna Sofia Fuller** was born on Thursday, December 3 to parents, Jessica and Chris Fuller. She weighed 7 pounds. We give thanks to God for this wonderful blessing for Ines and her extended family!

## Costa Rica Christmas Tree

We are excited to announce that we have begun the process of preparing for our service experience in Costa Rica. We had our first team meeting and training last week. As a kickoff fundraiser towards our goal of raising \$5000, we have set up a Christmas giving tree located in the lobby. If you would like to donate, please select an ornament with the desired amount on it and return the amount in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Please be sure to designate the funds to the Costa Rica Service Experience on any checks or to use an envelope with the same designation for cash. Thank you, church family, for all your support.

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

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

## Program Note Reminder

Just a reminder that CCPC will not have Sunday School on December 27 or January 3 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. Morning worship will begin at its regular 11:00 am scheduled time.

## **End of Year Contributions**

This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for 2020-tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2020. 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 Tara Pilecki.

## **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.

***This Week at Christ Central***  
***December 13 – December 19***

**SUNDAY:**                      Sunday School, 9:30 am  
                                          Morning Worship, 11:00am

**CHRIST CENTRAL AT WORK AND WORSHIP**

Last Sunday's Attendance: 77  
 Last Sunday's Offering: \$8,231.25

*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*

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

| Class/Grade                                               | Class Teacher(s) | Class Room         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ages 2-5/Toddlers - K                                     | Bev Thomson      | 6                  |
| Ages 6-10 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup><br>Grades   | Jane Lambers     | 8                  |
| Middle School / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade | Danny Dalton     | Rio Center         |
| High School / 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup><br>Grade  | Ben Lambers      | Rio Center         |
| Adult - Outreach                                          | Randy Johnson    | Fellowship<br>Hall |
| Adult - Chosen By God                                     | Luis Salgado     | 15                 |

# *December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*