

Christ Church United Methodist

December 10, 2023

(in - person) 9:00 am
(live-streamed & in - person) 11:15 am

Second Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel &
In the Bleak Midwinter*
Susan Kinman, flute; Shawn Dawson, piano

arr. Daniel Light

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(9:00) Kim Keller
(11:15) Dan Duane and Debbie Holladay

Leader: This is a time for preparation, of journeying toward Bethlehem.

People: And making straight the path that will bring us into the presence of the Divine.

Leader: There are messages to hear and journeys to examine.

People: Those who make the journey only need the simple gift of a willing heart.

Leader: We light the second candle representing love for the journey.

ALL: May we follow God's light of hope as we worship this day!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Hymn 213

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Amy Chapman

We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us,
dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,

leading us into a new day,
ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth
reminding us
of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

Hymn 163

This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:
faith in him who died to save, him who triumphed o'er the grave:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO PRAYER

Wait for the Lord

Taizé

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING MUSIC

‡ 9:00

Betelehemu

arr. Wendell Whalum

Chancel Choir Tenors and Basses
Reese Walton, Alex MacDonald, and James Chapman, percussion

◇ 11:15

Tundra

Ola Gjeilo

Chancel Choir Sopranos and Altos
Portia Odette, solo

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDRENS MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

*SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

(9:00) Bill Higgs
(11:15) Ken Anderson

SERMON

How Can This Be?

Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*CLOSING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

Hymn 214

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wonderous birth! O wonderous Child of the Spirit Virgin undefiled!
Human and divine in one, eager now his race to run!

God the Father is his source, back to God he runs his course;
down to death and hell descends, God's high throne he reascends.

Now thy manger's halo bright hallows night with newborn light;
let no night this light subdue, let our faith shine ever new.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Savior, of the Nations, Come, BWV 661
Shawn Dawson, organ

J.S. Bach

‡ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor

◇ Dr. Daniel Blosser, conductor; Daniel Light, piano

***Announcements are located on the following pages*

THIS MORNING

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in honor of our incredible ministers from a grateful community.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathy is extended to Cherie and Gary Marshall on the death of Gary's father, Lee Marshall, who died December 4.

Joy of Every Longing Heart | 2023 Christmas Concert

Come and celebrate the Christmas season with one of our church's most treasured traditions! Our annual Christmas concerts feature carols, both old and new, presented by the Chancel Choir, Carillon Ringers, Jubilate Ringers and orchestra. Admission is free, and all visiting family, friends and guests are welcome!

- **Sunday, December 10 | 5 pm**
- **Wednesday, December 13 | 7:30 pm**
- **Sunday, December 17 | 9 & 11:15 am**
- **Tuesday, December 19 | 7:30 pm**

Shuttle service between The Summit Office Park (at Hubbards Lane & Brownsboro Road) will begin 1 hour prior to the concerts on December 10, 17 (11:15 am service only) and 19. The 11:15 am concert on December 17 will be available on livestream at ccum.net/live. Childcare is available for all concerts.

Blue Christmas | Sunday, December 17 | 4:30 pm | Chapel

Blue Christmas is a worship service designed as a gift of love and hope to those who may have experienced suffering or loss over the course of the past few years. In trying and painful times, we come to God and look to Christ's light for comfort and peace. Communion will be served and the service will be live-streamed at ccum.net/live.

Christmas Eve Morning Worship | Sunday, December 24 | 10 am | Sanctuary

Worship only. No Sunday School. Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

Christmas Eve Worship Services | Sunday, December 24 | Sanctuary

3 pm | 5 pm | 8 pm | 10:45 pm

3 pm service is designed for families with young children.

5 pm service will be live-streamed at ccum.net/live.

Childcare is only available at the 3 pm and 5 pm services and is for ages 3 and under.

Communion will be offered immediately following the 3 pm service in the Chapel and will also be served during the 5 pm, 8 pm and 10:45 pm services in the Sanctuary.

New Years Eve Worship | Sunday, December 31 | 10 am

Worship only. No Sunday School. Childcare is available for ages 5 and under.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Appreciation

As is our **tradition**, the Staff Parish Relations Committee wants to give you the opportunity to **show your appreciation to the staff** by making a contribution towards a Kroger gift card for each of them, if you so choose. To **express your gratitude**, you may write a check to CCUM with 'Staff Appreciation' in the memo line or give online at ccum.net/give and choose 'Staff Appreciation' from the fund drop-down. Please send your gift by Thursday, December 14. Whatever amount you may be able to give, thank you for recognizing our talented and dedicated staff at Christmas.

We are hosting a **brunch for our college students while they are home for Christmas break on Sunday, December 17 at 12:30 pm in the Café**. For more information, please contact Logan Ashkettle at logan@ccum.net.

Christmas Eve with The Bridge at Fourth Ave UMC | Sunday, December 24 | 9:30 am

Fourth Avenue United Methodist has invited The Bridge to share in Christmas Eve Worship among their congregation. **Transportation will likely be needed from The Healing Place Women's Campus to Fourth Avenue UMC** (318 W St. Catherine St). If you would like to assist with transportation, or simply take part in Christmas Eve Worship with The Bridge, please contact Rev. Leigh Ann Maynard, lmaynard@ccum.net.

Charge Conference | January 28, 2023 | 12:30 pm | Room 158

All Administrative Council members are asked to attend and all church members are invited to attend this annual church business meeting. Childcare is available upon request by January 21 to gina@ccum.net.

Booked For Lunch is a **monthly book club for women** of all ages! We believe fiction stories provide a powerful avenue for thinking more deeply about God and the world. We **meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at noon**—bring a lunch and join us! **The next meeting is Thursday, December 14**, discussing *The Christmas Wedding* by James Patterson and Richard DiLallo. Our list of Spring 2024 books can be found at ccum.net/adults.

A much-loved Bible study returns to Christ Church! Beginning January 11, go deep and wide with **DISCIPLE**, a 24-week study of the entire Bible, each **Thursday** from **11:30 am - 1 pm** in **Room 260**, led by Steve Keene. Register at ccum.net/classes. “Go therefore and make disciples...” Matthew 28:19

Registration for the Laudate Winter Retreat is open!

The retreat is happening on **January 26-27**. We will be spending Friday and Saturday together with food, fun, and fellowship and sing for several organizations in the Louisville metro area. Check in at church Friday evening at 6 pm and we'll conclude on Saturday at 3 pm. **This event is FREE!** Please contact Dan Blosser at dan@ccum.net, with questions. Register now at ccum.net/youthmusic.

Register for Created By God, February 2 - 4, 2024. This weekend retreat is designed to communicate to 5th graders that we are a fantastic creation made by God. The **topics of human sexuality, values and relationships are approached in a frank, honest and Bible-based manner**. Parents are required to attend an information meeting in order for your child to participate. For more information, please contact Amy Chapman at achapman@ccum.net, or you can register at ccum.net/createdbygod.

Weekly Fitness Classes

Looking to improve your fitness while having fun? We have 2 types of classes every week in the Gym, open to all ages and fitness levels, and they're **free!**

- REFIT® combines movement and positive music for a cardio-based workout that is challenging, effective and fun for everybody. Classes are Mondays at 6:15 pm and Saturdays at 9 am.
- REV+FLOW® is a low impact, high intensity workout focused on building strength, balance, flexibility and mobility. Classes are Tuesdays at 6:15 pm.

College Aged/ Young Adult Contact Information

If you have a loved one who has taken their first steps into adulthood, whether that be attending college or trade school, entering the workforce, or taking time for themselves, **we want to stay in contact with them** as they transition into becoming adults. Please fill out the information form at ccum.net/youngadults so we can ensure those who are adapting to a new chapter in their lives **feel God's love** through Christ Church.

Men's Ministry: Just for Men | Wednesdays at 7:30 am via Zoom

Join Rev. Mike Porter, Director of Men's Ministries and Discipleship, as he shares scripture and discussion for men during these trying times. Drop-in to our weekly gathering. If interested, please email katie@ccum.net to be sent the Zoom link.

Men's Morning Coffee | Tuesdays | 7 - 8 am | Fellowship Hall

We invite you to come join other men on Tuesday mornings anytime between 7 - 8 am. Stop in grab a coffee and donut, connect/reconnect with old and new friends and listen to a short devotional.