



glory
to God in the
highest



ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alex Martinez (9:00)
Rev. Andrés Zelaya (10:30)

Minister: Come, let us worship our God and King!

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!

Minister: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

People: Jesus Christ is our life and light!

❖ ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

GLORIA, Traditional French carol

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song (*Ref*)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King (*Ref*)

❖ PRAYER OF ADORATION

O Antiphons

Minister: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: O, Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

All: God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 35

Minister: What does it mean that Jesus "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

People: That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might become David's true descendant, like his brothers in every way except for sin.

❖ COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Charles Wesley and Joe Deegan

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

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

Chorus:

*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 (2x)*

PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL, Bob Kaufflin 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 cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight

Chorus:

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Harwood Family

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 Christ
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

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

Minister: The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

People: And also with you!

BUILDING TOWARD THE PROMISE UPDATE

Joe Foley

THE OFFERING

Tim Brown, *piano*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20
page 857

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

The Angels' Song
The Songs of Advent

Rev. Stacey Croft

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.

*During communion, 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.

BUILDING TOWARD THE PROMISE

Joe Deegan, John Trapp

Oh, the promise throughout the ages
Wonder from the heavens above
Jesus builds his holy temple
Through his Spirit, sent in love

Refrain:

*Christ our King, the risen savior
Seated at the father's right hand
Build your church as you have promised
For your children from every land*

Christ, the temple of your body
Spirit-risen on that third day
Cornerstone by man rejected
Ours, the rock, that will not decay (*Ref*)

Hail the risen branch of Jesse
David's son yet David's Lord
Sends his spirit as he promised
Faithful always to his word (*Ref*)

Oh the promise throughout the ages
Sealed by blood, delivered by grace
For ourselves and for our children
For his people far away (*Ref*)

ALL THINGS NEW AGAIN

Joe Deegan

For behold he will create
A new heavens and new earth
He will drive away our sorrow and our pain
This momentary grief, though heavy as it seems
Will be crushed by glory’s great eternal weight

Chorus:
He will make all things new again
He will keep all his promises
He will love all who come to him
He will make all things new again

For behold the sun will rise
Over wastelands dead and dry
In its place shall spring a river full of life
Every wrong will be undone
Every thirsty soul shall come
And drink from living water without price (Ch)

For behold the holy mountain
Where wolf and lamb shall graze
Where we lay our heads and finally find our home
Where the songs we sang in shadows
Will be sung to God’s own face
Where his smile will be the thing we treasure most
Oh his smile will be the thing we treasure most (Ch)

❖ BENEDICTION

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.

❖ ADVENT HYMN

Pat Barrett, Graham Kendrick, Aaron Keyes, Chris Moerman, Eric Priest, and Ben Smith

He will come, our Wonderous Counselor
He will come, our Mighty God
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal
He will come, our God with us

Worship Leaders		Audio/Visual Team	
Tim Brown	piano	Paul Brennan	projections
Emily Cagle	vocals	Zach Day	audio
Sam Cornelius	guitar	Quin Gomez-Wright	camera
Stacey Croft	sermon	Colby Hodges	video director
Joe Deegan	guitar & vocals	Samuel Hunniford	camera
Conrad Guthrie	bass	Alex Martinez	Spanish translation
Michelle Hays	violin	Namath Naif	technical director
Travis Henthorn	drums	Alex Rollo	camera
Alex Martinez	liturgy		
Andrés Zelaya	liturgy		
CCLI# 1268735			

*Welcome! We are so glad you are with us today.
For a full list of upcoming events,
please visit christtheking.com.*

Sunday Morning at Christ the King

9:00 am Worship Service

Nursery Care
8 weeks - PreK

Children's Worship
K-2nd grade
Children will be dismissed from the
worship service.

Adult Sunday Morning Class
(Room A300, 3rd Floor)

10:30 am Worship Service

Nursery Care
8 weeks - 1 year

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

**Student Ministry
Sunday Mornings**
6th - 12th grade
(3rd floor)

Adult Sunday Morning Class
(The Redeemer Room, 3rd Floor)

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

All are welcome! No registration necessary. Classes meet on the 3rd floor.

CTK 101

Join us for CTK 101 an introduction to the core beliefs that shape our life together as a church. In this class, we'll explore key theological themes—such as Scripture, justification, and the nature of the church—that help us better understand what it means to follow Jesus. Our hope is to encourage and equip you to worship God, grow in his grace, and serve his kingdom with confidence and joy.

Upcoming Events

Tonight	Advent Song Night	5:00 - 6:00 pm	The Sanctuary
12/24	Christmas Eve Services	2:30, 4:00, 5:30 & 10:00 pm	The Sanctuary
1/4	Young Adults Coffee	10:00 - 10:30 am	Main Street
1/11	Student Ministry Sunday Night Live	5:30 - 7:00 pm	The Redeemer Room
1/15	Made with Love Meal Prep	9:30 am or 6:30 pm	The Kitchen
1/18	Membership Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	Room A300
1/24	Sacred Studio	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Christ the King
1/25	2nd & 3rd Grade Family Lunch	11:45 am - 1:00 pm	The Great Hall



Christmas Poinsettias



Help fill our Sanctuary with the beauty of Christmas! Each poinsettia is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special this Advent season. The names of donors and honorees will be listed in the Christmas Eve Order of Worship. To be included, **please submit your dedication by today, December 14.**



Advent Song Night

TONIGHT, December 14, 5:00 pm, Christ the King

Join us for our annual Advent Song Night! This is a festive gathering for all ages. We'll sing together as a church family, learn some of the stories behind your favorite Christmas songs, and have a short lesson for the kids.



Christmas Eve

Celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! Invite your friends and family to our Christmas Eve services at 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, and 10:00 pm.

Childcare will be available for infants through PreK at the 2:30 and 4:00 pm services.

We will worship with candlelight at 4:00, 5:30, and 10:00 pm



Made with Love Meal Prep

January 15

Come join us every 3rd Thursday as we cook meals for friends, neighbors, and anyone who could use a little love and encouragement. It's a fun, meaningful way to serve—with a morning (9:30–11:30 am) and evening option (6:30–8:30 pm). All ages welcome, no skills required! Space is limited, so sign up today at christtheking.com/serve.



Membership Class

1/18, 1/24, 2/1, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Room A300

Join us as we dive deeper into the mission, vision and values of Christ the King. You'll meet some of the pastors, elders, leaders, and staff members who are eager to walk alongside you on your spiritual journey. This class does not obligate you to become a member, but it is required if you are pursuing membership. Register at christtheking.com/membership.



Sacred Studio

January 24, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Women are invited to gather for Sacred Studio—a day designed for connection, creativity, and encouragement. Together we'll enjoy meaningful, gospel-centered teaching, a delicious lunch, and hands-on workshops called studios. This event is open to women of all ages - high school through adults. Register at christtheking.com/women.



2nd & 3rd Grade Family Lunch

January 25, 11:45 - 1:00 pm, The Great Hall

Join us for a fun afternoon of food and fellowship! Enjoy pizza, drinks, and a sweet treat while getting to know other 2nd and 3rd grade families. Siblings are welcome—and don't forget socks so your kids can enjoy the indoor playground! RSVP at christtheking.com/children.



Bible Studies

Registration is open for this spring's Bible Study! If you joined us in the fall, no need to re-register. And if you've been thinking about joining a group, this is the perfect time. We'll be diving into the book of Galatians and considering how Paul's words to the early church continue to shape and encourage us now. Groups are available for men, women, and young adults at various times and locations. Register at christtheking.com.

Building Toward the Promise

Sign up for a Campaign Conversation

The Building Toward the Promise campaign isn't just about buildings —it's about relationships. That's why we want to meet with every person in our church family for a one-on-one visit. These conversations will give you a chance to hear the vision, celebrate what God is doing, ask questions, and pray together.



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.

Stacey Croft	Pastor, Adult Ministry
Clay Holland	Pastor, Family Ministry
Alex Martinez	Pastor, Latino Ministry
John Trapp	Senior Pastor
Andrés Zelaya	Pastor of the Latino Initiative & Church Plant Resident

Ministry Budget Update

2025 Ministry Budget	\$	6,488,151
Received as of 12/07	\$	5,327,698
Variance	\$	(1,160,453)

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.

