

# God with Us

ADVENT 2020



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 20, 2020  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Philipians 4

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always.

**People: I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Minister: Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near.

**People: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.  
Let us worship God!**

## ❖ ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

REGENT SQUARE, James Montgomery and Henry Smart

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Refrain:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star: *(Refrain)*

Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear: *(Refrain)*

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One: *(Refrain)*

## ❖ PRAYER OF ADORATION

## ❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, #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.**

## Maggie Olinde

*Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin adventus, meaning 'arrival'). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, and so on. Each of the candles has special significance. The final candle, the Christ candle, is lit at Christmas.*

**Minister:** The Advent wreath helps us remember the miracle of God's becoming human 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!"

**Minister:** So let us stand and sing as we celebrate the coming of God to the world!

## ❖ 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! (*Chorus*)

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)*

## PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD

### SAVIOR OF MANKIND

Luke Brawner, Joe Deegan, Rebekah Maddux EL-Hakam, Charles Wesley, & Paul Yoon

Let the angels and archangels sing  
The Son of God, Emmanuel's name.  
Adore with us our newborn King;  
Still the joyful news proclaim.

*All heav'n and earth be ever joined  
To praise the Savior of mankind. (Repeat)*

The everlasting God comes down  
To walk with the sons of men  
Without his majesty or crown;  
The great invisible is seen.

*Of all his dazzling glories shorn  
The everlasting God is born. (Repeat)*

Angels see the infant's face,  
With rapturous awe the Godhead own.  
'Tis all your heav'n on him to gaze  
And cast your crowns before his throne.

*Now, he on his footstools lies  
For he built both earth and skies. (Repeat)*

By him into existence brought;  
You sang the all creating word.  
Ye heard him call our world from nought,  
Again in honor of your Lord.

*Morning stars your hymns employ;  
Shout you sons of God for joy. (Repeat)*

### 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.

### ❖ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Timothy 1:15

Minister: 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: **Through Christ our King, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!**

## ❖ 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? *(Refrain)*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *(Refrain)*

## ❖ THE PEACE OF GOD

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

**People:** And also with you!

## THE OFFERING

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 11

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## THE SERMON

“God with Us in Grief”

*God with Us*

# 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, belong to (and are in good standing with) a church that embraces the gospel, live at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully are welcome to partake. If you are not a Christian, please consider spending this time in prayer.*

**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

**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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

❖ **ADVENT HYMN (SONG OF ISAIAH)**

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

In the darkness of our night  
The Lord will come and shine his light,  
Give the blind new eyes to see,  
Throw off their chains, and set them free.

*(Chorus)*  
He will come, our Wond’rous Counselor.  
He will come, our Mighty God,  
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal.  
He will come, our God with us.

When the chosen time arrived  
God sent his Son – the Sacrifice.  
Born a man, our sins to end,  
To die, to rise, and to ascend.

He has come, our Wond’rous Counselor.  
He has come, our Mighty God,  
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal.  
He has come, our God with us.

When the final trumpet sounds  
And every foe is then cast down,  
Christ, our Lord, will take the throne,  
And reign forever with his own. *(Chorus)*  
  
And he shall reign forever and ever. *(4x) (Chorus)*

❖ **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.**

❖ **GOD WITH US**

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

Worship Leaders		Audio/Visual Team	
Joe Beam	drums	Patrick Coffey	projections
Daniel Campbell	keyboard & vocals	Abigail Cunningham	camera
Joe Deegan	guitar & vocals	Colby Hodges	switcher
Micaela Dougan	vocals	Namath Naif	audio
Conrad Guthrie	bass		
Clay Holland	sermon		
Taylor Leachman	liturgy		
Carey Lewis	electric guitar		
Yvonne Smith	viola		
CCLI# 1268735			

# END OF YEAR GIVING

Gifts to the church must be received or  
postmarked by December 31 to be  
included in our 2020 records.

[Carolyn.Betti@christtheking.com](mailto:Carolyn.Betti@christtheking.com)

This certainly has been a year of unexpected events, hasn't it? When we began 2020, Coronavirus was in the news but not part of the everyday lexicon, the November elections seemed like a long way away, and Christ the King was not in the process of exploring a leadership transition. Today, we are surrounded, in many ways, by the unknown.

The unknown is always difficult and often disorienting. That is why it is wise for us as a church to fix our eyes on Jesus, who "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). In a world that moves so quickly and where it feels like we are often tossed to and fro by forces outside our control, it is vital to be reminded of the words of the Psalmist:

For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:5).

I must confess that I am sometimes tempted to doubt the faithfulness of God at this time of year. I doubt because I am often held captive by fear. Will this be the year that the Lord does not provide for Christ the King? What does that even mean in 2020, anyway? Does God know what difficult economic times we are living in, and does he care?

The answer, of course, is that God does know the economic strain of 2020, and he does care. His call on us is to trust in him, and to keep our eyes fixed upon our Savior. I have always been amazed at how faithfully the Lord has provided for the needs of Christ the King, and he is again calling us prayerfully to trust him for his provision for our church.

Please join me in praying that God will meet our every need as he has faithfully done in years past. And as you pray, seek the Lord on how you may participate in addressing both the needs and opportunities before us.

Finally, rest in the strong arms of our Savior Jesus who delights to welcome the weary into his embrace. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

(From a letter to Christ the King from Clay Holland)

## MINISTRY BUDGET UPDATE

Please contact John Allison for more information at (713) 892-5464.

2020 Ministry Budget Goal	\$ 4,615,000
Expected Giving through 12/13/20	\$ 4,437,500
Received as of 12/13/20	\$ 3,427,092
Variance	\$ (1,010,408)



*Welcome! We are so glad you are with us today.  
Here are a few things going on within the life of the church that  
we don't want you to miss. For a full list of upcoming events,  
please visit [christtheaking.com](http://christtheaking.com).*

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### **Congregational News**

We extend our sympathy to Leslie Peacock in the death of her grandfather.

We give praise for the marriage of Laranda Walker to Alex Sims on December 19.

### **Pastoral Leadership Transition**

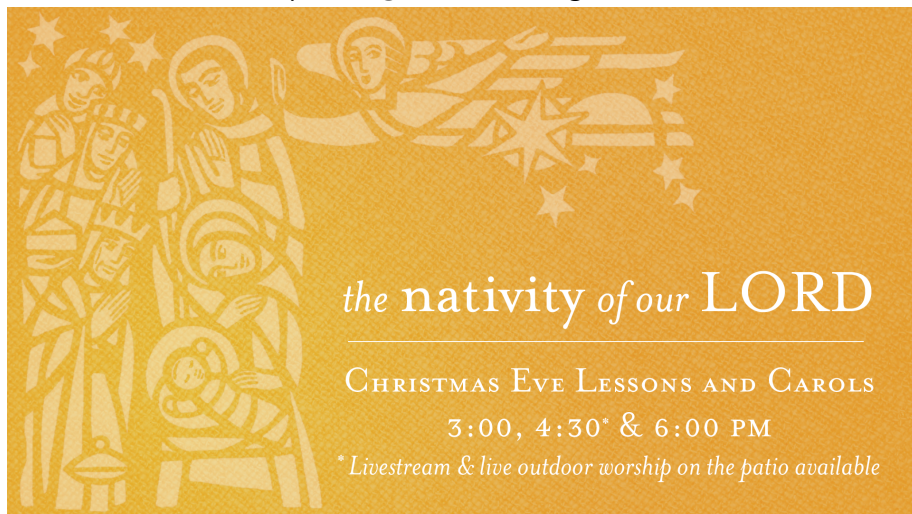
As the Pulpit Committee continues to examine John Trapp as candidate for Senior Pastor of Christ the King, they would like to hear from you. You can contact them and find up-to-date information at [christtheaking.com](http://christtheaking.com).

### **Officer Recommendations**

Church members are invited to recommend individuals for the office of Elder or Deacon. If you would like to see a list of our current Session and Deacons and nominate someone, please visit [christtheaking.com/staff/](http://christtheaking.com/staff/).

### **Relate|Strong Counseling Group**

*Sundays, January 24-February 28, 4:00-5:30 pm, Christ the King*  
Enrich your marriage by increasing your understanding of your spouse and yourself. Todd Parish (M.A.B.C., Th.M., L.P.C.-Associate) will lead couples through a 6-week seminar exploring how Gospel truth can transform painful relationship cycles as well as enhance problem solving and communication skills. The cost for this 6-week group is \$250 per couple. Limited childcare is available. For more information or to reserve your spot, email Todd Parish at [todd.parish@christtheaking.com](mailto:todd.parish@christtheaking.com).

A stylized, golden-yellow illustration of a nativity scene on a dark orange background. It depicts Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, and several angels. The text is in a white serif font.

*the nativity of our* **LORD**

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CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

3:00, 4:30\* & 6:00 PM

*\*Livestream & live outdoor worship on the patio available*



THE **PRESCHOOL**  
AT CHRIST THE KING

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. 1 JOHN 4:19

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tour today*

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