



First Christian Church

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Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2025
7:00 P.M.
Pastor Jeff Seger

Welcome to First Christian Church Christmas Eve Service

*Opening Hymn - #192 - Angels We Have Heard On High

Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 through 20 The Birth of Jesus

Read By: Betty Ploughe

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you; You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that

has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Light all four candles of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy plus the Christ Candle.

Let us pray: God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your Holy name. You have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the True Light. Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven, where with you and the Holy Spirit, He lives and reigns forever, One God, in everlasting light.
Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7: 13 – 15. The Sign of Immanuel.

Read By: Eileen Phegley

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. **15** He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Hymn - 193 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7. To Us a Child is Born.

Read by: Frank Shirer

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. **3** You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. **4** For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. **5** For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. **6** For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn - #197 – It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18 – 25. The Birth of Jesus Christ.

Read by: Dorrie Lefler

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Hymn - #178 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayer for the Bread and the Cup - Distribution of both Bread and Cup

OFFERTORY & COMMUNION

The bread and the cup are distributed together.

Please hold until you are invited to partake together.

Scripture Reading: Zachariah 9:9, 10b. The Coming of Zion’s King

Read by:

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Hymn - #180 – What Child is this, Who, Laid to Rest?

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:28-32. The Day of The Lord.

Read by: Kade Ploughe

28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit. 30 I will show portents in the heavens and on earth,

blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. 32 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Hymn - #184 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Scripture Reading: Hosea 11:1, 9-11. God’s Love For Israel.

Read by:

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

9 I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

10 They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. 11 They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

Hymn - #185 – Away in a Manger

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1 – 14. The Word Made Flesh.

Read by: Pastor Jeff Seger

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn - #195 - Silent Night, Holy Night.

Benediction:

Our service is ended, go into the world, you are the body of Christ.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and even forevermore.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Depart in silence...

