

Hope

Love

A LIGHT IN

THE DARKNESS

Peace

Joy

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3, 2023  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Luke 1

**Leader:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and redeemed his people.

**People:** **He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he said through his holy prophets of long ago.**

**Leader:** He did this to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath he swore to Abraham.

**People:** **To rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
in holiness and righteousness before him  
all our days.**

## ❖ COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

HYFRDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, Charles Wesley and Mark E. Hunt

Come thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee, day-spring from on high appear  
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse of thy birth we long to hear  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth  
Go to him your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end  
By his life he brings us gladness our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall  
This the ever-lasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne

❖ **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.

❖ **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*

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

10:30 SERVICE

Piper Jean Nixon

## PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.

**All: The first candle reminds us of the prophets' hope for God's salvation to come, as Isaiah prophesied:**

**"The Lord himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel.**

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

### COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

Sandra McCracken

*Chorus:*

*For you O Lord our souls in stillness wait*

*For you O Lord our souls in stillness wait*

*Truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you*

O Lord of life our only hope, your radiance shines on all who look  
To you in the dark Emmanuel come, come light our hearts (*Ch*)

Oh joy above all other loves, in you we find more than enough  
We come as we are O heal and restore

Come light our hearts (*Repeat*) (*Ch*)

*Truly our hope is in you*

### ✚ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O promised Christ: we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## ❖ WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD

1 Timothy 1:15

Leader: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
Let us rejoice that Jesus has come for us!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

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

**People: And also with you!**

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Lauren Daniels  
Will McKee

## THE OFFERING

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38, p. 855  
San Lucas 1:26-38, p. 1412

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

“The Birth of Jesus Foretold”  
*A Light in the Darkness*

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## FIRST COMMUNIONS

### 9:00 SERVICE

Brooklyn Mari Biringer  
Lauren Elizabeth Foley  
Benjamin Harold Stollberg  
Henderson Arnett Cagle

### 10:30 SERVICE

Piper Jean Nixon  
Isabella Sophia Wohleber

*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.*

### Prayer of Humble Access

*I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, therefore, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in him and he in me. 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.*

### Oración de acceso humilde

*No presumo venir a esta mesa, oh Señor de misericordia, confiando en mi propia bondad, si no sólo en tu justicia acreditada a mí. No soy digno tanto como para recoger las migajas debajo de tu mesa. Pero tú eres el mismo Señor cuya manera es siempre mostrar misericordia. Concédeme, pues, oh Señor, la gracia de comulgar ahora con Cristo por la fe, para que pueda vivir cada vez más en él y él en mí. Amén.*

## COME, THOU FOUNT

Robert Robinson, Luke Brawner, and John Wyeth

Come thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me that melodious sonnet  
Glory to the Lord on high  
Thy bright star, I'm fixed upon it  
Knowing hope for all is nigh

Come thou long-awaited Savior  
Come with mortal men to dwell  
Come in flesh, O Love Incarnate  
God with us, Emmanuel

Son of God, O Son of David  
Son of Mary, Son of Man  
Hope of everything created  
From thy throne to Bethlehem (*Repeat*)

Hope of everything created  
From thy throne to Bethlehem

## ❖ GOD WITH US

David Ingram and Leslie Jordan

You've come to bring peace, to be love  
To be nearer to us  
And you've come to bring life, to be Light  
To shine brighter in us  
O Emmanuel, God with us

*Chorus:*

*Our Deliverer, you are Savior  
In your presence we find our strength  
Over everything our Redemption, God with us  
You are God with us*

You've come to be hope to this world  
For your honor and name  
And you've come to take sin, to bear shame  
And to conquer the grave  
O Emmanuel, God with us (*Ch*)

You are here, you are holy  
We are standing in your glory (3x)  
You are here, you are holy  
We are standing in your glory Lord

*Our Deliverer, you are Savior;  
In your presence we find our strength  
Over everything our Redemption, God with us (Repeat)  
You are God with us (3x)*

❖ **BENEDICTION**

from Psalm 98

Minister: The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness  
in the sight of the nations.

May his blessing be upon us, his people.

**People: Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

❖ **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

VENI EMMANUEL, Bob Kauffin and Steve Cook, Latin antiphons

*Rejoice, rejoice*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel*

**Worship Leaders**

<i>Joe Beam</i>	<i>drums</i>
<i>Daniel Campbell</i>	<i>keyboard &amp; vocals</i>
<i>Sam Cornelius</i>	<i>electric guitar</i>
<i>Joe Deegan</i>	<i>guitar &amp; vocals</i>
<i>Joshua Valdez</i>	<i>reading</i>
<i>Natalie Mann</i>	<i>violin</i>
<i>Scott Perry</i>	<i>prayer</i>
<i>Paul Tierce</i>	<i>bass</i>
<i>John Trapp</i>	<i>sermon</i>
<i>Steven Wiggs</i>	<i>cello</i>
<i>Jessica Wrabel</i>	<i>vocals</i>
<i>Andrés Zelaya</i>	<i>liturgy</i>

**Audio/Visual Team**

<i>Zach Day</i>	<i>audio</i>
<i>Quincy Gomez-Wright</i>	<i>camera</i>
<i>Namath Naif</i>	<i>technical director</i>
<i>Alex Rollo</i>	<i>camera</i>
<i>Arjan Voogt</i>	<i>projections</i>
<i>Max Gomez-Wright</i>	<i>video director</i>
<i>Clara Whites</i>	<i>camera</i>

*The Advent Candles are lit this week by  
the Erika & Neil Michaelsen 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

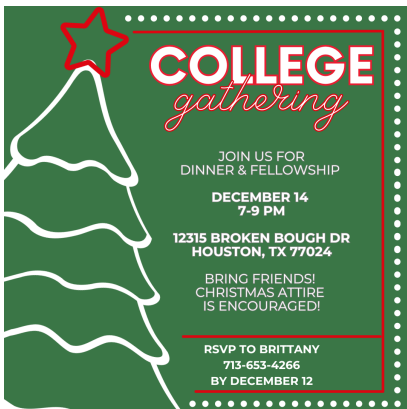
**9:00 am Room A300**

**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.



## Upcoming Events

Today	Celebration of the Ministry of Lauren Daniels and Will McKee	After each service	The Great Hall
Today	Traveling Table Lunch	12:30 pm	1370 Afton St or 1118 Coldstream Rd
Tonight	Student Ministry Sunday Nights	5:30 - 7:00 pm	Christ the King
Tonight	Young Adults Christmas Party	7:00 - 9:00 pm	13311 Perthshire
12/8	Children's Ministry Christmas Party	9:30 - 11:30 am	The Great Hall
12/14	College Students Winter Break Gathering	7:00 pm	12315 Broken Bough, 77024
12/17	College Students Sunday Morning Class Begins	10:30 am	Room A301
12/24	Christmas Eve Services	2:30, 4:00 & 5:30 pm	The Sanctuary
1/10	Midweek Prayer	12:00 - 12:30 pm	The Sanctuary
1/19 & 1/20	Building Brave Families Conference	Fri: 6:00 - 8:00 pm Sat: 9:00 - 11:00 am	The Sanctuary

### Celebration of the Ministry of Lauren Daniels and Will McKee

*After each service today, The Great Hall*

Please join us for a reception in celebration of the ministry of Lauren Daniels and Will McKee as we express our gratitude for how each has faithfully served the children and students of Christ the King.



### Christmas Poinsettias

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



### Young Adults Christmas Party

*December 3, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, 13311 Perthshire Road*

All Young Adults are invited to join us tonight for a Christmas Party. We will enjoy fajitas, games, carols, prizes, and fun! Wear your Christmas best and bring your Christmas cheer.



**Children's Ministry Christmas Party**  
*December 8, 9:30 - 11:30 am, The Great Hall*

Join us for some Christmas fun! We will have snow, bouncy houses, a service project, crafts and lots of fun things for your kids! You will not want to miss it! Please come, and invite your friends and neighbors. This event is free and registration is not required.



**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



**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.

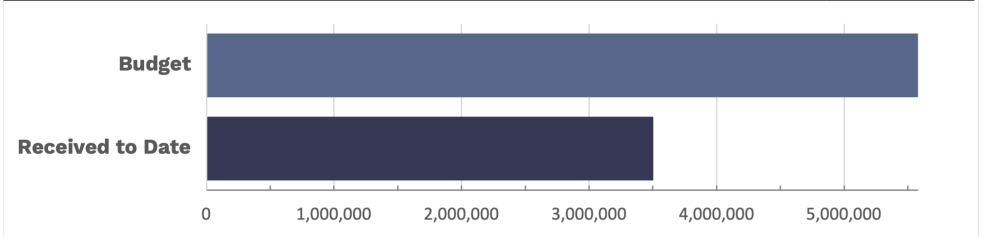


**Men's Retreat**  
*February 16-18, Stoney Creek Ranch, New Ulm, TX*

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](http://christtheking.com/men).

## Ministry Budget Update

2023 Ministry Budget	\$ 5,580,000
Received as of 11/26	\$ 3,503,616
Variance	\$ (2,076,384)



### 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](http://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](http://christtheking.com/care) or contact [catherine.duffin@christtheking.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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/](http://christtheking.com/staff/).

**Clay Holland**

**John Trapp**

**Andrés Zelaya**

Pastor, Family Ministry

Senior Pastor

Pastor, Adult Ministry