



CITY CHURCH

of East Nashville

**Fourth Week Of Advent
December 18, 2022**

CCEN Vision

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.

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.

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

— **Hamilton Wright Mabie**

Yet as I read the birth stories about Jesus I cannot help but conclude that though the world may be tilted toward the rich and powerful, God is tilted toward the underdog. — **Philip Yancey**

The exciting quality of Christmas rests on an ancient and admitted paradox. It rests upon the paradox that the power and center of the whole universe may be found in some seemingly small matter; that the stars in their courses may move like a moving wheel around the neglected outhouse of an inn. — **G.K. Chesterton**

PREPARATION — *Liturgist Aaron Sands*

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 — O Come, All Ye Faithful

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 — *The Gruner Family*

READING OF SCRIPTURE — *Revelation 21:1-4*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE — *Love*

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.

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.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING — Is He Worthy?**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 — Luke 2:1-7**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**SERMON — Luke 2:1-7 — David Richter****SONG OF RESPONSE — Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor**

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 — *Away In A Manger*

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 — *O, Little Town Of Bethlehem*

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, as well as to get up-to-date information about events, announcements, and service opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT SEASON CALENDAR

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

12/25 — Christmas Day Worship Gathering — regular worship gathering at 10am

12/25 — Caroling — 2:30pm

BAPTISMS & MEMBERSHIPS — We are excited to celebrate baptisms on January 8th and new members joining City Church on January 22nd. If you are interested in baptism or membership, please contact David Richter.

CHILD SAFETY TRAINING — If you work in children’s ministry, youth ministry, or volunteer for events involving children and youth, you must participate in child safety training. Our first training will be 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Neighborhood Groups are on break until the second week of the New Year.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Keep an eye out for upcoming winter events!

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

MEN’S MINISTRY

MEN’S PRAYER GROUP — Meets 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 our Men’s Ministry.

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, from 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. Need help choosing a Bible for your child? Contact Katy Hutson.

HOW TO CONNECT

YOUTH MINISTRY

NO WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES — Our weekly middle and high school Bible studies will start back up on Sunday, January 8th from 5-6:30pm.

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

Thank you to those who provided meals for the Pattons!

SERVE IN OUR CITY

Many thanks to the Inglewood Neighborhood Group, led by the Prathers, for preparing food and serving Saturday Supper this month!

SERVE IN OUR WORLD

Please continue to pray for our Ministry Partners overseas.

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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