



**CHRIST THE KING**

H O U S T O N

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 27, 2020  
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

## ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation  
for us in the house of David.

**People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Minister: Alleluia! Our King and Savior draws near!

**People: O come, let us adore him!**

## ❖ JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

ANTIOCH, George Frederick Handel and Isaac Watts

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n 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.

## ❖ PRAYER OF ADORATION

## ❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20

Minister: Who is Jesus and why did he come?

**People: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him.**

**And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**

**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

**❖ GRACE OF GOD WITH US**

Brett Younker, Ben Fielding, and Aodhan King

Wonderful and wise in counsel, forever, mighty God;  
Precious Father, everlasting, blessed Prince of Peace.

*Chorus:*

*Glory to God in the highest!*

*Jesus our Savior, the grace of God with us.*

The kings of earth rest on your shoulders;  
You rule on David's throne.  
Your kingdom here is now established,  
Christ our Lord of lords. (*Chorus*)

We bow before you; we worship and adore you.  
You're standing on the throne.

Born that we might know forgiveness,  
Born that we should live;  
With joy and hope and expectation our King will come again;  
Our King will come again. (*Chorus 2x*)

*The grace of God with us;*

*The grace of God with us.*

**PRAYER FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH AND 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.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels 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.

Minister: For our sake he made him  
to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in him we might become  
the righteousness of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ IS HE WORTHY?

Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop  
The light from getting through? We do.  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is.  
Is a new creation coming? It is.  
Is the glory of the Lord to be  
The light within our midst? It is.  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave –  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died  
To ransom the slave.*

*Is he worthy? Is he worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory.  
Is he worthy of this? He is!*

Does the Father truly love us? He does.  
Does the Spirit move among us? He does.  
And does Jesus, our Messiah  
Hold forever those he loves? He does.  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave –  
He is David's root and the Lamb  
Who died to ransom the slave.*

*From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue.  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
To reign with his Son.*

*Is he worthy? Is he worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory.  
Is he worthy? Is he worthy?  
Is he worthy of this? He is!  
Is he worthy? Is he worthy? He is! He is!*

## ❖ THE PEACE OF GOD

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

People: **And also with you!**

## THE OFFERING

### SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 103

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SERMON

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

## 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

❖ **GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Go TELL It, Traditional Spiritual

*Chorus:*  
*Go tell it on the mountain,*  
*Over the hills and everywhere;*  
*Go tell it on the mountain*  
*That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. *(Chorus)*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth. *(Chorus)*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *(Chorus)*

That Jesus Christ is born.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

Minister: May he, who by his Incarnation  
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with the sweetness of  
inward peace and goodwill;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

❖ **IS HE WORTHY?**

*Is he worthy? Is he worthy?*  
*Of all blessing and honor and glory.*  
*Is he worthy? Is he worthy?*  
*Is he worthy of this? He is!*  
*Is he worthy? Is he worthy? He is! He is!*

**Worship Leaders**

Joe Beam	drums
Daniel Campbell	keyboard & vocals
Joe Deegan	guitar & vocals
Conrad Guthrie	bass
Jaime Jimenez	sermon
Taylor Leachman	liturgy
Frank Matta	electric guitar
Katie Reyes	vocals
Steven Wiggs	cello

**Audio/Visual Team**

Phil Betti	switcher
Abigail Cunningham	camera
Colby Hodges	projections
Namath Naif	audio

*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 [christtheking.com](http://christtheking.com).*

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### **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 [christtheking.com](http://christtheking.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 recommend someone, please visit [christtheking.com/staff/](http://christtheking.com/staff/).

### **Congregational Care**

The challenges of living through the Covid-19 pandemic have made it difficult to keep up with everyone and the important milestones in your lives. We want to know how we can pray for you and come alongside you. Please let Catherine Duffin, our Parish Coordinator, know if you are expecting a baby, have experienced a loss, or are processing a new illness so that we can best serve you.



CHRIST THE KING  
COUNSELING  
CENTER

RELATE | STRONG  
INCREASE YOUR UNDERSTANDING  
OF YOUR SPOUSE AND YOURSELF

JANUARY 24-FEBRUARY 28  
4:00-5:30PM

[CHRISTTHEKING.COM/COUNSELING/](http://CHRISTTHEKING.COM/COUNSELING/)



THE PRESCHOOL  
AT CHRIST THE KING  
WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.1 JOHN 4:19

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tour today*

[ThePreschoolAtChristTheKing.com](http://ThePreschoolAtChristTheKing.com)

# 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)