

Hope

Love

A LIGHT IN

THE DARKNESS

Peace

Joy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 10, 2023
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 9

Leader: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

**People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined!**

❖ AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER, James R. Murray

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

❖ PRAYER OF ADORATION

conclude with 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 for ever. Amen.

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, dead, 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 shall 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.

❖ O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL, Bob Kauflin and Steve Cook, Latin antiphons

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come thou Dayspring from on high
And cause thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight

Rejoice, rejoice

Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come, O come true prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father's side

Rejoice, rejoice

Emmanuel shall by his word our darkness dispel

O come our great High Priest and intercede
Thy sacrifice our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near

Rejoice, rejoice

Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell

O Come thou King of nations, bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel

Rejoice, rejoice

Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: The Advent wreath helps us remember the miracle of God's becoming a man for our sake.

The wreath is a circle, causing us to remember the eternity of God's love for us and for all humanity.

It is decked with green boughs,
causing us to remember the newness
of life we have in Christ Jesus.

The first candle reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come.

People: The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall, as Luke records:

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Leader: So let us sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world!

GRACE OF GOD WITH US

Brett Younker, Ben Fielding, and Aodhan King

Wonderful and wise in counsel

Forever mighty God

Precious Father, everlasting

Blessed Prince of Peace

Chorus:

Glory to God in the highest

Jesus our Savior the grace of God with us

The kings of earth rest on your shoulders

You rule on David's throne

Your kingdom here is now established

Christ our Lord of lords (*Ch*)

Born that we might know forgiveness

Born that we should live

With joy and hope and expectation

Our King will come again

Our King will come again (*Ch 2x*)

The grace of God with us

The grace of God with us

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace,
you have given us Jesus,
the light of the world,
but we choose darkness,
and cling to things that hide
the brightness of your love.
Immersed in ourselves, we cannot see.

Baptize us with your Spirit, that,
forgiven and renewed, we may declare
your Word to the nations and tell of your
glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and our light forever. Amen.

❖ WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD

Ephesians 2:8-9

Leader: By grace you have been saved
through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, not a result of works,
so that no one may boast.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Gill Dolan

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7, p. 857
San Lucas 2:1-7, p. 1414

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

“Humbe Love”
A Light in the Darkness

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is an opportunity for all of us to seek the Lord. It is an occasion for baptized Christians to be strengthened by our Savior. All who trust alone in Christ as Savior and Lord, are members in good standing of a church that embraces the gospel, live at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully are welcome to come forward to partake. If you are not a Christian, have not been admitted to the Lord's table, or choose not to partake you are welcome to come forward with your arms crossed in front of your body to receive a blessing.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: *Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.***

Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Wine and grape juice are served.

Grape juice in a purple cup is available upon request.

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Please let an usher know if it is difficult for you to come forward.

Prayer of Seeking 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 undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Oración de buscar la verdad

Señor Jesús, tú afirmas ser el camino, la verdad y la vida. Si lo que afirmas es cierto, por favor guíame, enséñame y ábreme la realidad de quién eres. Concédeme que podría no desanimarme por el costo de seguirte mientras considero las razones para hacerlo. Dame una comprensión de ti que sea coherente, convincente y que conduzca a la vida que prometes. Amén.

Oración de Creencia

Señor Jesús, admito que soy más débil y más pecador de lo que nunca antes creía, pero a través de ti, soy más amado y aceptado de lo que nunca me atreví a esperar. Te agradezco por pagar mi deuda, llevar mi castigo en la cruz y ofrecer perdón y nueva vida. Sabiendo que has resucitado entre los muertos, me aparto de mis pecados y te recibo como mi Salvador. Amén.

MAKE A WAY

Kate Bluett, Isaac Wardell, & Paul Zach

Come Son of God and make us new
Light of the world our hearts renew
Hope in our inner darkness lies
Oh healing sun of justice rise

Come promised since our Eden's end
Child of the woman, come defend
Long have we felt the serpent's sting
Come strike his head and mercy bring

Chorus:

O make a way

Open wide the gates

O make a way through

The sorrow and the pain

O make a way though

The road is dark and winding

O come, Emmanuel

Come Son of Man to show the way
O through the tears may we see the day
So long did we in darkness dwell
Come down to break the chains of hell

❖ RING THE BELLS

Daniel Campbell, Joe Deegan, Adam Holt, McKenna Malloy, Isabella Oliver, & Anna Thielemann

Long your people wait in doubt and unbelief
For a Savior to come, longing to be set free
Breaking the silence the prophets sing

Chorus:

Ring the bells of heaven, ring the bells on earth
Let us leap for joy at the coming glory
Of Jesus our Savior's birth

Peaceful shepherds afield beneath the starry skies
Heard the joyous news, a Savior to reign on high
Breaking the silence the angels sing (*Ch*)

Long held under the curse, creation groans
Waiting for a King, a baby upon the throne
Breaking the silence creation sings
Heaven and earth hosannas bring (*Ch 2x*)

*Let us leap for joy at the coming glory
Of Jesus our Savior's birth*

❖ BENEDICTION

Minister: God the Father, who loved the world
so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for eternal life.

God the Son, who comes to us
as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you
the path from darkness to light.

God the Holy Spirit, by whose working
the virgin Mary conceived Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.

People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

❖ O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL, Latin antiphons

Rejoice, rejoice

Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

Worship Leaders

Joe Beam	drums
Daniel Campbell	keyboard & vocals
Joe Deegan	guitar & vocals
Paul Duffin	electric guitar
Conrad Guthrie	bass
Katie & Kyle Howard	reading
Michelle Hays	violin
Clay Holland	liturgy
Dru Bennett	prayer
Katie Reyes	vocals
John Trapp	sermon
Steven Wiggs	cello

Audio/Visual Team

Zach Day	audio
Reese Dowiak	camera
Ozzie Fong	camera
Max Gomez-Wright	camera
Ryan Landis	video director
Namath Naif	technical director
Joe Bill Whittenburg	projections

*The Advent Candles are lit by the
Tricia & Jim Zucker Family*

CCLI# 1268735

Sunday Morning at Christ the King

9:00 am

Worship Service

Nursery Care

Infant - 4 years

Children's Worship

K-2nd grade

Children will be dismissed from the worship service.

Adult Sunday Morning Class

(3rd Floor)

10:30 am

Worship Service

Nursery Care

Infant - 1 years

Sunday School

2 - 4 years old (1st floor)
K - 3rd grade (2nd floor)
Code 45 - 4th & 5th graders
(Through the Great Hall,
and up the stairs)

Student Ministry

6th - 12th grade
(3rd floor)

Adult Sunday Morning Class

(3rd Floor)

Adult Sunday Morning Class

9:00 am Room A300

10:30 am The Redeemer Room

The Gospel of Mark

Through December 17

Who is Jesus? Why did he come to earth? The Gospel of Mark was written to answer these questions. It depicts a Jesus of good news—and urgent challenge. The clever author of this gospel masterfully weaves together episodes that encourage attentive reading, especially if we want to understand more about the audience that first heard this book. Understood to be the earliest of the four canonical gospels, Mark offers an uncluttered yet vivid narrative. This story of good news, challenge, and literary delight makes the Gospel of Mark a wonderful book to study in community.

College Students Sunday School Class

December 17, January 7 and 14, 10:30 am, Room A300

We are excited to offer a class especially for college students over the holidays, taught by Christ the King Elder, Gill Dolan. Invite your friends and join us!



Upcoming Events

Tonight	Student Ministry Sunday Nights	5:30 - 7:00 pm	Christ the King
12/14	College Winter Break Gathering	7:00 pm	12315 Broken Bough
12/17	College Sunday Morning Class	10:30 am	Room A301
12/24	No Sunday School Children - Adults		
12/24	Christmas Eve Services	2:30, 4:00 & 5:30 pm	The Sanctuary
12/31	No Sunday School Children - Adults		
1/2 - 1/6	Student Ministry Ski Trip		
1/10	Midweek Prayer	12:00 - 12:30 pm	The Sanctuary
1/14	Student Ministry Sunday Nights	5:30 - 7:00 pm	Christ the King
1/18	Made with Love Meal Prep	9:30 am or 6:30 pm	The Kitchen
1/19 & 1/20	Building Brave Families Conference	Fri: 6:00 - 8:00 pm Sat: 9:00 - 11:00 am	The Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

Sunday Morning Services

9:00 & 10:30 am

- No Sunday School for children through adults
- No Children's Worship
- Children are encouraged to join us for the worship service
- Nursery Care: 8 weeks - PreK

Christmas Eve Services

2:30, 4:00 & 5:30 pm

- No childcare at the 2:30 pm service
- Nursery Care: 8 weeks - PreK at the 4:00 & 5:30 services only

New Year's Eve

Sunday Morning Services

9:00 & 10:30 am

- No Sunday School for children through adults
- Children's Worship at 9:00 am
- Nursery Care: 8 weeks - PreK during both services

Christmas Poinsettias

Honor and remember loved ones by donating toward the beautiful poinsettias in the Sanctuary. The Order of Worship on Christmas Eve will list the names of donors and honorees. Print deadline is December 15.





College Students Christmas Gathering

*December 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, 12315
Broken Bough Drive*

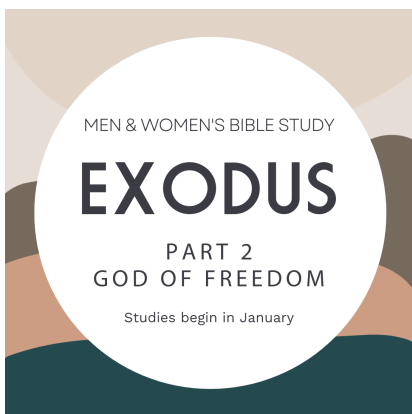
All college students are invited to join us for dinner and fellowship. Bring your friends! Christmas attire is encouraged! Email Brittany by December 12 to RSVP at brittany.leggett@christtheking.com.



Midweek Prayer

January 10, 12:00 - 12:30 pm, The Sanctuary

We are taking a break for the holidays and will meet again on January 10. Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesdays at noon when our church gathers for 30 minutes of prayer led by our pastors. Together we spend time praying Scripture, sitting in moments of silent prayer, and praying for members of our church who have requested prayer. All are welcome.



Bible Study

Journey through the story of how God shepherds his newly-liberated children into an understanding of what their freedom means. And with fresh perspective, ask what these stories teach God's children today about how to live as those set free.

The second part of this study starts with a new book. If you would like to join a small group, now is the perfect time! Sign up and learn more at christtheking.com/men or christtheking.com/women.



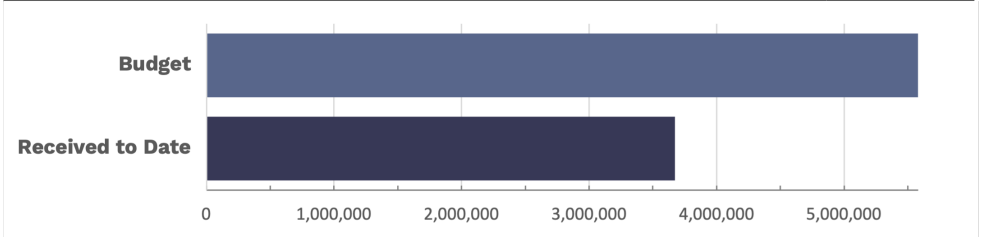
Men's Retreat

*February 16-18, Stoney Creek Ranch,
New Ulm, TX*

You're invited to a weekend filled with encouraging, gospel-centered teachings as we grow closer in community and relationship with God. There will be plenty of time for pickleball, skeet shooting, ropes courses, fishing, whiffle ball, bonfires, board games, nature walks and much more! Our speaker will be Keith Berger, with Reformed University Fellowship. Sign up at christtheking.com/men.

Ministry Budget Update

2023 Ministry Budget	\$	5,580,000
Received as of 12/03	\$	3,674,756
Variance	\$	1,905,244



Giving to Christ the King

It is by your consistent generosity that we are able to support our Mission Partners in Houston and around the world and continue life changing ministry here at Christ the King. You can give today by placing checks or cash in the offering plate as it comes by. And you can always give at christtheking.com/giving.



Mission Partner Spotlight

The Source

For the past 40 years, The Source has served the Houston and Austin community with high-quality, whole-person women's health services. The Source provides comprehensive, life-affirming reproductive health and pregnancy care. They strive to transform the lives of the women and families they serve by offering the gospel message of hope, comfort and peace. They provide resources that help families flourish by equipping women and students to make positive lifestyle choices and by introducing the redemptive power of Christ. Through their work, they have seen lives transformed, families restored, and lasting generational impacts.

Care at Christ the King

Congregational Prayers

Can we pray for you? Let us know at christtheking.com/care or contact catherine.duffin@christtheking.com.

Deacons at Christ the King

The deacons come alongside our church body to assist with needs like encouragement and prayer, budgeting and financial coaching, and helping widows and elderly. If you have a need, or know of a need, please email them at deacons@christtheking.com.

The Barnabas Center

We are honored to help you find healing, understanding, and hope in your life and current circumstances through Christ-centered professional counseling. Please visit our website at barnabascenterhou.com for more information and to connect with a counselor.

Pastors at Christ the King

Our staff is excited to come alongside you as you grow in your worship of Christ and your love and care for one another. Please contact any of us with questions or needs.

You can find contact information for all of our staff and pastors at christtheking.com/staff/.

Clay Holland

John Trapp

Andrés Zelaya

Pastor, Family Ministry

Senior Pastor

Pastor, Adult Ministry