

Preparing for Worship

For our spiritual edification and for the benefit of one another, let us spend the time before worship in silent preparation, familiarizing ourselves with today's Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE



The Lord Calls Us into His Presence

§ Leader: Let us rise and worship God, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

§ INTROIT *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*
A1 (supplement), stanzas 5-6

§ Leader: The Lord Be With You!

People: And Also With You!

Leader: The Lord Be With You!

People: The Lord Bless You!

§ PRAYER OF ADORATION

§ CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 126*

Leader: O Lord, give ear to our prayers.

People: Lighten the darkness of our hearts, Christ Jesus!



The Lord Cleanses and Restores Us

§ HYMN OF APPROACH *Angels We Have Heard*
On High, C2 (suppl.)

§ GOD CALLS US TO CONFESSION *John 1:10-11*

‡ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins to Almighty God:

People: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the evil desires of our own hearts. We have willingly broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us all of our sins. Turn our wandering hearts back to you, and lead us by your Holy Spirit in the way of righteousness, holiness, and truth. Amen.

§ GOD ASSURES US OF HIS GRACE *John 1:12-13*

Leader: Arise, and hear the good news! *(please stand)*

Brothers and sisters, your sins are forgiven and your lives are rescued in our Lord Jesus Christ and His victory over the grave. Believe this, and rejoice!

People: Thanks be to God!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is proper and right to do so.

Truly it is fitting, right, wholesome, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven, and with all the Church on earth, we magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing...

†§ HYMN OF PRAISE *The Sanctus, p407*



The Lord Consecrates Us by His Word

§ FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

§ SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

§ SERMON TEXT *Luke 1:46-55*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord—

People: Thanks be to God!

§ CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*

Leader: Christian, in whom do you trust?

People: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible: and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

§ PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON *The Meaning of the Magnificat*
Pastor Steven Wedgworth

§ HYMN OF RESPONSE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, A5*

§ *Please stand as you are able* ‡ *Please kneel as you are able*

† Hands uplifted *Please greet your brethren in the Peace of Christ

The Lord Communes With Us

†§ TITHES AND OFFERINGS
§ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Doxology p437

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE *(ending with the Lord's Prayer)*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Bethany Claire Moody

§ HYMN OF REJOICING *Angels From the Realms... C1*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE

Passing of the Bread

What Child Is This? C22

Passing of the Wine

*The Passing of the Peace**

§ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People: Almighty and Everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



The Lord Commissions and Blesses Us

§ GOD COMMISSIONS US
†§ THREEFOLD AMEN
§ BENEDICTION
†§ RECESSIONAL

Matthew 28:18-20

Numbers 6:24-26

The Gloria Patri p436

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Announcements

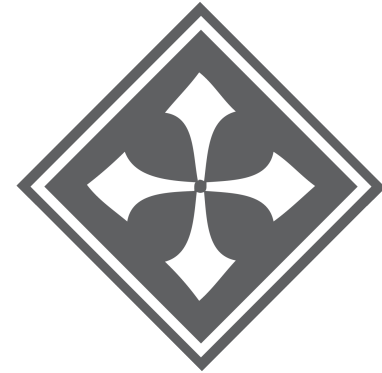
CHURCH FUNCTIONS

- Sunday, Dec. 17th
 - Christmas Caroling
 - Meet up at 6pm in the Church parking lot
- Sunday, Dec. 24th
 - We will have morning worship as usual
 - Sunday School will be canceled

GENERAL INFORMATION

- We celebrate the Lord's Supper every week. We invite all baptized persons not under any church discipline to participate, keeping in mind that it is a sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ, a covenant sign and seal, and a pledge both of what God has done for us in Christ and what we will do in grateful response.
- We use wine in our practice of the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions about this, feel free to speak with our pastor or elder.
- We try to regularly update our prayer list. Please let us know about new prayer requests or updates to continuing ones.

Currently meeting at the
Lakeland Women's Club Bldg • 1515 Williamsburg Square
863.712.4053 • christchurchlakeland.com



CHRIST CHURCH
L A K E L A N D

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

10:00 AM WORSHIP AND 11:45 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL



A CONGREGATION IN THE
COMMUNION OF REFORMED AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES