# CHRIST THEKING

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. -1 John 4:16a

First Sunday in Advent November 27, 2022 10:30 Am Morning Worship

#### Prelude

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting and hoping. For four Sundays prior to Christmas Day we prepare our hearts for the advent, or coming, of Christ at Christmas. As we do, we remember those who lived before Christ came and we recall their expectant hope of God coming to save. We also remember the Second Coming, or next advent, when Jesus will return and make all things new, even us. We wait in hope for that day.

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

Deliver us when we draw near to You, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind: Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

#### Call to Worship

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Congregation: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Leader: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Congregation: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Leader: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

All: He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

#### Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

#### Call to Worship

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

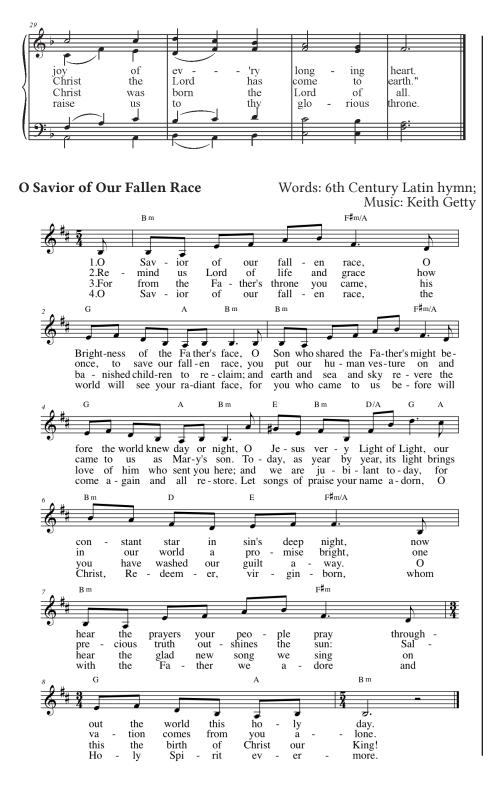
– Psalm 46:4-7, 9-10

#### Invocation

God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.





#### **Confession of Sin**

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

#### Assurance of Grace

God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

#### **Confession of Sin**

All: Lord, as we begin this season of waiting and anticipating Christ's birth – with all its cosmic and personal significance – we confess that too often our hearts wait for and hope in something so much smaller. We have lost our taste for something more, something beyond what we can see. We have lived like we are on our own and this life is all there is; like Christ has not come and will not come again.

Forgive us, Father, for settling for such temporary hopes and dreams when you created us to shape the world in your image and grow to touch the stars. Heal us, Emmanuel, from our constant sliding back into living like you aren't there. Breathe new life into us, Holy Spirit, that we might open our eyes to the wonders of your glory. Do this, we ask, in your mercy and grace. Amen.

#### Assurance of Grace

Leader: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – from *Romans 8:1-5* 

To those who repent of their sin and look to Jesus Christ for salvation, the forgiveness of sins is fully yours, by the grace of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

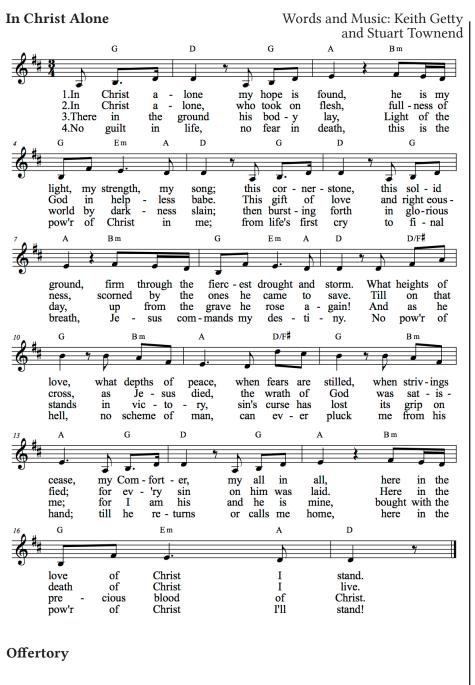
Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



#### Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church.

Andrea Bootsma, Morgan Crago, Ryan Grams, Chris Martin



**Deacons' Fund Offering** 

**Prayers of the People** 

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#### Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

#### Life Together

#### **Prayers of the People**

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

#### **Passing of the Peace**

We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other.

#### Life Together

We share important announcements and prayer requests for our church community.

#### **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-7, *p573 in pew Bible* 

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

#### Congregation: Thanks be to God.

#### Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Words and Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker



#### Scripture Reading

The public reading of God's Word is integral whenever God's people gather to worship. The first step to faith is listening to his Word.

#### Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit

#### Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

Servers come forward as liturgy begins.

We ask that those in the balcony come forward first, followed by those on the main floor, starting in the back row.

Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free wafers are in the center of each bread tray for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.

At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

#### Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Distributing of Elements

#### Prayer for Those Searching for 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 unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

**Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Partaking of the Elements



# Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

Please join us in the social hall for refreshments immediately following the service. Please dispose of your communion cups as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you!

# Welcome

**Welcome visitors**! We're glad you could join us. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge. org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org.

# SUNDAYS

### Adult Education & Sunday School Classes

Sunday school classes for Kindergarten through Grade 8 are currently offered Sunday mornings from 9:15a-10:15a. Adult Education will resume in the New Year.

### For Families

#### Nursery

- Open during the service for up to 8 registered participants ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years, with a waitlist available. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact Lara Kastelein (lara@ctkcambridge.org) with questions or to cancel if registered and unable to make it.

#### Children's Worship

- Children age 4 thru 2nd grade are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes that teach about worship suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Pick up from Children's Worship comes after the sermon, during the song prior to the Lord's Supper. A parent can head to the back foyer outside of the social hall; pick up will take place at the door at the top of the stairwell. Please remember your security tag during pick up.
- Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions.

#### During the service

- Encourage children to participate in each part of the service. For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.
- There are 'Pew Pouches' containing writing and drawing supplies in the front foyer of the church, and sermon worksheets available for kids to pick up during the Passing of the Peace to the right of the stage.

#### During the week

- Reread the Scripture passage. For younger children, read from a storybook Bible or more accessible translation like International Children's Bible (ICB) or NIrV available at biblegateway.com.
- Discuss the parts of the service as a family using the worship guide (ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids). Have everyone recall a part of the service that stood out to them.
- Listen to and discuss the songs from the service at ctkcambridge.org/songs. Visit this page to also pre view songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## Community Groups

Now as always, Community groups are central to our life together at CTK as a way to study and pray together and serve each other and our communities. Some groups are meeting in person and some are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

### Fellowship Groups and Ministries

Men's Bible Study: Andy Stuntz (astuntz@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry: Martha Olson (women@ctkcambridge.org)

Youth Ministry: Ariana Smartt (ariana@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships BU: nathan.dicks@ruf.org, serena.jones@ruf.org Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org, catherine.cook@ruf.org MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org

Meals Ministry: Erin Ward (meals@ctkcambridge.org)

Overseas Partner Liaison: Morgan Crago (missions@ctkcambridge.org)

### Online Resources

**Samples of the songs** for Sunday's worship service are posted on the website by the Wednesday before the service, along with **the coming Sunday's bulletin and Scripture passage**, at ctkcambridge.org/songs.

For online giving, visit ctkcambridge.org/giving.

**Sermon recordings and Adult Ed classes** can be found on the website at ctkcambridge.org/sermons and ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation, respectively.

For recommended **daily Bible reading plans** selected by pastoral staff, visit ctkcambridge.org/daily-bible-readings.

To sign up for the CTK Reader, our weekly e-newsletter, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

# LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As we're rebuilding our community groups, we're getting a sense of who is in need of a group and who might be willing to host or lead. **If you're interested in joining, hosting, or leading a new community group**, please fill out the form at ctkcambridge.org/ cg-sign-up so we can gauge interest in various neighborhoods.

This is the final Sunday that **advent devotional resources are on display in the Social Hall** for both adults and families with children of various ages. Some resources are available to preview and order on your own, and a few are free to take. If you would like a devotional and need help with the cost, please let Dana or Lara know and we are glad to help! Additionally an advent gift is available by the table for all families, so please stop by to pick yours up for this season!

Celebrate the Advent season at **CTK's Tenth Annual Christmas Concert**! Come join CTK's talented musicians for an evening of festive performances and rousing caroling on Saturday, December 10 at 6:30p. Please invite neighbors, co-workers, and other friends! Contact amanda@ctkcambridge.org for more information.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/calendar, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

- Sat, Dec 3, 8:30a :: **Men's Breakfast** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/men
- Sun, Dec 4, 1p :: **Women's Christmas Tea** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women
- Sat, Dec 10, 6:30p :: Christmas Concert :: Sanctuary ctkcambridge.org/calendar
- Sat, Dec 24, 4p :: **Christmas Eve Service** :: Sanctuary ctkcambridge.org/calendar

# WEEKLY EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

- Tue, 7a :: Morning Prayer :: Online ctkcambridge.org/prayer
- Wed, 7p :: **Women's PM Bible Study** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women
- Thu, 9:30a :: **Women's AM Bible Study** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women
- Fri, 6a :: **Men's Morning Bible Study** :: Online ctkcambridge.org/men

# Links

VISITOR CARD:



GIVING:



Reader:



Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 864-5464 or by email:

Senior Pastor Church Administrator Music Director Children's Ministry Director Children's Ministry Coordinator Youth Ministry Intern Rev. Travis Drake Laura Bullock Amanda Holley Dana Russell Lara Kastelein Ariana Smartt travis@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org amanda@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org lara@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org

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