



CITY CHURCH

of East Nashville

Second Week Of Advent
December 4, 2022

CCEN Vision

City Church of East Nashville is a body of believers, seeking to live out the gospel as a community, defined by three core values: gospel-driven, prayer-dependent, and parish-directed. Our Vision is to see East Nashville transformed by the knowledge and enjoyment of God's redeeming grace in Jesus Christ.

Meditation

Please silence all phones and other electronic devices.

Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

Call to Worship

God calls His people to assemble for worship; accordingly, the church calls itself together.

Songs and Hymns

God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God, but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive story. The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. — C.S. Lewis

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."

— **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

PREPARATION — *Liturgist Rick Puncochar*

CALL TO WORSHIP — *From Luke 1:47, 2:14 & Psalm 130:5-7*

LEADER: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope.

PEOPLE: **My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than a watchman for the morning.**

LEADER: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love and with Him is plentiful redemption.

PEOPLE: **Glory to God in the highest!**

LEADER: And on earth peace!

PEOPLE: **Peace among those with whom He is pleased!**

LEADER: LORD, we have seen Your salvation,

PEOPLE: **And we rejoice in the coming of our Savior!**

SONG OF PRAISE — *Angels We Have Heard On High*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — *College Students*

READING OF SCRIPTURE — *Isaiah 2:1-5*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE — *Peace*

PRAYER

CALL TO REPENTANCE — *Based on 1 John 1:5-10*

LEADER: “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: God of love, we confess that all our lives long we have sought to make ourselves the rulers of our universe, yet You alone were born the true King. All year long we have pursued power and money, yet You came in poverty and weakness. All season long we have coveted great material gifts, yet You alone have offered what is lasting. Through the work of our LORD Jesus, Who has come among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, and correct us. Then open our lips, we pray that we might sing Your praises with the angels, and reorient our lives to be witnesses to Your transforming love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE — *Based on Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 1:5; and Luke 2:14*

LEADER: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

PEOPLE: In Christ we receive the salvation of our God.

LEADER: He is the light that shines into the world.

PEOPLE: And the darkness has not overcome Him.

LEADER: Through Him, we have received grace upon grace.

PEOPLE: Glory to God in the highest!

Assurance of Grace
God declares through His Church that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING — Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Tithes & Offerings

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from Him.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

KIDS DISMISSAL

Babies through 5th-Graders are invited to join City Church Kids' Classes, but all children are warmly welcomed to stay in the worship service.

K-5th graders will be brought back in to join their families for communion. When the service concludes, please head back to your child's classroom to check them out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scripture Reading

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." *Romans 10:17*

SCRIPTURE READING — Luke 2:8-14 — Rob Allgood

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Prayer of Illumination

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of His Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts, which would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of His Holy Spirit.

SERMON — Luke 2:8-14 — David Richter

SONG OF RESPONSE — Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CONFESSION OF FAITH — *The Apostles Creed*

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on 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.

COMMUNION SONG — Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

LORD Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of Who You are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life You promise. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE DESIRING TO TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST

LORD Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through You I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior and LORD and desire to live a life of loving and serving You. Amen.

SONG OF SENDING — It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

THE DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION — *From Revelation 22:20-21*

LEADER: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
Amen! Come, LORD Jesus! The grace of the LORD Jesus be with all.
Amen.

Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

HOW TO CONNECT

CITY CHURCH APP

The app is a great place to stay connected with your Neighborhood Group, Bible studies, and ministry teams (via the messaging feature), as well as to get up-to-date information about events, announcements, and service opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT STORY BOXES — Did you miss the Advent Open House? We have extra Advent story boxes available - pick one up in the children's lobby today!

HIGH TEA — Our monthly High Tea at the Richters' is TODAY at 4:30pm. Katy Hutson will lead a time of sharing poetry and writings around Advent and Christmas. Bring any favorite short stories or poems to share if you'd like. Come have some tea and enjoy! Childcare is provided. **RSVP** in the app calendar.

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING — Join us THIS Wednesday, December 7th, at 7:15 at the Puncochars' home for our monthly prayer meeting. Text Rick with any questions.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY — We are so excited to welcome many families into membership at City Church during our worship gathering on Sunday, December 11th! If you are interested in membership, please notify David Richter ASAP to schedule a membership interview.

ADVENT SEASON CALENDAR

12/4 — High Tea — 5-6:30pm at the Richters' home — Advent/Christmas poetry reading

12/7 — Monthly Prayer Meeting — 7:15pm at the Puncochars' home

12/11 — New Member Sunday — during the worship gathering at 10am

12/16 — Youth Progressive Christmas Dinner — 5:30pm

12/24 — Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Service — 4:30pm

12/25 — Christmas Day Worship Gathering — 10am

12/25 — Caroling — 2:30pm

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Neighborhood Groups meet weekly in City Church family homes around East Nashville. If you do not have a Neighborhood Group, or need to find a new group that works for your schedule, please fill out the *Interest Survey* in your City Church Weekly email and we will help you find a group!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Keep an eye out for upcoming winter events!

Contact contact Sara B Cline at or Ashley Jacobs if you have questions about our Women's Ministry.

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP — Meeting weekly on Friday mornings at 6am, at the Richters' home - no prep needed! Join "Men's AM Prayer Group" on the app to get updates.

Contact Ryan Pryor at Jim Hitch with any questions.

HOW TO CONNECT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILD SAFETY TRAINING — If you help in children's ministry, you **must** participate in child safety training. Our first available training is Saturday, January 21st, 9am-12pm. A representative of Stewards of Children will facilitate. There will be childcare available upon request. RSVP in the app calendar.

ELEMENTARY PARENTS please send a Bible along with your child. Every week, we will show your child where to find what we are learning in the Bible and give them a bookmark. We want them to know that God's big story is for them. Need help choosing a Bible for your child? Contact Katy Hutson at.

YOUTH MINISTRY

FALL BIBLE STUDIES — Middle and High School bible studies ARE meeting tonight from 5-6:30pm (dropoff starts at 4:30). We only have 2 more weeks of Bible studies before we break for Christmas (12/4 and 12/11). We will break for 3 Sundays and then start back on Sunday, January 8th.

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER (for middle and high school students) — Saturday, December 16th, 5-9pm. What is this? Dinner in stages at different homes-- appetizer at one spot, dinner at another! Make plans to come! If you have an interest in opening your home to host one of the stages of dinner, contact our youth interns. We will coordinate food so no worries there. RSVP coming next week.

Contact Virginia Carter with any questions about our Youth Ministry.

PRAYER TEAM

If you would like to request prayer, please contact Chrissie Puncochar.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

SERVE IN OUR CHURCH

Andy and Lindsey Patton welcomed are settling in with their new baby girl Linden! Please help support them by providing a meal. Link in City Church Weekly email, or talk to Gabe Pryor.

SERVE IN OUR CITY

SATURDAY SUPPER — City Church is hosting Saturday Supper at Woodland Presbyterian on Saturday, December 10th. Saturday Supper is a free meal open to anyone who is in need. Many in East Nashville are experiencing food insecurity and this is one way we seek to help. Many thanks to the Inglewood Neighborhood Group, led by the Prathers, for preparing food and serving this month!

SERVE IN OUR WORLD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD — BIG THANK YOU, CHURCH! Hundreds of shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child are on their way. Please continue to pray for the process and for the children who will ultimately hear the good news of the gospel as they receive their gift! That God's name would be proclaimed far and wide.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

At City Church, children of all ages are always welcome among us, for our entire service. We know that they wiggle, and we like a little noise! We are more fully the body of Christ when kids are in our midst. There is a table near the entrance with art supplies and other activities to help with busy minds and bodies. We also offer classes for kids to worship and learn together during the service, where they can be drawn into an engaging, enjoyable, and exciting encounter with the gospel in language familiar to them.

Please sign children in as you arrive at the entrance to the children's area, and remember to sign them out as you leave. Also, please make sure that your child uses the restroom before church. If your child needs you during the service, a teacher will come and find you.

0-4 Years Old: Childcare is provided during the entire service. All pre-school age children will have a short story and lesson time where they hear God's good news in language especially for their age.

K-2nd Grade: This group will be learning through Godly Play, a creative approach to children's spiritual formation that allows them to learn about God's character, story, and church.

3rd-5th Grade: This group will be working through Imaginative Prayer, a way of meeting the Lord by using our imagination to enter a Gospel story. The purpose of Imaginative Prayer is to meet Jesus face-to-face and grow in intimacy with Him.

Nursing Little Ones: You are welcome to use the private nursing/cry room at the back of the Sanctuary.

QUESTIONS

Whether you are one of the many people in our culture and congregation processing skepticism and doubt about Christianity, or a seasoned believer trying to grow and better understand your faith, we welcome your questions. If it is true, as we believe, that the God of the Bible is the all-powerful Creator and Sustainer of all things, then we should not be afraid to ask or answer any question. Therefore, we are dedicated to creating a safe environment providing honest answers to any and all honest questions concerning faith, life, and God. If you have any questions about our community, services, or about what it means to be a Christian, we welcome you to contact us.

Sincerely,
Lead Minister David Richter

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Minister	David Richter
Elder	Aaron Sands
Elder Emeritus	Rick Puncochar
Children's Ministry Director	Katy Hutson
Director of Administration & Communications	Hadassah Bird
Interim Youth Coordinator	Virginia Carter
Music Coordinator	Michelle Raybourn
A/V Coordinator	Oliver Risch

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