

Hope

Love

A LIGHT IN

THE DARKNESS

Peace

Joy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2023
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 9

Leader: 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:

**People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Of the increase of his government
and of peace there will be no end.

People: Jesus, our King, has come to us!

❖ JOY TO THE WORLD

ANTIOCH, G.F. Handel and Isaac Watts

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love
And wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love
And wonders, wonders of his love

❖ **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*

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.

The second candle reminds us of Jesus' humility in coming to earth and being born in a stall.

The third candle reminds us of the joy of the shepherds as they heard the good news of Jesus' arrival.

People: The fourth candle reminds us of the angels' song of peace for all the earth, as we find in Luke's gospel:

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

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

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

W ZLOBIE LEZY, Traditional Polish carol

Infant holy, infant lowly
For his bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all
Swiftly winging angels singing
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of all
Christ the babe is Lord of all

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story
Tidings of a gospel true
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow
Praises voicing, greet the morrow
Christ the babe was born for you
Christ the babe was born for you

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, you give us
the greatest gift of all, yourself,
but often we find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts,
given and received.

Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way
we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and
enter in, be born in us today. Amen.

❖ WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD

Galatians 4:4-5

Leader: When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, in order to redeem
those who were under the law,
so that we might be adopted as children.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-14, p. 857

Matthew 11:25-30, p. 816

San Lucas 2:8-14, p. 1414

San Mateo 11:25-30, p. 1345

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

“Finding Rest in the Prince of Peace”
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.

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, O REDEEMER, COME

Fernando Ortega

Father enthroned on high, holy, holy
Ancient, eternal Light hear our prayer

Chorus:

Come O Redeemer come, grant us mercy

Come O Redeemer come, grant us peace

Lord save us from the dark of our striving
Faithless and troubled hearts weighed down (*Ch*)

Look now upon our need, Lord be with us
Heal us and make us free from our sin (*Ch*)

❖ 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 Romans 15

Minister: May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, so that you may abound
in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

❖ O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, Latin Antiphons

*Rejoice, rejoice
Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel*

Worship Leaders

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Joe Beam | drums |
| Conrad Guthrie | bass |
| Michelle Hays | violin |
| Clay Holland | sermon |
| Will McKee | liturgy |
| Katie Reyes | guitar & vocals |
| Anna Thielemann | guitar & vocals |
| Steven Wiggs | cello |
| Jenny Yang | keyboard |

Audio/Visual Team

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Arjan Voogt | projections |
| Namath Naif | technical director |

Advent Candle Lighters
The Michelle & Alan Smith Family

CCLI# 1268735



Advent Poinsettias

Given by

In memory of

Anne & Cary Goss

Rick McCord, Toby Peterson

Bob Hansen

Lucy Hansen

Callie and Clayton Johnson

Bertis Hall

Cameron & Sage, Kirby, Morgan,
Dorothy & Ronny

Curtis Mewbourne

Carolyn and Doug Sparkes

Jean and Jack Durkee,
JoAnn and Bill Sparkes

Cecille and George Shannon

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Carameros,
Mr. and Mrs. George Shannon

Colby, Lisa, Kennedy, and
Avery Hodges

Merlin Remmenga

Cuenod Family

Grace Bunch & Eleanor Stampfli

Curt and Mariann Kieffer

Frank Kieffer, Craig Kieffer

David & Jenny Morrison

Ted Bereswill

Donnie and Laura Maddox

Jeff Maddox

Emily Kuo and Michael Chu

Dr. Eunice Kuo

Farrell and Stuart Saunders

Ross Harris

Heather and Chris Springer

Issac Sterett

Ian, Katie, Wesley, and
Scottie Gomez

Hazel "Gigi" Wallace

James and Jennifer Romig

In Memory of Our Mothers -
Carol Romig and Linda Wallace

Jan and Jerry Dollinger

Artie and Chick Dollinger,
Maxine and Rodney Barry

Jana Fay and Charles Bacarisse

Beloved parents J. Cullen Paxton,
Lorena Paxton, Dr. Charles A.
Bacarisse, Eleanor Bacarisse
Bering, Donald R. Bering,
Amy Gawlik

Kate and Brett Nixon

Jean Cook, David Graham

Kay-Kay and Peter Tolsma

Harold Tolsma, Gary W. Garrett

Kelly and Brian Adams

Margo Adams

L & D Maganza

Leon Maganza, Jr.

Margie Lawnmower Saibara

Ted Tunes Jones

Mary Hackerman

Grace and Max Bunch

Mary Katherine & Chris Weeks

Charles Baskin, Cottie & Jack
Battles, Nadine & Richard Cook



Advent Poinsettias

Given by

In memory of

Melissa Ford
Michael Bollero

Michelle and Jason Bennett
and family

Morgan, Kirby, Cameron,
Mom & Dad
Omalu Cole
Pam and Bill Walker

Patrick and Wendy McWilliams

Peyton & Grace Easley

Phil, Carolyn, Christina and
Meredith

Ryan and Barbara Landis

Sergio DeLeon and Family

Steve and Dru Bennett

Stuart, Ashlie, Caroline, Charlotte,
and Claire Hutton

Ted, Ali, Henry, Gus and George

The Coffey Family
The Durie Family

The Hays Family
The Hinton Family
The Low Family
The McDonalds

The Rausch Family
The Shields Family - Mike, Dana,
and Lauren

The Thielemann Family

The Urquiola Family

Weldon and Cynthia Guest
Will, Caroline, Sebastian, and
Wesley McKee

My loving husband, Thomas Ford
Debra Kay, Richard Horn,
Albert Bollero

Loving grandparents: Wymore and
Zenobia Goldberg, DeWitt and
Katherine Smith

Grayson Monroe Cuenod

My beloved husband, Dudley Cole
Our Parents, Grandparents, and
Pam's sister, Our Extended Family
Members--Aunts, Uncles, and
Cousins

Michael Scott McWilliams;
Mike, Dad, Poppy
Jack Marshall Owens, Jr.,
Robert Allen Easley, III
Eleanor Stampfli, Shirley Betti

Debbie Landis, Jackie Woerner,
Bob Woerner

Our beloved Carlos and Irma
DeLeon, and Marvin Wright

Our parents, Hazel and Wes
Wallace, Dane Bennett

William Thomas Hutton

Our sweet brother and uncle,
Willie

Granddaddy
Charlie and Martha Durie,
Bill and Dorothy Hightower
Posy McKee, Becky Dougan
Richard Hinton

David Low
Eddy/Dad/Papa Moffitt
Carrie McKnight, Judy Bird
Irvin Shields, Viola Shields

Joe Meador & Vernon Thielemann,
Mike McWilliams

Mary Lou Escareno, Hugo Urquiola
C., Judy and Roland Reid, Polly
Gilbert, Rex Adams

Weldon and Maxine Guest
Our Sweet Posy



Advent Poinsettias

Given by

In honor of

Adrienne and Bart Agee

Cathy Dillard, Jeri Dillard,
Flo and Joe Dillard

Anne & Cary Goss

Jane McCord, Lin and Randy Goss

Callie and Clayton Johnson

Ford, Knox, and Reece Johnson

Christina Gessner-McWhorter

Becca Schwinger, mentor and
friend

Colby, Kennedy, and Avery Hodges

Lisa Hodges

Cuenod Family

Everlyn Giles

Cynthia and Weldon Guest

Bruce and Marilyn Terrill

Dash Hays

Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Taaffe, and all
the teachers at The Preschool at
Christ the King

Elise and Jeff Cross

Our Clergy and Staff , Family
members of our Clergy and Staff

Farrell and Stuart Saunders

Our children: Lee, Laura, Harris
and Ross Saunders;
Our parents: Lynn Harris, Gayle
and Fred Saunders

Heather and Chris Springer

Susan and James Anderson,
Sally and Steve Springer

Kelly and Brian Adams

Susan and Larry Kachler

Kim & Scott Cook

Mary Katherine & Chris Weeks

L & D Maganza

Leon & Ruby Maganza

Marc and Debbie Hamilton

Chottie, Zack, and Lauren
Hamilton

Mary Henley Green

Women's Ministry Bible Study
Leaders & Team

Mom and Dad

Our boys, Henry, Gus and George

Omalu Cole

All the CTK Staff

Parents of Covenant Progeny

Bungie Cord Progeny

Phil, Carolyn, Christina and
Meredith

Grandpa, G.G. and NāNā



Advent Poinsettias

Given by

In honor of

Rosie McWhorter

Teresa Garcia

The Children's Ministry Staff

The Fox Family

The Holton Family

The McDonalds

The McWilliams Family

The Thielemann Family

The Zucker family

William, Georgia, Mary Sterling
and Audrey Webster

Your Church Family

Your Church Family

Billie McKee

Amy Curry, Carolyn Sparkes

Will McKee

Our Community Group

Joyce and Bill McMoran

Those who have encouraged our
family this year

Lauren Daniels and Will McKee for
their selfless service to our
children in Code 45 and Student
Ministry over the years

Bonnie Meador and
Carol Thielemann

Our loving grandparents,
Our Heights small group friends

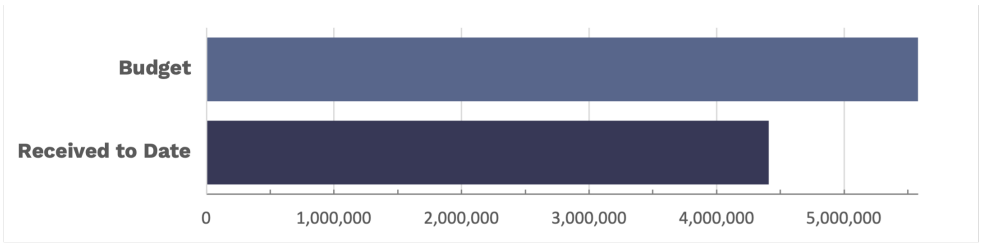
Robin and Jim Livesay

The Elders and Elder Advisors

The Deacons and Deacon
Assistants

Ministry Budget Update

| | | |
|----------------------|----|-------------|
| 2023 Ministry Budget | \$ | 5,580,000 |
| Received as of 12/17 | \$ | 4,407,861 |
| Variance | \$ | (1,172,139) |



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.



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



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



College Students Sunday School Class

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!



Adult Sunday Morning Class

January 7, 9:00 & 10:30 am, The 3rd Floor

Join us starting January 7 for a new Adult Sunday Morning Class on Hebrews. We are all tempted to drift away from Jesus, but in the book of Hebrews God gives us an anchor: a detailed understanding of how and why Jesus is better than anything else.

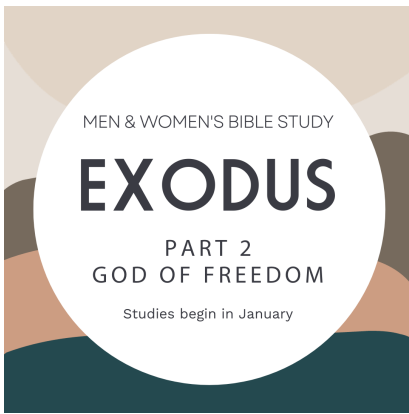
You can jump into this class at any time, even if it is your first time visiting a Sunday School. All are welcome! No registration necessary.



Midweek Prayer

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

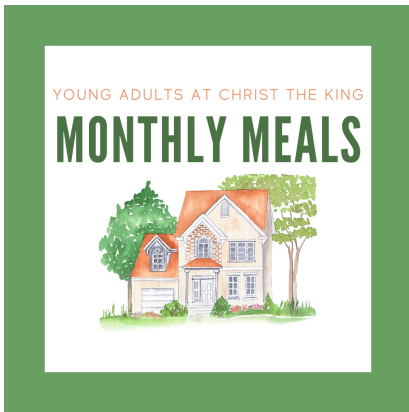
We are taking a break for the holidays and will meet again on January 10. Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesdays at noon when our church gathers for 30 minutes of prayer led by our pastors. Together we spend time praying Scripture, sitting in moments of silent prayer, and praying for members of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



Bible Study

Join us as we study Exodus and 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.



Young Adults Monthly Meals

*Thursday, January 11, 7:30 pm,
13730 Alchester*

Join us for a great meal hosted by a family from the church! Every month we gather in the homes of our broader church family to enjoy a home-cooked meal and fellowship. Invite your friends and join us!



Made With Love Meals Available

Every month volunteers gather to make meals so that anyone can grab them and bring them to someone in their life who needs care. Please stop by the kitchen today to grab a free meal!

Before exciting the Sanctuary through the narthex, turn right and go through the wooden, double doors. There you will see our kitchen. Turn right again and the freezer on your right is filled with meals!



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.