# CHRIST THEKING

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

## Sunday, December 8, 2019 10:00 am Morning Worship

**Prelude** 

The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow CTK A Cappella Choir Z. Highben

Preparation

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

In our secularized Western society Christmas offers a good occasion to experience [an] illusory happiness that offers a short break in our fear-filled lives. For many, Christmas is no longer the day to celebrate the mystery of the birth of God among us, the God hidden in the wounds of humanity. It is no longer the day of the child, awaited with prayer and repentance, contemplated with watchful attentiveness, and remembered in liturgical solemnity, joyful song, and peaceful family meals. Instead, Christmas has become a time when companies send elaborate gifts to their clients to thank them for their business, when post offices work overtime to process an overload of cards, when immense amounts of money are spent on food and drink, and socializing becomes a full-time activity. There are trees, decorated streets, sweet tunes in the supermarkets, and children saying to their parents: 'I want this and I want that.' The shallow happiness of busy people often fills the place meant to experience the deep, lasting joy of Emmanuel, Godwith-us. — Henri Nouwen, Lifesigns

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

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

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.

#### Call to Worship

Rev. Nathan Dicks

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, Everlasting Father...

Leader: Christ has come from the Father and has come into the world,

Congregation: Now he has left the world and gone to the Father – having overcome the world.

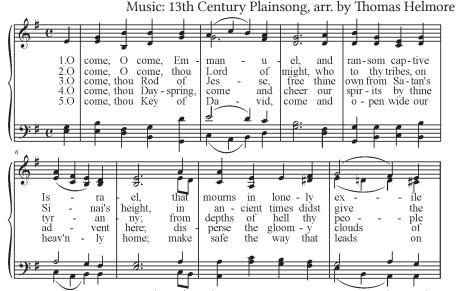
All: Praise the Alpha and the Omega, the first and last, the beginning and the end, who is and who was and who is to come!

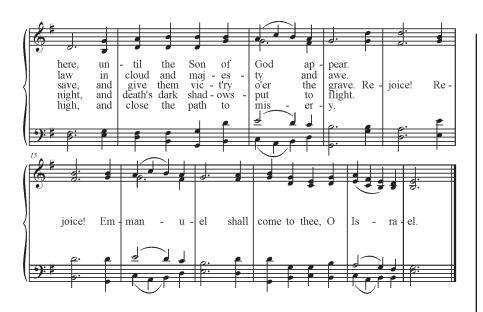
- from Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:9; 16:28,33; Revelation 1:8; 22:13

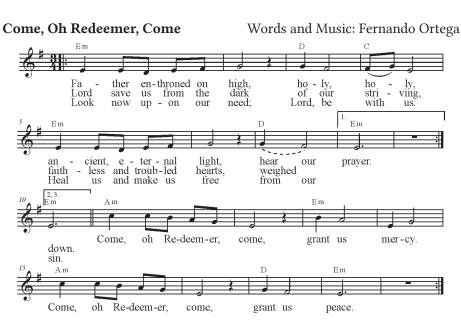
#### **Invocation**

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale;







#### 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.

## 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.

#### Call to Confession

Leader: But when he came to himself, he said... I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate. — *Luke 15:17-24* 

#### **Prayer of Confession**

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. – from the *Book of Common Worship* 

#### **Declaration of Absolution**

Leader: Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, but as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 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: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

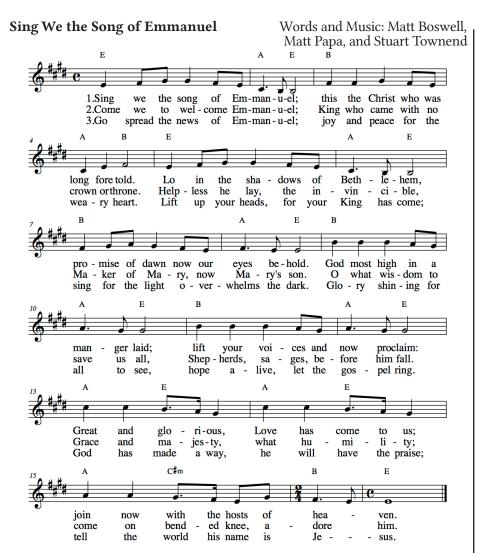
Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

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

## $\begin{array}{c} O\ Nata\ Lux \\ {\rm CTK}\ {\rm A}\ {\rm Cappella}\ {\rm Choir} \end{array}$

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants. You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones, grant us to be made members of your holy body.

#### Offertory

M. Lauridsen

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. Some of us choose to put an offering in the plate, while others give online or by mail.



## Pastoral Prayer

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

#### Passing of the Peace

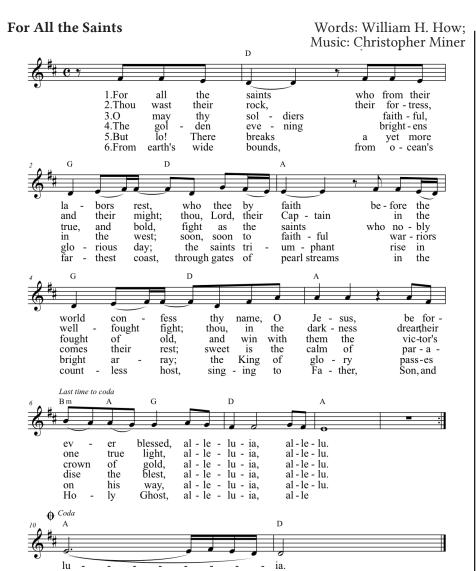
We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other. We encourage kids remaining in the service to use the Sermon Worksheet available at the front of the sanctuary.

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

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



**Scripture Reading** 

Leonard Layne

Romans 16:1-16 page 950 in pew Bible

Reader: So faith comes from hearing,

Congregation: and hearing through the word of Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Nathan Barczi

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

Elders are available to pray with anyone who desires it at the front of the sanctuary near either of the hallway exits.

#### Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: What do you believe about the work of God?

All: We believe that God – who is perfectly merciful and also very just – sent his Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death.

Minister: And what do you believe about the work of Jesus Christ?

All: We believe that Jesus Christ presented himself in our name before his Father, to appease his wrath with full satisfaction by offering himself on the tree of the cross and pouring out his precious blood for the cleansing of our sins, as the prophets had predicted.

Minister: Why did he endure all this?

All: He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.

Minister: What comfort does this give you?

All: We find all comforts in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves with God than this one and only sacrifice, once made, which renders believers perfect forever. – from *Belgic Confession, Art. 20-21* 

Words of Institution and 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

Alecia Augspurg, Andy Stuntz, Emily Stuntz, Katie Jentoft, Laura Bullock, Leif Jentoft, Nathan Dicks, Nora Watson Elders: Nathan Barczi and Leonard Layne



#### **Benediction**

#### Benediction

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

## Welcome

**Welcome visitors!** We're glad you're here. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge.org/visit so we can get to know you better. Also, find out more about us by talking with one of the pastors or our lead greeter, who at the Welcome Table in the back Social Hall, or by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org.

## **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

## ADULT EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 8:45am, Christ the King offers classes for adults, youth, and children. The topics of these classes reflect the desire of the church to equip its members with a better understanding of God's Word. Adult Education classes are taught in the social hall. Childcare and classes for children through Grade are held downstairs, and Middle/High School meets in the office in the balcony.

Flood and Cup, Sword and Stone, Flame and Tree: Images of Salvation Through Judgment in Scripture. Water can drown or cleanse; fire can consume or purify; we find our greatest blessing at the foot of a cursed tree. Join us through the Advent season as we explore symbols of salvation through the judgment of a God who brings his people through flood and flame (Isaiah 43).

## CHILDREN DURING THE SERVICE

Children are always welcome in our service. Parents may opt to bring children to the programs below or to the social hall as needed where audio of the service plays and an area is partitioned for nursing mothers. For more information, please see ctkcambridge.org/kids or email dana@ctkcambridge.org.

Nursery (0-3 years): Our nursery rooms provide safe care and are open throughout the service. Infants and 1s are upstairs and 2s and 3s are in the basement (exit through the right-side door for all rooms). Please sign your child in at one of the check-in stations in the infant room or basement and be sure to bring your security tag with you when picking up your child.

**Children's Worship (4 years–Grade 2):** Children are dismissed before the sermon to classes designed to engage God in a manner more suitable to young hearts and minds. Please sign-in children then drop off in room 3 & 4; pick-up from adjoining rooms with your parent tag.

**Children/Youth (Grade 3 & up):** Our older children attend the entire service, and a worksheet is provided to aid in the instruction during the sermon.

### 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 bit.ly/CTKCambridgeOffering for general offerings and bit.ly/CTKCambridgeDeacons for Deacons' Fund giving. Questions? Email giving@ctkboston.org.

**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 with notes from our pastors, church announcements, and community classifieds, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Christ the King is a multi-congregational church with an English-speaking congregation that meets in Cambridge on Sunday mornings (ctkcambridge.org) and a mostly Brazilian congregation meeting in Portuguese in Cambridge on Sunday afternoons, as well as congregations that meet in Dorchester, Pembroke, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, Somerville, and Wakefield (ctkboston.org).

#### COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups are central to our life together at CTK, and we encourage people to join a group near where they live, to gather over a meal and study, pray, and serve one another and our neighborhoods.

#### **MONDAYS**

CAMBRIDGE :: NORTH CAMBRIDGE :: 6P Rick & T Downs (cardadowns@gmail.com)

SOMERVILLE :: UNION SQ. :: 7P

Tyler & Amanda Holley (tylerbholley@gmail.com)

#### TUESDAYS

ALLSTON :: BRIGHTON :: BROOKLINE :: 7:30P James & Sarah Goodman (ssgoodman617@gmail.com)

#### WEDNESDAYS

SOMERVILLE :: UNION/SPRING HILL :: 6P Nathan & Leann Barczi (nbarczi@gmail.com)

WATERTOWN :: 6P

Matt & Cat Sherrill (sherrillmatt@hotmail.com)

BOSTON:: NORTH END/BEACON HILL:: 7P

Taylor & Audra Wallace (wallacetaylor89@gmail.com)

CAMBRIDGE :: CENTRAL SQ./RIVERSIDE :: 7:30P Mike & Shannon Poor (pcpoor@hotmail.com)

#### **THURSDAYS**

CAMBRIDGE :: MIT/KENDALL SQ. :: 6P

Ben Hoover & Jennifer Marlow (benhoover34@gmail.com)

SOMERVILLE :: PORTER/DAVIS SQ. :: 6:30P

Jeremy & Adrienne Mullen (jmullen79@gmail.com)

SOMERVILLE :: DAVIS/POWDERHOUSE SQ. :: 7P Sam & Steffi Beswick (sam.beswick@auckland.ac.nz)

MALDEN:: 7P

Andy & Emily Stuntz (astuntz@gmail.com)

CAMBRIDGE:: CENTRAL/INMAN SQ.:: 7:30P Susanne van Veluw (susannevanveluw@gmail.com)

#### **FRIDAYS**

WATERTOWN :: 1st and 3rd Fridays :: 6:30P Sean & Nicole O'Hern (scohern@gmail.com)

#### **SATURDAYS**

ARLINGTON :: LEXINGTON :: 5P Lindsay Hardy (linsrbins@gmail.com)

\*Meets every other Saturday, rotating location

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Men's Fellowship Groups: Rev. Rick Downs (rickdowns@ctkcambridge.org)

Women's Ministry: Laura Martin (laura.a.martin87@gmail.com)

Youth Community Group: Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org)

Vocational Fellowship Groups: Rev. Nathan Barczi (nathan@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships on nearby campuses.

BU: nathan.dicks@ruf.org, Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org, or MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org.

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

Overseas Partner Liaison: Miriam Kreher (mkreher13@gmail.com)

Members and regular attenders have a variety of opportunities to serve on Sunday mornings. To learn more about ways to serve our congregation, please visit ctkcambridge.org/serve-church.

CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, CCLI #912939.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Nominations for CTK Officers are now being received. If you are a member of CTK and want to nominate someone for elder, deacon, or deacon assistant, please follow these steps:

- 1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 for biblical qualifications.
- 2. Approach your nominee and ask that you pray together for wisdom.
- 3. With the approval of the nominee, please submit the nomination via office@ctkcambridge.org.

A Global Night of Prayer for the Church in China will occur on Monday, Dec 9th. In conjunction, CTK is hosting a group prayer meeting that same night. Everyone is welcome to join at the Martin's home in Somerville at 7:30pm on 12/9. Please email Miriam at mkreher13@gmail.com for directions or for any additional questions.

Advent devotional books are available in the basement for families as a resource for daily scripture study at home in the days leading up to Christmas. The studies are designed to go deeper as children grow so are suitable for both younger and older children. Others interested in this resource are also welcome to take a copy.

The Women's Christmas Brunch will be on Saturday, December 14 at 10a in the social hall. Childcare will be provided, and friends, neighbors, and colleagues are welcome! We're looking for volunteers to help with setup, music, scripture reading, and clean-up - please email meredithkwyse@gmail.com if you can help.

All kids ages 5 and up are invited to sing in a **children's choir** for the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service. Brief rehearsals will take place after the service on Sundays, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. If interested, contact amanda@ctkcambridge.org for more information.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sun, 12/8, 12p :: Second Sunday Eat & Meet :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/eat-and-meet (Laura Bullock, laura@ctkcambridge.org)

Mon, 12/9, 7:30p :: Global Night of Prayer :: Martin home ctkcambridge.org/global-prayer (Miriam Kreher, mkreher13@gmail.com)

Sat, 12/14, 10a :: Women's Christmas Brunch :: Social Hall ctkcambridge,org/christmas-brunch (Meredith Wyse, meredithkwyse@gmail.com)

Tue, 12/24, 6p :: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ctkcambridge.org/christmas-eve office@ctkcambridge.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat, 1/11, 2p :: Congregational Meeting :: Sanctuary office@ctkboston.org

1/31-2/2/2020 :: CTK Getaway :: Camp Brookwoods ctkcambridge.org/getaway (Laura Bullock, laura@ctkcambridge.org)

## WEEKLY EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events

Tuesday, 6:30a :: Morning Prayer :: Social Hall (Laura Bullock, laura@ctkcambridge.org)

Thursday, 9:30a :: Women's Bible Study :: Social Hall (Kelly Sawyer, bostonkelly@gmail.com)

Friday, 12p :: Men's Fellowship Group :: Harvard Sq. (Mike Poor, pcpoor@hotmail.com)

Friday, 4p :: Theology Reading Group :: The Field Pub (Nathan Barczi, nathan@ctkcambridge.org)

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

Pastor Associate Pastor Church Administrator Director of Children's Ministry Nursery Coordinator Music Director Bookkeeper Rev. Richard Downs Rev. Nathan Barczi Laura Bullock Dana Russell Lara Kastelein Amanda Holley Laura Cheng

rickdowns@ctkcambridge.org nathan@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org lara@ctkcambridge.org amanda@ctkcambridge.org bookkeeper@ctkboston.org