

CHRIST THE KING

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2023 10:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

We have never encountered love, hope, peace, and joy as they really are. Even in our best moments and relationships, we can find only dim reflections of what God offers in His perfect character. — David Damico

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

Tim Dietz

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: Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Congregation: Christ has become to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Leader: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord!

Congregation: Give glory to the only wise God forevermore through Jesus Christ! — from *Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:4,9; 1 Cor. 1:20,30-31; Romans 16:27*

Invocation

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.

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.

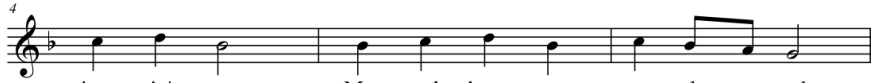
The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

Savior of the Nations, Come

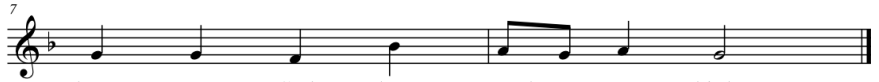
Words: St. Ambrose and Martin Luther,
trans. by Calvin Seerveld;
Music: Johann Walther



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show your - self, the
2. Not by hu - man pow'r or seed did the wo - man's
3. Christ laid down his ma - jes - ty, passed through dark Geth -
4. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our



vir - gin's son. Mar - vel heav - en, won - der earth,
womb con - ceive; on - ly by the Spi - rit's breath
se - ma - ne. Though he left his Fa - ther's home,
new - born King! With the Fa - ther, Spi - rit, one,



that our God chose such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh.
Christ now sits on God's own throne.
let your last - ing king - dom come.

Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

F G m F/A B \flat C Dm G m7 F/C C

1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion;
 2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels;
 3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
 4. Son of A - dam, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som

5 F G m F/A B \flat C Dm B \flat C F

God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 gifts of men from dis - tant lands pro - phe - sy the stor - y.
 re - con - cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y Cham - pion!

9 F/A B \flat F/A G m7 C Dm G m7 F/C C

Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness.
 Gold, a King is born to - day; in - cense, God is with us;
 What a Sav - ior, what a friend, what a glo - rious mys - tery,

13 F G m F/C B \flat C Dm7 G m7 C F

but a hum - ble gift of love; Je - sus, born of Mar - y.
 Cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 myrrh, his death will make a way, by his blood he'll win us.
 once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

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

Leader: God of hope, you call us home

Congregation: from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing.

Leader: Make us strong to join you in your holy work,

Congregation: as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken.

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord,

Congregation: and with great might come among us;

Leader: and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;

Congregation: through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

– from *Revised Common Lectionary* and *Book of Common Prayer*

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Now hear this promise of grace and forgiveness from the word of God, from Colossians 1, verses 13 and 19 through 20:

God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins... For in Christ 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.

Leader: 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: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,

Congregation: and our mouths will declare your praise.

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.

The Love of Christ is Rich and Free

Words: William Gadsby;
Music: Sandra McCracken



1.The love of Christ is rich and free; fixed on his own e - ter-nal-
3.Love has re - deemed his sheep with blood, and love will bring them safe to



ly; nor earth, nor hell, can it re - move; long as he lives, his own he'll
God; Love calls them all from death to life; and love will fin - ish all their



love. 2.His lov - ing heart en - gaged to be their ev - er -
strife. 4.He loves through ev - ery chang - ing scene, nor aught from



last - ing Sur - e - ty; 'twas love that took their cause in hand, and love main
him can Zi - on wean; not all the wan - derings of her heart can make his



tains it to the end. Love can - not from its post with - draw; nor
love for her de - part.



death, nor hell, nor sin, nor law, can turn the Sure - ty's heart a - way; he'll



love his own to end - less day. 5.At death, be - yond the grave, he'll



love; in end less bliss, his own shall prove the blaz ing glo - ry of that



love which ne - ver could from them re - move, which ne - ver



could from them re - - - - - move.

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.

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!

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.

Life Together

Offering Collectors:

Martha Olson, Rick Olson, Greg Russell, Gi Yoon-Huang

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12, page 807 in pew Bible

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

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
sleep - ing? 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.

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

Invitation

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

Communion Servers:

Martha Olson, Rick Olson, Greg Russell, Gi Yoon-Huang

Lift High the Name of Jesus

Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty,
Fionan de Barra, and Ed Cash



1.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our King. Make
2.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Lord. His
3.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Light. No



known the pow - er of his grace, the beau - ty of his peace. Re -
pow'r in us is great - er than, is great - er than this world. To
oth - er name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life. He



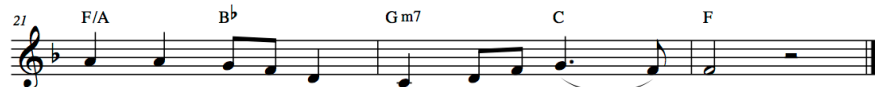
mem - ber how his mer - cy reached and we cried out to him. He
share the rea - son for our hope, to serve with love and grace, that
o - pens up our eyes to see the har - vest he has grown. We



lift - ed us to so - lid ground to free - dom from our
all who see him shine through us might bring the Fa - ther
la - bor in his fields of grace as he leads sin - ners



sin. Oh sing my soul and tell all he's done 'til the
praise.
home.



earth and heav ens are filled with his glo - - - ry.

Benediction

Benediction

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

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

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

Kindergarten through High School Sunday school classes and Adult Education are currently offered Sunday mornings from 9:15a-10:15a. The Adult Education class meets in the social hall.

FOR FAMILIES

Nursery

- Open during the service for children ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact children@ctkcambridge.org with questions.

Children's Worship

- Children 4 years through Grade 2 are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes with teaching suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Parents may pick up children during the song after the sermon. Please head to the back foyer (4y-Grade K) and Social Hall (Grades 1 & 2) and be sure to have your security tag with you.
- 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 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

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:

For any verbal announcements you may have missed, please visit ctkcambridge.org/this-week.

Please note, because **Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday** this year, we'll be doing one service instead of two -- it will be a hybrid of our regular service and our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service, at **4p on December 24th**.

Hear ye, hear ye! **Registration is now open for the 2024 CTK Getaway**, taking place January 26 thru January 28! Our speaker this year will be Rev. Dwight Yoo, pastor at Renewal Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Visit ctkcambridge.org/getaway for more information and to register!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

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

Sun, Dec 24, 4p :: **Christmas Eve Service** :: Sanctuary
ctkcambridge.org/calendar

Save the Date :: Jan 26-28 :: **CTK Winter Getaway**
ctkcambridge.org/getaway

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

Tue, 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, 6:15a :: **Men's Morning Bible Study** :: Online
ctkcambridge.org/men

LINKS

VISITOR CARD:



READER:



KIDS' SUNDAY SUMMARY:



GIVING:



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
Youth Ministry Intern

Rev. Travis Drake
Laura Bullock
Amanda Holley
Dana Russell
Ariana Smartt

travis@ctkcambridge.org
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dana@ctkcambridge.org
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