

# Christ Church

## Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2009  
10:30am Berkeley, 5:00pm Rockridge

### Gathering and Reflecting

“What does the Church think of Christ? The Church's answer is categorical and uncompromising, and it is this: That Jesus Bar-Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, was in fact and in truth, and in the most exact and literal sense of the words, the God 'by whom all things were made' . . . Now, this is not just a pious commonplace; it is not a commonplace at all. For what it means is this, among other things: that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is - limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death - he (God) had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. Whatever game he is playing with his creation, he has kept his own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself. He has himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When he was a man, he played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.”

- Dorothy Sayers, *The Greatest Drama Ever Staged* (1938)

### Prelude

Today's Worship Pastor: Bart Garrett  
Today's Teaching Pastor: Jonathan St. Clair

### Let Us Adore

The heavens declare the glory of God  
And all of the world will join the praise  
His wonders proclaim  
The oceans and skies, lift up their voice  
And all he has made will rise to bless  
The King of all Kings

Let us adore Him  
Let us adore Him  
Jesus Christ is the Lord

Eternity's King is coming again  
Through all of the earth will fade away  
His truth will remain

Let us adore Him  
Let us adore Him  
Jesus Christ is the Lord  
Come and behold Him  
Bow down before Him  
Jesus Christ is the Lord  
*Words and Music by Reuben Morgan*  
©2004 Hillsong Publishing

### Call to Worship - Psalm 72

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Endow the king with your justice, O God,  
the royal son with your righteousness.

**May he judge your people in righteousness,  
your afflicted ones with justice.**

May he defend the afflicted among the people  
and save the children of the needy;  
may he crush the oppressor.

**May he endure as long as the sun,  
as long as the moon, through all generations.**

May he rule from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**May all kings bow down to him  
and all nations serve him.**

For he will deliver the needy who cry out,  
the afflicted who have no one to help.

**He will take pity on the weak and the needy  
and save the needy from death.**

He will rescue them from oppression and violence,  
for precious is their blood in his sight.

## Advent Candle Lighting - Psalm 23

*From the Children's Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones*

The Song of the Shepherd:

*God is my Shepherd, and I am His little lamb.  
He feeds me. He guides me. He looks after me.  
I have everything I need.*

*Inside, my heart is very quiet.  
As quiet as lying still in soft green grass in a meadow by a little stream.*

*Even when I walk through the dark, scary, lonely places  
I won't be afraid, because my Shepherd knows where I am.  
He is here with me. He keeps me safe. He rescues me  
He makes me strong and brave.*

*He's getting wonderful things ready for me - especially for me.  
Everything I ever dreamed of!  
He fills my heart so full of happiness I can't hold it all inside.  
Wherever I go I know God's Never-Stopping, Never-Giving-Up,  
Unbreaking, Always-and-Forever Love will go, too!*

God gave David that song to sing to His people, so they could know that He loved them and would always look after them - like a shepherd loves his sheep.

And one day, God was going to do something that would inspire thousands upon thousands of new songs. God was going to show His people once and for all just how much He loved them.

Another Shepherd was coming - a greater Shepherd. He would be called the Good Shepherd. And this Shepherd was going to lead all of God's lambs back to the place where they had always belonged - close to God's heart.

## God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember, Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavn'ly Father,  
a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmastime  
All others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

*Words and Music: Traditional English Carol  
Arrangement by Eric Gilbert, 2009*

## Reception of New Members

Kristal Curtis, Jenna Diestler, George Hines, T. J. & Erin Kaspar, Taylor & Catherine Keep, Ed & Flora Lai, Elisabeth Leitch, Elizabeth Terry, Andrew Thompson

## Affirmations of Faith

What is your only comfort in life and in death?  
**That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

## Member Commitments

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers?  
I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and lifestyle the Good News of God in Christ?  
I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
I will, with God's help.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society by praying for the world and its leaders, by defending the poor and weak, and by seeking peace and justice?  
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, and through worship and the sacrificial offerings of your time, talents, and treasures seek to advance God's purposes in Berkeley, Oakland, and throughout the world?  
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you accept the spiritual guidance of the church and promise to walk in a spirit of Christian love with this congregation, seeking those things that make for unity, purity, and peace?  
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you as a congregation promise to love and encourage these brothers and sisters by teaching the good news of God's love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God's family in friendship, prayer, and service?  
We will, and we ask God to help us.

## Children's Choir

## Welcoming One Another

*Children in kindergarten through fourth grade may be dismissed for Children's Church at this time.*

## Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son,  
Glory be to the Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Gloria Patri, 2nd cent.*

*Music by Karl Diggerness, 2009*

## Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Lord, now let me depart in peace,  
for I have seen Your salvation.  
A light in the darkness for weary ones;  
Your glory among all the nations.

Chorus

Come, Lord Jesus, come,  
Emmanuel, God With Us;  
Light of the World, given all for love.  
Glory to God in the highest!

For us and for our salvation,  
Promise of Old from on high.  
Wrapped in the garb of humanity,  
the Word who would suffer and die.

*Music and Lyrics by Eric Gilbert, 2009*

*Text based on "Nunc Dimittis" (Song of Simeon) from Luke 2*

*©2009 Christ Church Berkeley music*

## The Lord's Word

*The Bible (from 'papyrus, scroll'), consists of the books of the Old Testament (Law, Prophets, and Writings) and the New Testament (Gospels, Acts, Letters, and Revelation). The Scriptures are God's words – his powerful, authoritative self-expression and revelation. The prose and poetry of the various genres of the Bible tell the story of God's redeeming love for the world, making us "wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ... thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3). Listen to God's voice calling, shaping, energizing, and directing his church in her mission to bless the world and build the kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6).*

## Gospel Lesson

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1:1-4, 29-33, 38, 46-55

Luke 1:1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup> With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

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Lk 1:30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

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Lk 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

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Lk 1:46 And Mary said:  
"My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

## Teaching

Series: Advent Conspiracy  
Title: Conspiracy of Hope

## Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

- *We offer our gifts in gratitude and faith in response to God's gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ.*
- *The Christian church has historically taken up alms for the poor, weak, and needy during worship.*
- *Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources -time, talents, treasures - as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace, which enables the church to continue doing God's work in the church, the city, and the world.*
- *Those who are not Christians should feel under no compulsion to give; your presence is a good gift to us.*
- *Many members and regular attenders give tithes and special offerings through automatic bill payment via bank check; your bank will gladly set that up for you. Checks for the offering may be made payable to Christ Church. All gifts are tax deductible with receipts issued at the conclusion of the tax year.*

## Prayers of the People

*As we prepare to come to Jesus in the feast of the Lord's Supper, we also bring the church, the city, and the world before the throne and table of our King. We pray together with one heart and mind, agreeing with the prayers offered, and adding our own silent prayers.*

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father: Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Supper

*The signature celebratory feast of Christians has many names: the Love Feast, the Freedom Meal, the Bread Breaking, the Lord's Supper, Communion (from 'sharing'), the Eucharist (from 'thank you'), and the Mass (from 'Go, you are sent out'). This adaptation of the Jewish Passover has always been a common, shared, joyous family meal for those who follow Jesus, looking back to his once-for-all sacrificial death and looking forward to his return. When we celebrate the feast we commune with the risen Lord Jesus who stands as our host to offer forgiveness, healing, and life; we also commune with one another, participating together in the reconciling grace of God.*

*We invite all who follow Jesus to partake of the Lord's Supper – Baptized Christians who confess the faith, are at peace with God and neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not yet a Christian, or if you are a Christian who is not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage your prayerful observation in the hopes that you may consider your relationship with Jesus and with his church.*

*The order of our celebration follows the four actions Jesus performed with the bread and wine when he gathered his disciples around the table: he took, he blessed, he broke, and he gave.*

## He Took, Blessed, and Broke

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!  
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

As our Savior taught us, so we pray,  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## He Gave

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

- *You may come by rows, beginning with the front row, to receive Holy Communion. Eat the bread when you are ready and hold onto the cup (red wine or white grape juice) so we can drink it together as a symbol of our unity in Christ.*
- *Those who are not receiving communion are encouraged to come to the servers to receive a blessing. You may fold your arms across your chest to indicate that you will not receive bread and wine.*
- *Please place your communion cups in the recycle bin in the back of the worship space at the conclusion of the service.*

## Prayers During Communion

### *Prayer for Truth*

God, if you are real and you care about me, please show up in my life. Give me understanding of mind and experience of heart to know who you are, who I am, and what life in this world is about. If Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life," then I need you to persuade me. If it is true that "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again," then give me faith. Amen.

### *Prayer for Repentance and Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

### *Prayer for Renouncing Sin*

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be poor in spirit, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, and pure in heart. Grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the bread of life. Enable me to love you with my whole heart and love my neighbor as myself. Amen.

### *Prayer for Renewal and Commitment*

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, to love God and neighbor, and to a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, to pursue forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace, and to live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

## Communion Prayer

Let us give thanks to God.

Lord God,

who are we that You should come to us?

Yet You have visited us -

the hungry, the humble, and the broken -

And You have redeemed us in Your Son.

As we celebrate this sacrament,

grant us joy at the sound of your Word;

move us by Your Spirit to give You praise;

guide us in the path of peace

to the glory of Your Name.

Amen.

## In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found;

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This Cornerstone, this solid ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm,

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All-

Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,

Fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For every sin on Him was laid-  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine-  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'til He returns or calls me home-  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Words and Music by Stuart Townend*  
© 2001 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

## Blessing and Sending

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Those who regularly worship with us may help us recycle the outer worship folder by placing them in the re-use bin in the back.*

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## New to Christ Church?

*Christ Church exists to lead people into a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church through community for the city. We hope you will join us in the mission.*

### Welcome Table

At the conclusion of the worship service, please stop by the Welcome Table on your way out. You will meet someone who can give you more information about the church and help you fill out a card for the upcoming Newcomer Meal.

### Newcomer Meal - Sunday, Jan 17

We invite you to join the pastors, other newcomers, and folks from the Christ Church community for a casual meal within the first several weeks or months of your first visit to Christ Church. You will get to know others in our community, hear the story, vision, and mission of Christ Church, and learn how you can be more involved in our worship and work. Fill out a Newcomer Card at the Welcome Table to let us know you are interested.

### Weekly Emails about Upcoming Events

Sign up on our home page for "This Week at Christ Church," a weekly or bi-weekly email about upcoming events in the life of our community. You may unsubscribe at any time.

## Advent Conspiracy

*Conspire with us each Sunday during Advent to do something different for Christmas this year: buy ethically, spend less, give more, love all:*

## Trade As One Gift Fair - Nov 29

## Make Something Party - Dec 6

12:30-2:00pm at the Gaia Arts Center

3:30-5:00 pm at College Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spend less this Christmas by making your own gifts. We will have creative stations for you to make a variety of quality gifts for your loved ones, all for the minimal costs of the materials.

## Project Peace & Mercy Ministry Offering - Dec 13

During worship services

Give more this Christmas to the work of mercy and justice in Berkeley and Oakland. [Project Peace](#) forms partnerships with faith-based groups and social service providers to work together for sustainable communities in the East Bay.

## Wine to Water Offering - Dec 20

During worship services

Love all this Christmas by contributing to clean drinking water for those who need it. [Wine to Water](#) is an international aid organization focused on providing clean water in the developing world.

## Upcoming Events

*For a complete listing of announcements and information, please visit our announcements page and website calendar at [www.christchurchberkeley.org](http://www.christchurchberkeley.org).*

### Kids' Night Out - Saturday, Dec 12, 5-8pm

Drop your kids off at College Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rockridge and enjoy a night out celebrating the holidays with your spouse, friends, and neighbors. Please RSVP on the website by December 6 so we can arrange enough volunteers.

### Lessons & Carols - Sunday, Dec 13

Please join us as we anticipate the birth of our Jesus Christ through a service of "Lessons & Carols." This service began in the late 1800's in Truro, Cornwall in Southern England. It recounts the Biblical stories of the creation and fall of humanity, the promises of God's rescue, and the birth of God's Son.

### Advent "One Church, One Book" - Thursday, Dec 17, 7:30pm

Join us as we read *On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius. These classic reflections on "the Word made flesh" were written by the fourth century bishop of Alexandria, Egypt who is considered one of the four Great Doctors of the Eastern Church. He is best remembered for the conflict with Arianism and his role in the Council of Nicea, which gave the church the Nicene Creed. Email [jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org](mailto:jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org) if you are interested.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service - Wednesday, Dec 24, 4pm

Join us for a one-hour worship service at College Avenue Presbyterian Church. Bring family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers as we bring the Advent season to a close and enter into the joy of Christmas and "the Word made flesh."

## Weekly Worship

### Morning Prayer - 7:15 to 7:45am on Tuesdays & Thursdays

Join us for morning prayer based on a simple structure of The Book of Common Prayer. You may leave early as needed or stick around for coffee and conversation. We meet at the Figueroa's home (Tuesdays - 2820 Fulton St, Berkeley 94705) and St. Clairs' home (Thursdays - 5945 Keith Avenue, Oakland 94618).

## Teaching Notes

## Christ Church Staff

*Please contact [office@christchurchberkeley.org](mailto:office@christchurchberkeley.org) to schedule an appointment with a pastor or to submit prayer requests, questions, or concerns for the Christ Church staff.*

Rev. Bart Garrett	Lead Pastor
Rev. Jonathan St.Clair	Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Rev. Jose Figueroa	Pastor of Community Development
Rev. Eric Gilbert	Pastor of Worship Arts
Rev. Brent Webster	Pastor of Students (RUF at UC Berkeley)
Ann Elliston	Co-Director of Children's Ministry (Berkeley)
Emily George	Co-Director of Children's Ministry (Rockridge)
Kate Key	Administrator, Finance, Events
Anita Sunraj	Administrator, Office Manager

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