



# CHRIST - THE KING -

The Lord's Day, December 22, 2019

"...taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..."





# CHRIST - THE KING -

## — ORDER OF WORSHIP —

*Thank you for joining us this morning! At Christ the King, our worship is a divine-human dialogue, in accordance with Scriptural example and precedent, alternatively hearing God's Word and responding in prayer, song, or meditation. The boxes throughout the bulletin were written to aid each worshipper in thoughtful and meaningful participation in this dialogue. Please prepare your heart by reading through the bulletin, praying for those leading and worshipping around you, and silencing all communication devices.*

*We encourage parents to involve children as soon as possible in the worship service. In consideration of other worshippers, we request parents with children not yet ready for unobtrusive participation in worship to utilize the nursery or, if necessary, the cry room. A nursery is available for children ages 3 months to 3 years during all Sunday morning activities.*

*\* Indicates congregational standing*

# WE APPROACH THE LORD

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## Prelude

## Call to Worship

*The words of the angels to those shepherds on a lonely hillside centuries ago are words to us as well: "...unto you is born...a Savior..." and "Glory to God in the highest!"*

### Luke 2:1–14 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a

multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
14 "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

### \* Hymn of Praise

*We obey the exhortation of the angels as we exhort one another to adore with us the One born the King of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(Trinity Hymnal #208)

## WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

### \* Reading from the Law

*Paul tells the philosophers in Athens that God now commands everyone everywhere to repent of idolatry. We should not imagine that this command applies only to pagans, but to all of us who from time to time seek to conform God to what our imaginations demand. The One who perfectly embodies the true nature of God will judge us precisely according to our obedience to this command, as Paul points out.*

### Acts 17:29–31<sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## Silent Confession of Sin

## Corporate Confession of Sin

*At the end of this psalm we place our hope in God alone, who alone is able to redeem us from all our sins, in contrast to any idol or false idea of God we can conjure.*

**Responsive Reading, Psalm 130**

(Trinity Hymnal p. 833)

## *WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

### Assurance of Pardoning Grace

*This passage, immortalized in the opening recitative of the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, speaks of the coming of the One who ensures that the iniquity of God's people **has been pardoned**.*

### Isaiah 40:1-5 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

\* Hymn of Assurance

*We celebrate Isaiah's message, proclaiming in many of the same words the comfort of the gospel that the coming of Christ precurses.*

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

(Trinity Hymnal #197)

## *WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER*

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### Prayers of Intercession

*During this time, the elders will be in the back of the room, ready to take personal prayer requests from and pray with all who want this. These will be confidential if desired. Everyone who is not receiving prayer in this way will participate in corporate prayer as the worship leader mentions a list of topics. As each item is mentioned, the congregation should respond with the words, "**We offer these our prayers,**" followed by a brief silent prayer from each individual.*

# *WE HEAR INSTRUCTION FROM THE LORD*

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## Sermon

What Hebrews Teaches Us about Christmas (Rev. Mike Biggs)

\* Hebrews 1:1-4 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**



# *WE COMMUNE WITH OUR LORD*

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## Communion Meditation

### Words of Institution

### Prayer of Consecration

### Confession of Faith

#### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, 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 will 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. (\*or universal)

### Distribution of Elements

*Because we believe that wine was used in the Last Supper and is thus more in accord with the fullness of symbolism intended by God in the Lord's Supper, we offer wine and encourage those who take part in Communion to take this. For those with conscientious convictions against the use of wine, however, we offer the option of grape juice, which is contained in the inner circle of the communion trays. The cups containing wine are in the outer circles of the trays.*

**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

(Trinity Hymnal #210)

# *WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD*

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## Offering Meditation

*We emulate the example of the wise men as we express our worship of Christ by presenting to Him gifts of tribute, tribute to the King.*

### **Matthew 2:11** <sup>ESV</sup>

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**"All My Heart This Night Rejoices"** vs 6 & 7 (Trinity Hymnal #217)

## Presentation of Offerings

See Communion

### \* **Doxology** (Trinity Hymnal #731)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here  
below; Praise Him above, ye  
heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

## *WE RESPOND TO THE WORD*

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*In our closing hymn we reflect upon a theme common in consideration of God's sovereignty, which is His exaltation of that which is humble, doing great things through lowly means and instruments. Pay particular attention to verse 4, and make it your prayer today.*

\* "Once in David's Royal City"

(Trinity Hymnal #225)

**Benediction**

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# VISION

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**Purpose** (our reason for existence): to reverse the effects of rebellion against God (sin)

**Mission** (what we are called to do): to build the Kingdom of God, by...

- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

**CoreValues** (our fundamental commitments):

1. *Knowing* truth from God (Scripture)
2. *Being* right with God (Justification)
3. *Living* life for God (Sanctification)

**Goals** (what we seek to accomplish):

1. *Worship*—People experiencing and being attracted to and trained in the enjoyment of God
2. *Fellowship*—People displaying and enjoying genuinely loving and giving relationships/Christian community
3. *Christian Education*—People being confronted with and oriented to the whole truth of God
4. *Outreach*—People being drawn to the Church and trained to draw others
5. *Mercy*—People caring about and meeting the material needs of both non-Christians and other Christians

***How can you be a part of all this?***