

CHRIST THE KING

*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

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

5
and the mountains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
What the glad some tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

9
Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

15
glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel sis De - o.

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

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.

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Words and Music: Matt Boswell,
Matt Papa, and Stuart Townend

E A E B

1.Sing we the song of Em-man-u-el; this the Christ who was
2.Come we to wel-come Em-man-u-el; King who came with no
3.Go spread the news of Em-man-u-el; joy and peace for the

A B E A E

long fore told. Lo in the sha-dows of Beth-le-hem,
crown or throne. Help-less he lay, the in-vin-ci-ble,
wea-ry heart. Lift up your heads, for your King has come;

B A E B

pro-mise of dawn now our eyes be-hold. God most high in a
Ma-ker of Ma-ry, now Ma-ry's son. O what wis-dom to
sing for the light o-ver-whelms the dark. Glo-ry shin-ing for

A E B A E

man-ger laid; lift your voi-ces and now proclaim:
save us all, Shep-herds, sa-ges, be-fore him fall.
all to see, hope a-live, let the gos-pel ring.

A E A E

Great and glo-ri-ous, Love has come to us;
Grace and ma-jes-ty, what hu-mi-li-ty;
God has made a way, he will have the praise;

A C#m B E

join now with the hosts of hea-ven.
come on bend-ed knee, a-dore him.
tell the world his name is Je-sus.

Offertory

Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken;
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be
low; al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise him above, ye heav'nly
host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

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

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

(CAPO I) Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb(A) Eb(D)

1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - - ten,
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed,
3. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him,
4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - - - ther,

2 Bb(A)

ere the worlds be - gan to be,
when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
an - gel hosts, his prais - - es sing,
and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

3 Ab(G) Eb(D) Bb(A) Cm(Bm) Ab(G) Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb(A) Eb(D)

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 thanks giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be;

5 Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) Cm(Bm) Bb(A)

of the things that are, that have been,
and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - - - er,
let no tongue on earth be si - - - - - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - - - ion,

6 Eb(D) Ab(G) Bb(A) Eb(D) Cm(Bm) Bb(A) Eb(D)

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er more and ev - er - more!
first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er more and ev - er - more!
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring, ev - er more and ev - er - more!
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er more and ev - er - more!

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

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

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.
- 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).

CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™,

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CCLI #912939.

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 Barczy (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 Barczy (nathan@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships

BU: 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 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.

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

To contact staff or officers, please visit ctkcambridge.org/staff-officers