

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has  
risen upon you. For behold, darkness



shall cover the  
earth, and thick  
darkness the  
peoples; but the  
Lord will arise  
upon you, and his  
glory will be seen  
upon you. And  
nations shall  
come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your  
rising. Lift up your eyes all around,  
and see; they all gather together, they  
come to you; your sons shall come  
from afar, and your daughters  
shall be carried on the hip. Then  
you shall see and be radiant; your  
heart shall thrill and exult.

Isaiah 60:1-6

## Welcome

Alice denHollander

## Moment of silent meditation

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## Silent prayer

God of Advent, of waiting and hoping,  
Keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.

God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing,  
Make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.

God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known,  
Fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory  
That we have seen in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP



### Call to worship

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



## **The First Noel**

The first noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Refrain*    Noel, noel, noel, noel,  
              born is the King of Israel!

Then wise men from a country far  
looked up and saw a guiding star;  
they travelled on by night and day  
to reach the place where Jesus lay:       *Refrain*

At Bethlehem they entered in,  
on bended knee they worshipped him;  
they offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense:       *Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
Who has made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood our life has bought:       *Refrain*

## **New Testament Reading**

II Corinthians 5:17-21

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



## Prayer of Invocation for the New Year

Dear God, we praise you for making all things new. Thank you that you are with us throughout everything you've allowed into our lives this past year, both the easy and the hard things. We need you and rely on your presence to fill us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us on each step of this year. Guide our decisions and turn our hearts to desire you above all else. Give us courage and peace when your answer to our prayers is "no," "not yet" or "wait." May we pursue you first, who is truly the desire of our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, strength and power to be constantly present within us. Give us abilities beyond what we feel possible; let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would give us wisdom to discern when we need to run, and when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. May your mighty hand cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy. Give us discernment and insight to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

Forgive us for working so hard to be self-sufficient and for forgetting our need for you. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds. Forgive us for allowing pride and selfishness to wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for hiding from your presence.

We confess our need of you: fresh and yet again! As you are making all things new, be merciful to us! Refresh our hearts, minds and lives in this coming year.

Keep your words of truth planted firmly within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the humility to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us of our failings, may your voice speak louder and stronger that you forgive us through Christ.

Help us to be known as great givers: generous and kind. May we look to the needs of others and not be consumed by our own only. Holy Spirit, fill us so that your fruit is evident in our lives: your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We praise you for your presence. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes, that we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

# GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

## Call to confession

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."



## Prayer of confession followed by silent confession

## Declaration of forgiveness

Psalms 73:23-26

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.



## God is Good

Jonathan McReynolds

D G D/F# Em D A/C# Bm A D D/F#

May your strug - gles keep you near the cross. May your

G D/F# Em D A/C# Bm A D

trou - bles show that you need God. And may your

bat - tles end the way they should and may your

bad days prove that God is good, yes let your

whole life prove that God is good.

## GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US



### \* Scripture

Luke 2:10

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!



### \* Prayer



## Sermon

## God's Story, Our Role

Pastor Addison Hawkins

Main theme: The incarnation of Jesus motivates us to live Kingdom saturated lives.

Our Mood

Our Message

Our Mission

Further discussion/questions? [addison@christchurchgr.org](mailto:addison@christchurchgr.org)  
Sermons are available online at [www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org)



# DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD



## Father, Let Your Kingdom Come

Orlando Palmer, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell  
Liz Vice, Latifah Phillips

### CHORUS

Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah, Fa - ther, let your king - dom come.

### VERSE

1. May the works \_\_\_\_ of my hands bring you joy May the works  
2. May the words \_\_\_\_ from my mouth speak your peace. May the words

\_\_\_\_ of my hands bring you joy. May the works \_\_\_\_ of my hands bring you  
\_\_\_\_ from my mouth speak your peace. May the words \_\_\_\_ from my mouth speak your

joy. May the works \_\_\_\_ of my hands bring you joy. to Chorus  
peace. May the words \_\_\_\_ from my mouth speak your peace. to Chorus

### BRIDGE

You make all things new. You make all things new in

pla - ces we don't choose. You make all things new. to Chorus

## Epiphany Testimony

Christa Fernando



### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

*Gather bread and juice/wine and use the video to celebrate.*



### Prayers of the People



### Tithes and offerings of the church

*It is our tradition to highlight the deacons' fund on the first Sunday of the month.  
There is an option to support that ministry on the online giving form.*

### Offertory      *Gesu Bambino*      solo

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snow upon a winter night  
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced  
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O Come let us adore Him...Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its king of love and light  
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell  
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell



### Benediction      1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit  
and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



### Doxology

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.

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#### Worship musicians

Guerra family (*The First Noel; God is God*)

Bethany Morse (*Father, Let Your Kingdom Come*)

Scofield Family (*Doxology*)

Offertory: Sarah Griffioen, solo  
Susan Guerra, piano

Cover Art  
Frank Gutbrod (*former attender*)

## Life of the church

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**Today is Deacon Fund Sunday.** Take this opportunity to serve those in need. This offering, beyond your regular tithe, should be marked for the Deacon Fund.

**The Creative during COVID books are here and available in the foyer.** Please place a checkmark by your name if you pick yours up (one per household). We will also be finding creative ways to get books out to people who are not able to come in.

**Together in Prayer will resume on Wednesday 7-8pm on Zoom.** Register here to receive the new Zoom link: <https://christ-churchgr.breezechms.com/form/a6494a> Let's do the work of prayer together. Our world needs us to pray.

**Missions Committee is meeting Thursday, January 7 at 6:30pm.**

**George & Nan Dykstra had their 50th wedding anniversary this past week.**

## MEN'S MINISTRY

**Bible Studies** (via Zoom)

- Mon, 7pm - James Study  
Jerry Stutzman will lead the discussion.
- Wed, 6:30am - Isaiah Study  
contact Bob LaFleur at [lafleur1@comcast.net](mailto:lafleur1@comcast.net)

**Fellowship Breakfasts have been consolidated and moved to a virtual format on Tuesdays, at 8:30.** Contact Greg Meibeyer for details.

**Thank you** to Nichole Lammers, Alice den Hollander, Gladys Weirenga, Joy Juries, Cheryl La Fleur, the session and all my beloved Christ Church family for the love shown to me to mark my twenty years of service here. God has been so good to us all. It is a privilege and an honor to work among you; Christ Church has been a safe place for me to be sanctified and grow and it's just such a joy to make music with you all to worship our merciful God. With a grateful heart and great affection  
~ Susan Guerra

## YOUTH

### Jr High

This Wednesday the 6th we are meeting for small groups, join us at 7:00; check email for how to join the meeting

### Sr High

Small groups meet tonight (Sunday) from 7:00-8:00. Details about how we are meeting were sent via email.

## Financial Report

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	ACTUAL	BUDGET
January - November Receipts	\$ 833,427	\$809,220
January - November Expenses	\$ 802,365	\$809,220
January - November Over (Under)	\$ 31,061	\$ 0
Tithes and Offerings		
December 6	\$ 21,256	
December 13	\$ 25,428	
December 20	\$ 29,222	
December 27	\$ 28,230	
December Total Tithes & Offerings	\$104,686	\$ 80,735
Advent offering	\$ 10,499	

## WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

### Hinged@Home Participants:

Register at [hingedathome.pcacdm.org](http://hingedathome.pcacdm.org) to get access to the speakers. Click on register and fill out all the information. *Do not pay*. Click on "coupon code". You should have received a code via email from your small group leader that will cover payment.

Folders are still available in the church foyer. We are still waiting on the Ephesians journals and will figure a way to get those to you. Groups begin meeting this week. If you have not heard from a small group leader, or have questions contact Cheryl at [lafleur1@comcast.net](mailto:lafleur1@comcast.net) or 616 915-5488.

**Spring Semester Bible Study will focus on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.** We'll be meeting in small groups via zoom or in person. Details will follow. We may need a few more small group facilitators. If you have interest, contact Cheryl at [lafleur1@comcast.net](mailto:lafleur1@comcast.net) or 616 915-5488.

### Building Expansion Update

The mason finished up, the steel was delivered and has begun to be erected. Interior renovations have started and framing will happen soon in the kitchen and women's bathroom, plus plumbing for a new family restroom will go in. **The main doors of the church will not be accessible Mon, Jan 4th - Fri, Jan 22nd.** Enter through the north or south doors. Handicapped parking is still on the north end of the building, a temporary wheelchair ramp has been installed. We thank God for perfect building weather, a great team on site, and quick progress so far!



EXTENDING  
COMMUNITY  
ENABLING  
MISSION

Campaign Goal	<b>\$1,600,000</b>
Pledged & Received	<b>\$1,602,215</b>
Funds Received	<b>\$931,259</b>
Number of Pledges	<b>157</b>
Progress	<b>100%</b>
Matching Gifts Received	<b>\$144,346</b>
	(115.5% Exceeded challenge)
<b>GOAL EXCEEDED by</b>	<b>\$2,215</b>



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Worship Onsite Sunday mornings at 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am, or by Zoom at 9:00am

Office hours: Call or email ahead as we comply with MI Health Department recommendations.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Tuesday to [prayer@christchurchgr.org](mailto:prayer@christchurchgr.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Wednesday to [announcements@christchurchgr.org](mailto:announcements@christchurchgr.org)