

Worship



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025



8:30 A.M.



Gathering in Praise

(*) Denotes to stand, if able.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Brad Stagg

Prelude

What Wondrous Love Is This

Angelina Nazario

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

Dr. Endress

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!

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.**

*Hymn #154 (v. 1, 2, 5)

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Kathy Ramser & Mark Goodwin

- Hymn #128 (v. 3)

One Candle is Lit

Proclaiming the Word

The Prayers of the People and the Pastoral Prayer

Dr. Endress

Special Music

O Holy Night

Matthew Kischer

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

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Behold the Christmas Cactus

Dr. Endress

Response of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Endress

*Hymn #143

Joy to the World

Invitation to Stewardship

Dr. Stagg

Offertory Music

Travis McFarlane

*The Doxology #46

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Stagg

Words of Institution

Elder's Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Kurt Schaefer

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

Departing in Service and Joy

Benediction

*Recessional #144 (v. 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**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.**

Postlude

The Chrismon March

Travis McFarlane



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.

Our Mission: *To know God and follow Jesus Christ*

Serving Today

Office Receptionist: Janelle Patterson

Welcome Station: Valerie Freed

Flower Ministry: Poinsettia Sunday

Coffee Fellowship Hosts: Edie Pigg

Early Service Helpers: Joe & Kim Reardon

Elder: Kurt Schaefer

Offering Counters: Cindy & Doug Smith and Deb Batterson



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 12:30 pm

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!*)

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.

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 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.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

101 N. Tenth Street, Columbia, Missouri

573-449-7265

fcc@firstchristian.org

www.firstchristian.org

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



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