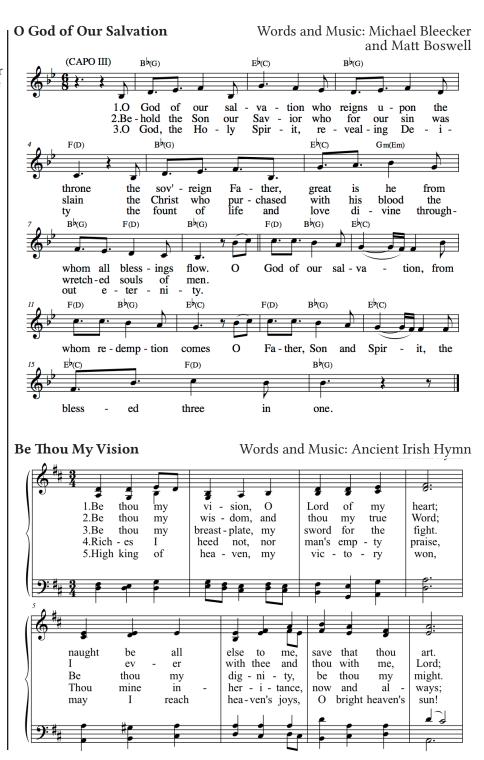
# CHRIST THEKING

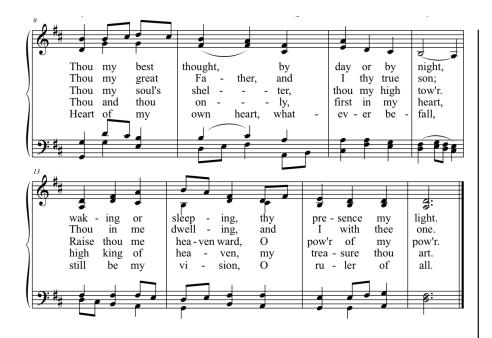
## First Sunday of Christmas December 31, 2023 10:30 am Morning Worship

#### Prelude Preparation We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to Prayer (Collect) of Preparation: enter into the life-giving Deliver us when we draw near to You, presence of God. 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 Greg Russell Call to Worship God calls his people to Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. assemble for worship; This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. accordingly the church calls itself together. Congregation: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Leader: Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Congregation: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. Leader: The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. All: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! - Psalm 118:20-29 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.





**Confession of Faith** 

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. – *Apostles' Creed* 

#### **Confession of Faith**

We join the global and historic church in professing what we believe as Christians, to remind ourselves of the hope we have and the life that hope invites us to live.

\*In this context, 'catholic' refers to the global, historic church.

#### **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**

All: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

#### Assurance of Grace

Leader: Now hear this promise of grace and forgiveness from the word of God, from Romans 8, verses 1 through 5:

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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,

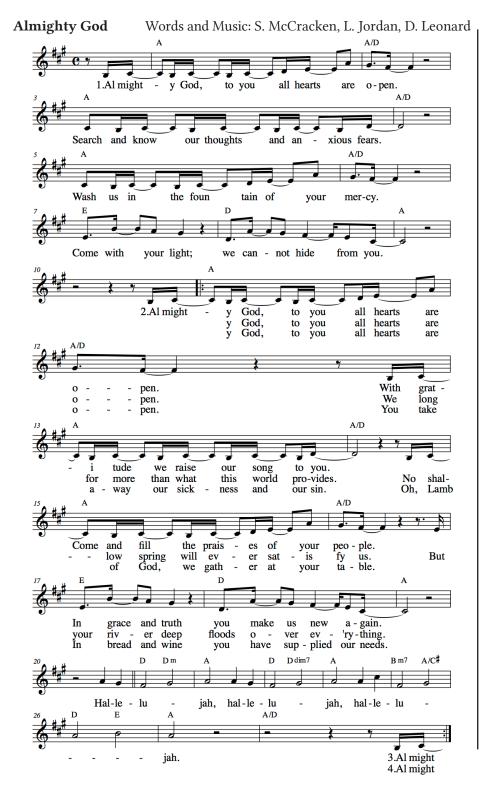
Congregation: the Maker of heaven and earth.

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.

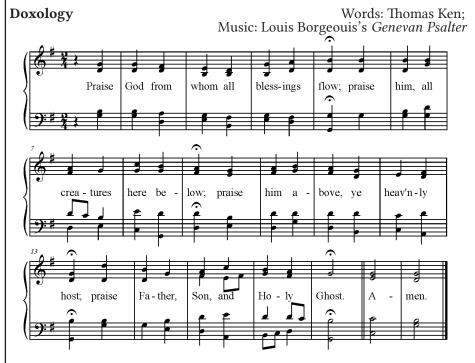
Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



#### 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



#### **Prayers of the People**

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.

#### Life Together

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

#### **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.

#### Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

#### Life Together

#### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:16-18, page 808 in pew Bible

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

#### Congregation: Thanks be to God.

#### Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

My Soul Finds Rest In God Alone

Words and Music: Stuart Townend and Aaron Keyes, based on Psalm 62



#### 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 and Words of Institution

Distributing of Elements

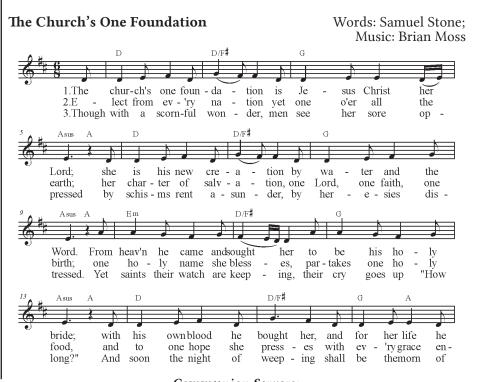
#### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

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

#### **Deacons' Fund Offering**



**Communion Servers:** Andrea Bootsma. Sarah Goodman, Ryan Grams, Susanne van Veluw



**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 NIrV 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 pre view 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.

#### 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

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

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

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 office@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org

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

VISITOR CARD:





READER:

