



CITY CHURCH

of East Nashville

First Week Of Advent
November 27, 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.

What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us. — Frederick Buechner

I see him, but not now, I behold him, but not near. A star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. — Numbers 24:17

Star of wonder star of light, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leaning, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. — John Henry Hopkins

Preparation

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

PREPARATION — *Liturgist Jim Hitch*

Call to Worship

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

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!**

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.

SONG OF PRAISE — O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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 — *Prathers' Neighborhood Group*

READING OF SCRIPTURE — *Isaiah 11:1-10*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE — *Hope*

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 — Once In Royal David's City

Tithes & Offerings

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

Scripture Reading

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

Prayer of Illumination

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

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.

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 — *Matthew 2:1-12* — Chrissie Puncochar

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON — *Matthew 2:1-12* — David Richter

SONG OF RESPONSE — What Child is This?

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CONFESSION OF FAITH — *Heidelberg Catechism: Question 1*

LEADER: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

PEOPLE: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

COMMUNION SONG — O Holy Night

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 — Is He Worthy?

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 OPEN HOUSE — The whole church is invited to our first annual Advent open house, hosted by our Children’s Ministry, from 4-6pm TODAY! All ages are welcome and invited for some tea, cider, and light snacks. We will be providing Advent story kits (which you get to assemble at the event) as well as a chance to enjoy the Godly Play story for Advent.

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.

WORLD CUP VIEWING PARTIES — Join other CCEN soccer fans to watch the USMNT games on the Richters’ back porch for the final game: USA vs Iran (Nov 29th at 1pm).

ADVENT SEASON CALENDAR

11/27 — Advent Open House — 4-6pm

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

12/7 — Monthly Prayer Meeting — 7:15pm

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

NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP — CCEN women are gathering in small groups (4-5 people) throughout the month of November for dinner, coffee, or something fabulous and fun! Hosts will be reaching out to all of the women in the church via email. ***If you are not currently on the Women’s Email List***, please contact Sara B Cline or Ashley Jacobs to be added to the list.

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 or Jim Hitch with any questions about Men’s Ministry.

HOW TO CONNECT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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.

RUNAWAY FIDGETS — Parents, we've lost most of our Sanctuary fidget toys! Please check with your kiddos to see if they've accidentally forgotten them in bags and coat pockets, and bring them back to church when you're able. Thanks!

YOUTH MINISTRY

MS GIRLS LUNCH — TODAY, after the service, MS Girls that are in town are invited to lunch with Michelle. Bring \$ for yourself and just find Michelle after church.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES — Middle and High School bible studies are not meeting tonight, but youth are invited to the Advent Open House.

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 their new baby girl Linden into their home last week! Please help support them by providing a meal. Link in City Church Weekly email, or talk to Gabe Pryor.

SERVE IN OUR CITY

Keep an eye out for upcoming holiday opportunities to serve our neighbors in Nashville.

SERVE IN OUR WORLD

Please continue to pray for our Ministry partners overseas.

HIRING OPPORTUNITY

YOUTH DIRECTOR — We are actively looking for applicants for our Youth Director position. Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested. Job description, applications and submission instructions can all be found at citychurcheast.org/job-openings. We are accepting applications through December 1st.

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 Puncoschar
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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