

Christ Church

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 3, 2010
10:30am Berkeley, 5:00pm Rockridge

Gathering and Reflecting

"Christ Jesus has true excellency, so great that when it comes to see it, the mind rests there. It sees a transcendent glory and an ineffable sweetness in him; it sees that till now it has been pursuing shadows, but that now it has found the substance; that before it had been seeking happiness in the stream, but that now it has found the ocean. It is an infinite excellency in which the mind can find no bounds. Every new discovery makes this beauty appear more ravishing; there is room enough for the mind to go deeper and deeper, and never come to the bottom. The soul that comes to Christ, feeds upon this and lives upon it. It is impossible for those who have tasted of this fountain, and know the sweetness of it, ever to forsake it."
-Jonathan Edwards

Prelude

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

Emmanuel (A Promise Kept)

Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child,

Emmanuel, a promise kept,
It's the longing of our hearts for God in flesh.
Through this Child, all earth is blessed, Emmanuel.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy,

Emmanuel, a promise kept,
It's the longing of our hearts for God in flesh.
Through this Child, all earth is blessed, Emmanuel,
Our answered prayer, our faith's reward;
redemption's near, redemption's here.

Emmanuel, a promise kept,
It's the longing of our hearts for God in flesh.
Through this Child, all earth is blessed,
Emmanuel, we will rejoice, we will worship You, our Savior and our Lord,
We will join creation's voice, Emmanuel.
Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848 & Laura Story, 2007
Music: Laura Story, ©2008

Call to Worship - Psalm 96

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

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

**Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

**Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

All Hail the Power Of Jesus Name

All hail the power of Jesus name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him LORD of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him LORD of all

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him LORD of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him LORD of all

Let every kindred every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him LORD of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him LORD of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him LORD of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him LORD of all
Edward Perronet, 1779

Sing Praise to God

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled;
To God all praise and glory, to God all praise and glory!

Chorus

Sing praise to the One who reigns above and rules the earth below;
praise to the One who makes His everlasting mercies known!
To God all praise and glory, to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.
Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud this grateful song:
To God all praise and glory, to God all praise and glory!

Chorus

Sing praise to the One who reigns above and rules the earth below;
Praise to the One whose healing mercies flood my thirsty soul.
To God all praise and glory, to God all praise and glory!

Let all who bear Christ's Holy Name give God all praise and glory!
Let all who own His power proclaim aloud the wondrous story.
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone!
Hail Him who reigns in glory; to God all praise and glory!

Chorus

Sing praise to the One who reigns above, and rules the earth below;
praise to the One who makes His everlasting mercies known.
Sing praise to the King of kings who reigns on high, the Risen Son;
praise to the King, who is the Lamb of God, the Holy One.
Hail Him who reigns in glory, to God all praise and glory!

Words: Johann Schutz, 1675; Music: Eric Gilbert, 2007

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Your Glory Shines

Your glory shines in all the earth,
For none compares to Your great worth.
In mercy look upon us now;
Before Your feet, we humbly bow.
In Your compassion love us still,
Come, Holy Spirit, hearts to fill.

Forgive Your people, Lord, we pray;
Lead us from night to glorious day.
Amen.

*Words and Music: Eric Gilbert, 2009
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Confession of Sin

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Silence is kept for private confession of sin.

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins. Amen.**

- from Psalm 25

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.

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.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1709; Music: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter, 1551
ARR. by David Crowder, ©2004*

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).

New Testament Lesson

A reading from Ephesians 1:1-23.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all his people. 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that can be invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

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

Teaching

Series: Resolved

Title: "To Expand the Kingdom (Christ and Church)"

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.*

Gospel Lesson

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 4:26-34.

Mk 4:26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

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

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 Apostle's Creed.
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and 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.
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.
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.
We praise you, gracious God,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we fell into sin.
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his glorious resurrection
overcame the power of sin and gave us new life.
Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Amen.

We Crown You

All hail the power of Jesus' name,
the wonders of His grace, our Savior
All bow before the King of Love
our treasure and our God, Redeemer
There is none more holy, great and mighty
No one like our God

Chorus

King of Kings and God of Grace, we crown You
Our Redeemer strong to save, we crown You
High and holy lifted up
There is none more worthy Lord
We crown You Lord of all

All sing a melody of praise
Our grateful hearts we raise to You, our treasure
All rise and shout a victory cry
Jesus is alive, and we have been forgiven
There is none more holy, great and mighty
No one like our God

For the life that You've restored
For the hope that's been reborn
Every prodigal called home
Grace and mercy You have shown
For the blood that washed me pure
For my sin and shame no more
Son of God our greatest prize
King of Glory, Jesus Christ

Words and Music by Steve Fee and Eddie Kirkland

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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.

Day of Peace - Saturday, Feb 6, 9-12pm

Join Project Peace East Bay for the first 2010 Day of Peace, Saturday, February 6 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM! We will have teams of volunteers at LeConte Elementary School in Berkeley and Claremont Middle School in Oakland, helping their PTAs with various build-ings and grounds projects. Snacks and drinks will be provided; wear your work clothes & bring your friends! Please RSVP at the Project Peace Website (www.projectpeaceeastbay.org). For more information, email dayofpeace@projectpeaceeastbay.org. NOTE: Both sites are family friendly (no childcare provided, but supervised children welcome).

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 contactjonathan@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 contactjonathan@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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