

Christ Church

First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2009
10:30am Berkeley, 5:00pm Rockridge

Gathering and Reflecting

It is only when you see the desire to be your own Savior and Lord -lying beneath both your sins and your moral goodness- that you are on the verge of understanding the gospel and becoming a Christian indeed. When you realize that the antidote to being bad is not just being good, you are on the brink. If you follow through, it will change everything: how you relate to God, self, others, the world, your work, your sins, your virtue. It's called the new birth because it's so radical. (p. 78)

Jesus Christ, who had all the power in the world, saw us enslaved by the very things we thought would free us. So he emptied himself of his glory and became a servant. He laid aside the infinities and immensities of his being and, at the cost of his life, paid the debt for our sins, purchasing us the only place our hearts can rest, in his Father's house... Knowing this will transform us from the inside out... Why wouldn't you want to offer yourself to someone like this? Selfless love destroys the mistrust in our hearts toward God that makes us either younger brothers or elder brothers... We will never stop being younger brothers of elder brothers until we acknowledge our need, rest by faith, and gaze in wonder at the work of our true elder brother, Jesus Christ.

(Tim Keller p. 87-89, The Prodigal God)

Prelude

Today's Worship Pastor: Bart Garrett
Today's Teaching Pastor: Jose Figueroa

Call to Worship - Psalm 100

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good
and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

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...

chorus

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
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Joy to the World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: "Antioch" arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

Thou Who Wast Rich

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

Words: Frank Houghton, 1949; Music: French Carol

Confession of Sin

Jesus said, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in someone else's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from the other person's eye."

Silence is kept for private confession of sin.

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you;

you call, but we do not follow;

you command, but we do not obey,

you bless us, but we do not thank you.

Please forgive and help us.

Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others;

you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;

you love us, but we do not love our neighbors.

Please forgive and help us.

Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission,

but we still insist on our own;

you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor,

but we do not bother to find out what is happening to them;

you suffered and died for the sake of all,

but we do not give up our comfortable lives.

Please forgive and help us.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Adoration

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

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,

That glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth,

To touch their harps of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,

From Heaven's all gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay,

To hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1850

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).

Old Testament Lesson

A reading from Psalm 146.

Ps 146:1 Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, my soul.

2 I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,

8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-17.

Jn 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Jn 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Jn 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because servants do not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

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

Teaching

Series: Resolutions

Title: Making and Breaking Them

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.

Let us pray for the church...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the city...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give ear to our prayers, O Father,
for the sake of your son Jesus,
our only mediator and advocate.
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

Let us all confess our faith from the Nicene Creed.

I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

He 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Loving God,
 you graciously feed us
 with the bread of life
 and the cup of eternal salvation.
 May we who have received this sacrament
 be strengthened in your service;
 we who have sung your praises
 tell of your glory and truth;
 we who have seen the greatness of your love
 see you face to face in your kingdom.
 For you have made us your own people
 by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord,
 and by the life-giving power of your Spirit.
 Amen.

Savior King

Let now the weak say I have strength
 By the spirit of power
 that raised Christ from the dead
 And now the poor stand and confess
 That my portion is Him
 and I'm more than blessed

Pre-chorus

Let now our hearts burn with a flame
A fire consuming all for your Son's holy name
And with the heavens we declare
You are our king

Chorus

We love you Lord, we worship you
You are our God, you alone are good

Let now Your church shine as Your bride
that You saw in Your heart
as You offered up Your life
And now the lost be welcomed home
by the saved and redeemed
those adopted as Your own

Pre-chorus

Let now our hearts burn with a flame
A fire consuming all for your Son's holy name
And with the heavens we declare
You are our king

Chorus

We love you Lord, we worship you
You are our God, you alone are good
You asked your Son to carry this
The heavy cross our weight of sin

I love you Lord, I worship you
Hope which was lost, now stands renewed
I give my life to honor this
The love of Christ, the savior king

*Words and Music: Marty Sampson and Mia Fields
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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.

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.

Newcomer Class - Sundays, Jan 31 to Feb 21, following worship services

After you have come to our Newcomer Meal, please join the pastors and other newcomers for a four-week, one-hour class to get to know one another, explore what we believe about Christianity, and discover how you can partner with Christ Church to put those beliefs into practice in your life, church, community, and city. We meet immediately following each worship service.

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.

Upcoming Events

For a complete listing of announcements and information, please visit our announcements page and website calendar at www.christchurchberkeley.org.

Members meeting - Sunday, Jan 10, 3-4:30pm

Plan to join us for our next combined members meeting at College Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Commission for Church Organization will give a report and recommendation. Childcare will be provided.

Pledge Campaign Update - Thursday, Jan 21, 6-7:30pm

To date, our congregation has pledged \$310,000 over the next 2.5 years. To God be the glory! And to you be many thanks! We are currently in exciting and hopeful negotiations with the Grace North Church, and it seems that we could be using our pledge dollars sooner rather than later. Please remain in prayer with us about this potential move. In light of these negotiations, we are hosting a pizza dinner at College Avenue Presbyterian Church as a way of saying "Thank you," and also to discuss the present and future of the pledge campaign more fully. Please join us if 1) you are a member, 2) you have pledged to the campaign, or 3) are interested in learning more about the pledge campaign. Please RSVP to bart@christchurchberkeley.org. If you need childcare, please copy emily@christchurchberkeley.org with the ages of your children.

New Family-Friendly Community Group - Starting Thursday, Feb 4, 6-7:30pm

Do you have to fall off the face of the earth when you have young children? Do significant relationships and a substantive spiritual life have to go out the window? The Christ Church pastors will lead a family-friendly group at College Avenue Presbyterian Church through March; we hope that by April the group will be established with everyone serving in different capacities. Dinner will be shared from 6:00-6:30; childcare will be shared among the group from 6:30-7:30 so that parents can pray and engage in a guided discussion without distractions. Kids will be home and in bed at a reasonable time. Please contact jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

Lenten Prayer Retreat - March 5-7

The season of Lent is a time to draw closer to God in prayer. This co-ed retreat will involve corporate prayer, reflections on prayer, and directed silence in which to be alone with God for reading, journaling, and prayer. The retreat will be at St. Columba Retreat House near Point Reyes. There is space for thirty people, and the cost is \$80 per person. Please contact jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

Teachers for Children's Church

We need teachers for Children's Church at the Rockridge worship service. You will be given curriculum and training to teach once per month or be a substitute. Please contact Ann.Ellistonann@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

Baptism and Beliefs - Sundays, Time TBD

Are you wondering whether you or your child should be baptized? Do you want to explore the meaning of baptism and the basics of the historic Christian faith?

Feb 28: Watch and discuss a video about baptism

Mar 14: "I believe in God the Father"

Mar 21: "I believe in Jesus Christ"

Mar 28: "I believe in the Holy Spirit"

Please contact jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

Saving Your Marriage Before (and After) It Starts – March to May, Time TBD

Nearly married? Newly married? Can't remember how long you have been married? In this 8-week group we will view and discuss videos from Drs. Les and Lesslie Parrott. Please contact jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

Enroll in Financial Peace University – March to June, Time TBD

This life-changing 13 week video program teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money and empowers you with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 91 days of Financial Peace University. Please contact jonathan@christchurchberkeley.org if you are interested.

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 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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