

CHRIST THE KING

For the kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. —Romans 14:17

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021 10:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

*Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.*

— Frank Houghton, *Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*

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*

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.

Call to Worship

Leonard Layne

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Congregation: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

Congregation: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God...

Leader: For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things

Congregation: Whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Leader: Let us hear what God the LORD will speak,

Congregation: For he will speak peace to his people, to his saints!
— from *Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:9; Colossians 1:19-20; Psalm 85:8*

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.

Joy to the World

Words: Isaac Watts;
Music: George Frederick Handel

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2. Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

11

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

15

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

I Wonder As I Wander

Words and Music: John J. Niles

(CAPO III) Gm(Em) B^b(G) F(D)

1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, How
 2. When Mar - y birthed Je - sus, 'twas in a cow's stall, came
 3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a

6 Gm(Em) Cm7(Am7) Gm(Em)

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all; and
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or

10 Gm(Em) B^b(G) Dm(Bm)

poor on - 'ry peo - ple like you and like I... I
 high from the heav - ens a star's light did fall; the
 all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, He

14 Gm(Em) E^b(C) Gm(Em) F(D)

won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the King.

Call to Confession

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.

Call to Confession

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another. — based on *Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16*

Prayer of Confession

All: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins. Amen. — *Psalms 25:6-8, 11, 16-18*

Declaration of Absolution

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.

Declaration of Absolution

Leader: The Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Just as a father has pity on his children, so the Lord has pity on those who fear him. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who repent and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, the absolution of sins is effected in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

All: I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God;
begotten of his Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;

Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures;
And ascended into Heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;
And he shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose Kingdom shall have no end;

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
 Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
 Who spoke by the prophets;
 And I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church;
 I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
 And I look for the resurrection of the Dead;
 And the life of the world to come. Amen. — *The Nicene Creed*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: Latin hymn, attr. to John F. Wade,
 trans. by Frederick Oakeley;
 Music: John Francis Wade

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 2. Sing choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing;

6
 come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem; come and be-
 sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove; glo-ry to
 Je-sus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the

11
 hold him born the King of an-gels;
 God, all glo-ry in the high-est; O come, let us a-dore him, O
 Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

16
 come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.

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.

Offertory

Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken;
Music: Louis Bourgeois's *Genevan Psalter*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Life Together

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

Life Together

Prayers of the People

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

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

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.

Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius,
trans. by John Mason Neale, Henry W. Baker;
Music: 12th Century Plainsong, arr. by C. W. Douglas

1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
3. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him, an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing,
4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

3
he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sa - vior of our race;
pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn and chant and high thanksgiv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be;

5
of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring,
hon or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

7
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-21

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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; those seated in the outer pews can then come forward, starting from the back rows; finally, those in the center pews can come forward, starting from the back row.

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

Sermon

Rev. Clyde Godwin

Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

What Child Is This

Words and Music: Traditional English Carol,
adapted by William C. Dix

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is
2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate, where ox and ass are
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to

5 sleeping? Whom an - gels greet with anthems sweet, while shep-herds watch are
feed-ing? Good Christian, fear, for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is
own him; the King of kings sal - va-tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-

9 keep - ing? This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and
plead - ing. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for
throne him. Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her

13 an - gels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
lul - la - by; joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Benediction

Minister: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

— Numbers 6:24-26

All: Amen.

Benediction

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

Please join us outside for refreshments immediately following the service, as weather permits.

WELCOME

Welcome visitors! We're glad you could join us online. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge.org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more about us by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org. For more information on CTK's response to the coronavirus, visit ctkcambridge.org/coronavirus.

SUNDAYS

ADULT EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Typically, Christ the King offers classes for adults, youth, and children every Sunday morning. Currently, we are offering Adult Education on Zoom, but our children's Sunday school gatherings are on hiatus.

For the month of December, the Adult Education hour will be devoted to a time of prayer. Starting January 9, we will continue in the vein of Micah 6:8 by studying the book *Humility* by Andrew Murray.

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 4–5 years are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to a class that teaches about worship suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in and pick them up after the service.
- Class capacity is 10 registered students, with a waitlist available. Parents may sign up children for class when registering for the service.
- Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions or to cancel if registered and unable to make it.

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.
- During the sermon, kids may complete one of the worship activities available at ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids or in the church foyer along with 'Pew Pouches' containing writing and drawing supplies.

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 NIV 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 preview songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Christ the King is a multi-congregational church worshipping in Cambridge, Dorchester, and Quincy. We also have sister congregations worshipping in East Boston (in Portuguese), Newton, Hanover, West Roxbury, and Somerville. See ctkboston.org to find out more.

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. Right now, groups are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Men's Fellowship Groups: Church Office (office@ctkcambridge.org)

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

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

Vocational Fellowship Groups: Church Office (office@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:

Registration Reminder: We continue to ask that folks please register to attend on Sunday mornings. Whether you choose distanced or open, registering allows staff to know how many seats of each type we need. **Registering by Friday is most helpful.**

When registering for the service, you may also **register children for either nursery** (ages 6 months through 3 years) **or children's worship** (age 4 and Kindergarten). Space is limited, but wait lists are available.

Join us on **Christmas Eve at 6pm with a family-friendly service of Lessons and Carols**, in person or livestreamed. Invite friends and neighbors as we read through the Christmas story Genesis through the Gospels and sing Christmas hymns that celebrate the coming of our Lord. As with Sunday morning services, please register to attend. Also, please note, there is no childcare available during this service, but the upstairs nursery and social hall will be open to children and their parents as needed.

Please note, there will be **no Sunday school or Adult Education on Sunday, December 26 or Sunday, January 2.** Also, there **won't be Tuesday Morning Prayer on Tuesday, December 28th.**

THIS WEEK AT CTK:

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

Adult Education and Children's Sunday school won't be meeting for the next two weeks.

Classes resume on January 9th.

Tue, 7a :: **Morning Prayer** :: Online
ctkcambridge.org/prayer

Women's Bible Studies (Morning & Evening) are on hiatus for the rest of December

Fri, 6p :: **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols** :: In-person and Livestreamed
ctkcambridge.org/christmas-eve

Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 354-8341 or by email:

Interim Pastor	Rev. Clyde Godwin	cgodwin@ctkcambridge.org
Church Administrator	Laura Bullock	office@ctkcambridge.org
Music Director	Amanda Holley	amanda@ctkcambridge.org
Director of Children's Ministry	Dana Russell	dana@ctkcambridge.org
Nursery Coordinator	Lara Kastelein	lara@ctkcambridge.org
Youth Intern	Ariana Smartt	ariana@ctkcambridge.org

For questions about the CTK Pastoral Search Committee, please visit ctkcambridge.org/psc or email psc@ctkcambridge.org

99 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA - www.ctkcambridge.org