

Hope

Love

A LIGHT IN

THE DARKNESS

Peace

Joy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2023
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Revelation 22

Leader: I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify
to you about these things for the churches.
I am the root and the descendant of David,
the bright morning star.

**People: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."
And let the one who hears say, "Come."
And let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who desires take the water
of life without price.**

Leader: Surely I am coming soon.

People: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

❖ 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.

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

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them".

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

DRIVE OUT THE DARKNESS

Dan Marotta, Isaac Wardell, John Swinton, & Paul Zach

Chorus:

Come, O come be our light

Drive out the darkness

Come, Jesus come

Every year under the thorn
Every wrong that we have known
Every valley will be raised
Ancient ruins will be remade *(Ch)*

Every weapon made for war
Every gun and every sword
Will be melted in the flame
To be used for gardening *(Ch)*

In the emptiness of grief
Through the night of suffering
In the loss and in the tears
God our comfort, O be near

Chorus 2:
Come, O come
Be our light, drive out the darkness
Come, O come
Be our light, drive out the darkness

Come end all the violence
Come do not be silent
Come hold to your promise
Come break all injustice
Come, Jesus come

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us
as the light of the world – to reveal your love for us,
and to redeem us as a people who walk in your light.

But we have obscured the glory of your presence
within us by sinning in thought, word, and deed.
We have chosen often to walk in the darkness
instead of your light.

In your mercy, fill us again with your Spirit,
so that, forgiven and renewed,
we may show forth the same glory
that shines fully in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

❖ WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD

Isaiah 42:16

Leader: I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground. These are
the things I will do and I will not forsake them.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

THE OFFERING

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

arr. Gary Lanier

James Romig, horn
Paul Brennan, piano

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-14, p. 857
San Lucas 2:1-14, p. 1414

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

“Joy When Not Every Day is Sunday”
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.

COMFORT

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

Chorus:

Comfort, comfort my people says the Lord

All your waste and loss shall be restored forevermore

The Lord has seen the nations walk in dark

The Lord has heard every cry

The Lord will gather his people in his arms

They shall behold glorious light

For the former things will pass away

And all will be made right

Unto you is born this day

A Savior who is Christ the Lord (Ch)

The Lord will not stay silent on his throne

The Lord will send his own Son

He will come at the breaking of the dawn

And give hope where there is none

For the former things will pass away

And all will be made right

Unto you is born this day

A Savior who is Christ the Lord

Comfort, comfort my people says the Lord

All your waste and loss shall be restored (Ch)

❖ HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Wesley

Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King

❖ BENEDICTION

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Minister: May the God of peace himself sanctify
you entirely; and may your spirit and soul
and body be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Daniel Campbell	keyboard & vocals
Sam Cornelius	electric guitar
Joe Deegan	guitar & vocals
Mary Henley Green	prayer
Rob Gunn	reading
Conrad Guthrie	bass
Clay Holland	liturgy
Kurt Kemmerly	drums
Natalie Mann	violin
Stefany Recinos	vocals
Steven Wiggs	cello
Andrés Zelaya	sermon

Audio/Visual Team

John Bard	video director
David Breed	camera
Matt Dreyer	projections
Billie McKee	camera
Collette McMurtrey	camera
Namath Naif	technical director

Advent Candle Lighters
The Ashley & Brad Stollberg 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)

Children through adults will not have Sunday School classes on 12/24 and 12/31.

Adult Sunday Morning Class

9:00 am	Room A300	The Gospel of Mark
10:30 am	The Redeemer Room	The Gospel of Mark
10:30 am	Room A300	College Students



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!



Adult Sunday Morning Class

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 required.

Upcoming Events

12/24	Christmas Eve Services	2:30, 4:00 & 5:30 pm	The Sanctuary
12/24	No Sunday School Children - Adults		
12/31	New Year's Eve Worship Services	9:00 & 10:30 am	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
1/11	Young Adults Monthly Meals	7:30 - 9:30 pm	13730 Alchester
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

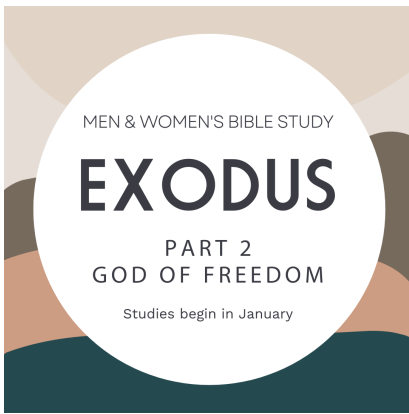
- No Sunday School for children through adults
- Children's Worship at 9:00 am
- Nursery Care: 8 weeks - PreK during both services

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.

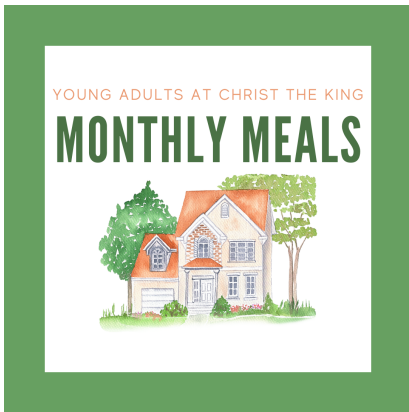




Bible Study

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!



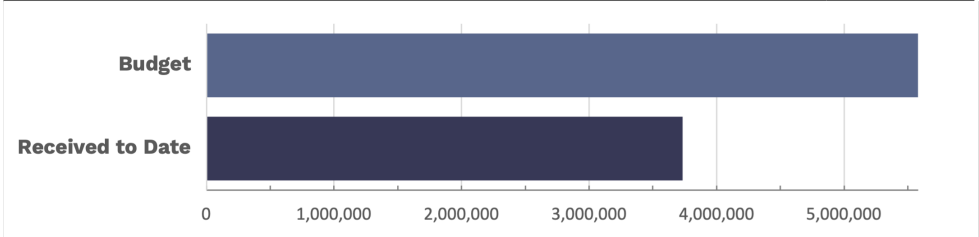
Men's Retreat

*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.

Ministry Budget Update

2023 Ministry Budget	\$ 5,580,000
Received as of 12/10	\$ 3,734,562
Variance	\$ (1,845,438)



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