CHRIST THEKING

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 10:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP

Prelude

The Word has become flesh! It has become flesh never to be separated from that flesh again! Not even presently on the Throne... The Word having become flesh creates therewith the real possibility that this Child takes your place and that this Child of flesh and blood saves, reconciles, and glorifies you, made of flesh. — Abraham Kuyper, On Christmas Night

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: 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, Prince of Peace.

Leader: He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing.

Congregation: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Leader: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Congregation: So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

All: Let us profess that Jesus is Lord! – from Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:9; Phil. 2:6-11

Invocation



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. — Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18

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: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

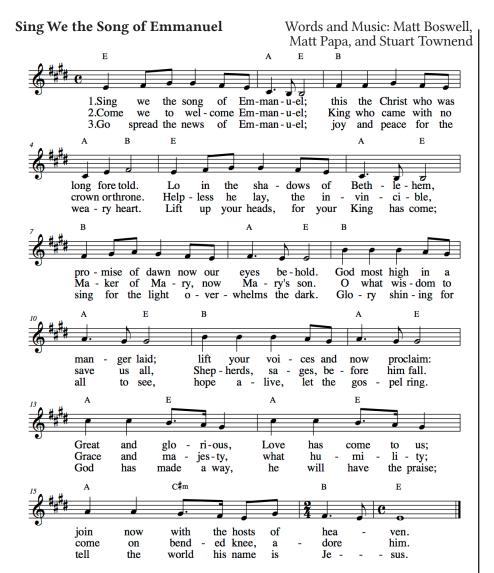
Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

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

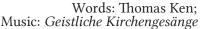
Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

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.





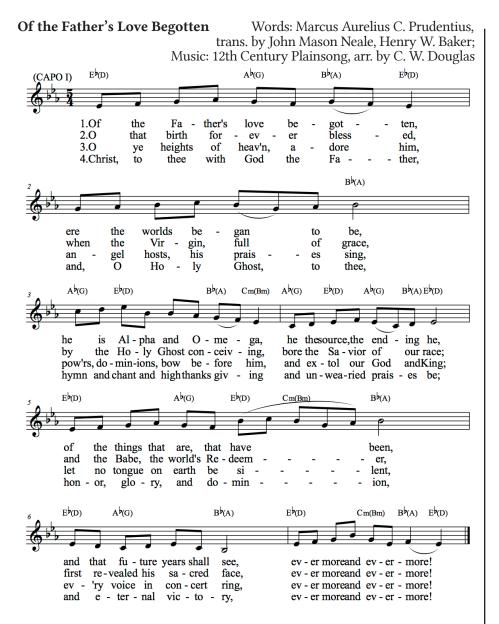




Pastoral Prayer

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



Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-21

Reader: This is the word of the LORD. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Nathan Barczi

Deacons' Fund Offering



Benediction

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. During this hiatus from public gathering, we will be offering Adult Education and Sunday school gatherings on Sunday mornings via Zoom:

Our Only Comfort: A Study of The Heidelberg Catechism. Since its publication in 1563, the Heidelberg Catechism has become one of the most widely circulated books in the world, and it's not hard to see why. Alongside its clear presentation of Christian doctrine, it's truly beloved for its pastoral spirit and its emphasis on the tremendous consolation and encouragement to be found in the gospel. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn and be refreshed - come join the discussion on Zoom! We recommend that you purchase Kevin DeYoung's excellent guide to the Catechism, *The Good News We Almost Forgot*.

FOR FAMILIES

Parents, you might try some of these ideas to help your child(ren) understand and better connect with our worship service.

During the service

- · Encourage children to participate in each part of the service. During the sermon, children might—then complete one of the worship activities provided at ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids.
- \cdot For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.

After the service / 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 service and sermon as a family using the worship guide (at ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids) to help children understand each part. 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, Jamaica Plain, Wakefield 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

Currently there are no groups meeting in person, but some ministries and groups are still meeting virtually. Please reach out to the listed contact person to learn more.

Men's Fellowship Groups: Rev. Nathan Barczi (nathan@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

BÜ: nathan.dicks@ruf.org,

Harvard: michael.whitham@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 ctk-cambridge.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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Join us on **Christmas Eve for a Lessons & Carols service** held online. While this service will be different than years past, one tradition we will be maintaining is the lighting of candles for the last two songs of the service. If you would like candles for you or your family, you can sign up for a candle at ctkcambridge.org/candles.

A critical part of the pastoral transition process is prayerfully considering the history, mission, and vision for the church. Following a series of interviews, surveys, and interactions with a sample of the CTK congregation, including some staff, officers, and a variety of members, McGowan and Associates have compiled an assessment and a list of recommendations for CTK to consider as a congregation. **The elders would invite the congregation to read these assessments and recommendations, as well as provide their feedback in a survey**, all of which can be found at ctkcambridge.org/assessment. This information is also linked on the Transition web page, found on the CTK website under "About".

Please note, there will not be Adult Education or Sunday school Zoom meet-ups on Sunday, December 27th. Classes will resume in January.

The deacons are partnering with the Cambridge Community Center in a diaper drive for families served by the CCC. If you would like to participate, you can drop off donations at the church building until December 24th, or make a monetary donation to the CTK Special Giving fund — all donations to that fund before the 24th will be ear-marked for this CCC drive. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/CCC or contact deacons@ctkcambridge.org with any questions or to arrange a drop off donation.

This Week at CTK:

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

Sun, 9a :: Adult Education :: Online ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation

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

Thu, 6p :: Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols :: Online