

# Worship



Third Sunday of  
*Advent*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**



**10:30 A.M.**



## Gathering in Praise

(\*) Denotes to stand, if able.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg

Prelude

*O Jesulein Suss*  
*(O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild)*  
arr. Beverly Simpson

Chancel Bells

Litany of Praise (the people read the **bold**)

Katie Carrier

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

**Indeed, the Lord is near!**

We are called to make straight a highway for our God

**Let us welcome God with glad singing and joyous hearts**

Rejoice! Let our hearts and hands be filled with God's presence

**The Lord will reign forever; praise the Lord!**

\*Hymn #154

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

\*Invocation (the people read the **bold**)

Katie Carrier

Let us pray. **Mighty One, You have done great things for us. Our spirits rejoice in You, our savior, for You have looked at our lowliness and still offered us mercy and grace. You cast down the powerful, and for that we rejoice, even when we are the ones who must be scattered. Break our pride, Lord, and replace it with a joy that bursts forth like water in the desert, offering life to all of us who dwell in oppression. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri #35

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting  
- Hymn #128 (v. 3)

The Schomaker Family  
*One Candle is Lit*

## Proclaiming the Word

The Children's Moment

Rev. Dr. Topher Endress

(see the "notes" section of the bulletin for Children's Worship information)

The Prayers of the People

Dr. Endress

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT p. 663)

Dr. Endress

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem	<i>Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!</i> arr. Mando Fonseca	Boonslick Chordbusters
Sermon	<i>Behold the Christmas Cactus</i>	Dr. Endress

Response of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation to Discipleship	Dr. Endress
*Hymn #143	<i>Joy to the World</i>
Invitation to Stewardship	Dr. Stagg
Offertory Music	Rochelle Parker
*The Doxology #46	
Invitation to the Table	Dr. Stagg
Communion Hymn #420 (v. 1, 3, 5)	<i>I Come With Joy</i>
Prayer for Offerings	Paula Slusher
Words of Institution	
Prayer for Communion and Lord’s Prayer	Allie Schomaker

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Our time of communion is open to all followers of Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. Pass the trays to the middle of the pew, then back to the deacon. Hold the elements in the cups for unison partaking at the minister’s invitation. **Gluten free** communion elements can be found in the Narthex. All communion elements are **non-alcoholic**.*

Receiving the Bread and Cup	Dr. Stagg
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Departing in Service and Joy

Benediction	Dr. Endress
*Recessional #144 (v. 4)	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
<b>O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.</b>	
Postlude	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> arr. by Fred Bock Rochelle Parker



# Poinsettia Sunday

*The beautiful poinsettias making our lovely sanctuary even more glorious this Sunday were given in honor or in memory of loved ones.*

**Jeff and Jennifer Alexander & Family (2)**

in memory of Clyde Alexander

in memory of Donna Davidson

**Mary Ann Atteberry** in honor of Perry & Helen Stemmons

**Dan Backues & Lisa Zimmer** in honor of Bonnie Jean Backues

**Matt, Hayley, Delaney & Ryley Batterson (2)**

in memory of Glenda & Carroll Clark

in honor Debbie & Bud Batterson

**Anne Campbell (2)**

in memory of Jim Campbell

in memory of Mary Richardson

**Carrier Family (7)**

in memory of Paul Schlotzhauer

in memory of Anna Mae Schlotzhauer

in memory of Carol Chitwood

in memory of Jim Carrier

in memory of Martha Carrier

in memory of Anna Albers

in memory of Edgar Albers

**Coffman-Watson CWF Group (2)**

in honor of The Energy Bus

in honor of Hayley Batterson

**Anne (Bullock) Crousore (2)**

in memory of my father, Gary Bullock

in memory of my brother, Fred Bullock

**Mary, Brad, & Laura Daugherty** in loving memory of Jerry Daugherty

**The Estes Family (3)**

in memory of Alex and Evelyn Estes

in memory of Alex Estes

in memory of Jack Estes

**Sue Fink** in memory of Paul & Wanda Keithly

in memory of Dale & Marion Fink

**Chris & Tracy Fuemmeler (4)**

in memory of Jerry Wright

in memory of Andrew Wright

in memory of Bobbie & Mel Fuemmeler

in memory of Joe Bange

**Dan & Holly Gieseke (2)** in honor of our parents

**The Guy Family** in memory of Jerry & Connie Guy

**Cherry Hinderberger**

in memory of Edward Hinderberger

in memory of Corry Crowley

in memory of Evelyn Myers

in memory of Mike Henry

**The Hoenes Family** in honor of Brenda Mosby & Janelle Patterson

for all the wonderful work they do for our church

**Ryan & Laura Hunsaker (2)**

in honor of Brenda Mosby & Janelle Patterson and all they do for our church  
in honor of our parents

**Charles Koelling** in memory of Bettie Koelling

**Jerry & Kathy Miller** in memory of Doris Neidhardt

**Don & Brenda Mosby (2)**

in honor of passengers on the "Energy Bus"  
in honor of Erin Perry & Justin DeWick "always there to help"

**Fred Mottaz Family (5)**

in memory of Ellen Mottaz  
in memory of Waldo & Emaleta Mottaz  
in memory of Dorsey & Geri Martin  
in honor of Ben & Katie Carrier - Adult SS Leaders  
in honor of Elizabeth Mottaz - for her FCC volunteer work

**Debbie & Crystal Odor (2)** in memory of Clark Odor

**The Parker-Holloway Family** in memory of Jerry Holloway

**Susan & Gerald Ramsey (2)**

in honor of Don & Brenda Mosby  
in honor of our grandchildren: Sloane, Beckett, and Logan

**Mike & Carole Randerson (2)**

in memory of our dear friend, Verna Perry  
in memory of dear Aunt Mary & Uncle Harry Briscoe

**Katherine R. Richardson** in memory of Dale Richardson

**The Rothenberger Family** in memory of Ray Rothenberger

**Scott, Shannon, Lillian, & Teller Schaefer (2)**

in memory of Bill Lilley  
in honor of FCC staff

**Marilyn Schappert, Jeanie Dobbs, Sherry Kaye Dobbs, Sue Dobbs  
and Carol Kvanvig** in memory of Ralph & Sherry Dobbs

**Debbie & Elizabeth Schultz** in memory of John Schultz, husband, father, and grandfather

**Chuck & Emily Scott (2)**

in memory of Joe & Wilma McCanne and family  
in memory of Charles & Lorena Scott

**Carol Slusher (2)**

in memory of John "Jack" Slusher  
in honor of Paula Slusher

**Doug & Cindy Smith** in honor of FCC Staff

**Sue & Dave Smith (2)** in memory of Bill & Betty Moon

in honor of Brenda Mosby, Janelle Patterson, and all the wonderful volunteers at FCC

**Brad, Trish, Luke, Annie, & Noah Stagg (2)**

in honor of George K. Gonzales  
in memory of Mary Martinez Gonzales

**Joyce & Bragg Stanley** in honor of Ryan Stem

**Barry & Linda Stuart (2)** in memory of our parents

**Dan Tevis & Deidre Wipke-Tevis Family** in memory of Fletcher Alexander Merkel

**Suellen Wells** in memory of Russell, Sue & Jim Shaw

in honor of Kenneth S. Davis & Richard Wells

**Pat Wright** in memory of Sue Wright

**(3) Poinsettias** in honor of our ministers and office staff

in honor of all of our musicians and mentor Topher Otake  
in honor of Maria, our faithful custodian



Our thanks to each of you who provided a poinsettia. They will remain in the sanctuary for the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and then may be picked up by donors.

Remaining plants will be taken to the homebound.

## Prayers of the Congregation

***Prayers for Support, Hope, and Healing:*** Mary Ann Atteberry; Dana Heavin; Rochelle Parker

A longer prayer list of ongoing requests is on the yellow sheets in the narthex. Requests for prayer may be submitted via the yellow cards in the narthex, e-mailed or called into the church office.

***The Chancel Flowers*** are given in memory of **Jerry Holloway**.

***The beautiful poinsettias*** making our lovely sanctuary even more glorious this Sunday were given by members and friends of FCC in honor or in memory of loved ones.

## Serving Today

**Office Receptionist:** Janelle Patterson

**Welcome Station:** Valerie Freed

**Flower Ministry:** Poinsettia Sunday

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts:** Edie Pigg

**Communion Prep:** Laura & Ryan Hunsaker

**Greeters:** Debbie Potthast (N. Door), David Potthast (S. Door)

**AV Team:** TBD

**Liturgist:** Katie Carrier

**Deacon Team:** The Judy Team

**Elders:** Paula Slusher, Allie Schomaker, Janelle Patterson (Balcony)

**Children's Worship:** Hayley Batterson

**Offering Counters:** Cindy & Doug Smith and Deb Batterson

**Boonslick Chordbusters:**

Topher Otake, Carson Smith, Trey Thompson & Zach Wehrenberg

*Join us This Advent*



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

*THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT*

Christmas Pageant, 4pm

Tasting Party, 5pm



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**

MDO Christmas Program, 5pm

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

*FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT*

Christmas Cantata (both services)

Choir Christmas Caroling, 12pm

# This Week in the Life of the Church

## Sunday, December 14

- Worship, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Church Library
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Classrooms
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee Center
- Christmas Pageant, 4pm, Sanctuary
- Tasting Party, 5pm, Yonker Fellowship Hall

## Tuesday, December 16

- Bible Study, 10:30am, Morris Parlor

## Wednesday, December 17

### *No Chancel Bells Rehearsal*

- Midweek Connect, 10:30am, Zoom
- Bible Study, 12pm, **Zoom (Virtual Only)**
- Chancel Choir, 5:45pm, 3rd Floor

## Friday, December 19

- MDO Christmas Program, 5pm, Sanctuary & YFH

## Sunday, December 21

- Christmas Cantata, 8:30 & 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship Hour, 9:30am, Yonker Fellowship Hall
- Quiet, Meditative Time, 9:30am, Church Library
- Adult Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Cinema
- K-5 Sunday School, 9:30am, 3rd Floor Classrooms
- 6-12 Sunday School, 9:30am, Higbee Center
- Christmas Caroling, 12pm, Around Town (*Contact the office if you'd like carolers!*)

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## **Christmas Pageant & Tasting Party—Sunday, December 14**

Join us this evening at 4:00 p.m. for our 93rd Annual Christmas Pageant! The pageant will be livestreamed for those who aren't able to attend in person. The annual tasting party will follow at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to bring a sweet or savory treat to share! A **"white gifts" offering** will be collected at this year's pageant. Please bring an item for a local food pantry or blessing box wrapped in white paper to donate.

## **Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 21**

The Chancel choir will carol again this year following the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 21. If you are interested in having carolers stop by your house, please contact **Topher Otake** at [totake@firstchristian.org](mailto:totake@firstchristian.org).

## **Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24**

Our annual Christmas Eve services will be held this year at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24. The sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation at 5:00 p.m., with our traditional candlelight & communion service following at 7:00 p.m.

# WELCOME

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are with us. Please take a moment to visit our website, [firstchristian.org](http://firstchristian.org) to find out more about the ministry and mission of First Christian Church. Feel free to say hello to a host at the *Welcome Station* in the Narthex following worship and receive a folder of church-related information.

**During Worship:** Afghans, large print hymnals and children's bulletins with crayons are available from a greeter or are found on the shelf in the narthex. Hearing devices are available in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. Please talk to the AV Team if you need assistance.

**Children:** A nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the Education Building for infants through Kindergarten-aged children. Our nursery is staffed by Mother's Day Out teachers from 8:15am until pickup following the service.

**Children's Worship:** Following the Children's Moment in 10:30 worship, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to go with leaders to the 3rd floor of the Education Bldg. for their own worship time followed by constructive craft, reading and play time. Parents need to pick up children from the 3rd floor following worship.

**Christian Education:** Christian Education for all ages is held during the 9:30 hour on Sunday mornings from Labor Day—early May. Children (grades K-5) and youth (grades 6-12) meet on the third floor of the Education Building. Adults meet in the Cinema on the third floor of the Education Building.

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## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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[www.firstchristian.org](http://www.firstchristian.org)

Facebook: "First Christian Church-Disciples of Christ Columbia, Missouri"



## ways to connect



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