

Our Mission

Christ Church exists to lead people into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church, through community, for the city.

Connect to Christ Church

We are so happy you are worshiping with us and would love to connect with you! We invite you to the side yard immediately after the service for coffee hour.

If you are new, please complete the Connect Card in the pew rack and give the card to Pastor Andrew. Visit the Welcome Table in the foyer or our website, christchurcheastbay.org, to learn more about our church.

Worship Arts Opportunities

Do you sing or play an instrument? Are you interested in participating on our Sunday worship teams? Please contact our Worship Arts director Eric Gilbert (eric@christchurcheastbay.org) for more information.

Christ Church Kids & Youth

Come to the check-in table in the entrance of the Sanctuary for information on our wonderful programs and childcare for our toddlers, kids and youth on Sundays, and more!

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Let's Read Isaiah! - Fall 2022 Reading Plan

It's the last week of our Isaiah readings!

Week 12 - December 18

Sunday - Isaiah 61:1-62:12

Monday - Isaiah 63:1-14

Tuesday - Isaiah 63:15-64:12

Wednesday - Isaiah 65:1-25

Thursday - Isaiah 66:1-24

Friday - Catch-up day

Saturday - Christmas Eve!

Year-End Giving Campaign — Would you make a gift?

Please consider making a special gift to Christ Church this month to help us reach our \$330,000 giving goal for December. Here is a snapshot of how are we doing so far:

December Giving Goal	\$330,000
<u>Given through Dec. 15</u>	<u>\$126,924</u>
Remaining Balance	\$203,076

God loves and provides for us abundantly, and Scripture teaches that giving is a way to respond to Him in thanksgiving and a way to serve and care for those in, among, and around us. You can create a recurring donation to Christ Church, donate shares of stock, set up employer-matched donations, or text 84321 with a dollar amount to give. To learn more, scan the QR code below and tap on "Give," or go to christchurcheastbay.org/ways-to-give.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 pm

On this night we stand in awe that "the Word became flesh," that Almighty God became a powerless baby to be our Savior. Let's begin our Christmas celebrations by worshipping together with classic carols, prayers, Scripture readings, a brief message, and candle-lighting. Infant/toddler care only with quiet-fun Christmas packets for 3 year-olds to grade 5 to use in the service if they want. Bring your friends and family!

Christmas Day & New Year's Day Worship Services, 10:30 am

Christmas: We'll offer infant/toddler childcare only and quiet-fun Christmas packets for 3 years to grade 5 to enjoy in the service.

New Year's: Normal first Sunday programming for infants to grade 5.

* Wonderful Wednesdays Begin on January 4

1st & 3rd Wednesdays (Jan. 4, 18): Philippians with Jonathan

2nd Wednesday (Jan. 11): Evensong & Prayer

6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm program for all ages

Come study the Apostle Paul's epistle to the church in Philippi. This short letter that Paul wrote from prison goes beyond simply teaching the right moves — go to church, pray, read the Bible, share the gospel — and focuses on the music which drives discipleship: the love of Christ, the greatest love anyone can ever know. We will be using the videos, handbook, and reading plan from Discipleship Explored. Please join the Philippians community group on the website under the Connect tab, and don't forget to * register for dinner and childcare by Monday each week.

Looking Ahead

Jan. 7: *Loaves & Fishes (date change)

Jan. 8: "Un-Deck the Halls" after the service

Jan. 9: * Women Reading Women

Jan. 11: * 2nd Wednesday Evensong & Prayer

*** Register and see details for events marked by an asterisk by using the Church Center app or this QR code:**



Gathering

God rest our weary hearts and minds, may we not be dismayed; May we remember Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day; To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly 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.

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with the love and peace of Christ each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmastime all others doth deface.

"God Rest Our Weary Hearts and Minds"

Traditional English Carol, 18th cent. (Public domain); alt. Eric Gilbert, 2020

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of Your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to Your call with joy. Help us, whom You call to serve You, to share like her in Your great work of bringing love and healing to Your created earth. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light who is coming into the world.

The fourth candle is brightened.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, bless Your Church as we prepare for Christmas; and bless us Your children, who long even this day for Your coming. Amen.

All Praise to You (Noel)

All praise to You, eternal Lord,
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
You chose a manger for Your throne,
While worlds on worlds are Yours alone.

Once did the skies before You bow;
A virgin's arms contain You now:
While angels who in You rejoice
Now listen for Your infant voice.

Chorus 1

Noel, sing "Gloria!" Emmanuel has come to us.
Noel, creation sings highest glory to the King.

You come to us in darkest night
To make us children of the light.
You bid our sorrowing hearts to cease,
And kiss the world with heaven's peace.

Chorus 2

Noel, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born to us.
Emmanuel, our God is here; praise Him now and evermore.

Chorus 3

Noel, sing "Gloria!" Our Prince of Peace has come to us.
Noel, creation sings highest glory to the King.
Highest glory to the King. Jesus Christ, our Savior King.

Words: Martin Luther, 1524; alt. Eric Gilbert, 2018
Music: Eric Gilbert ©2018 Christ Church East Bay Music

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Confession and Petition

Come, Emmanuel.

Come to be God With Us.

Come and cheer us in Your drawing near.

Come and bring light to darkness, gladness for mourning, hope for despair.

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light. The true Light that gives light to everyone is coming into the world; coming to save His people from their sins, to heal our brokenness, bind up our wounds, and bring us peace.

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will rule and reign, and establish His justice and righteousness forever. To all who will repent and receive Him and believe in His name, He will give the right to become children of God.

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear, receive, and rest by faith upon the promises of God to all those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone for all their confidence before God:

Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

(John 1:16-18)

Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*Children are dismissed at this time

Advent Doxology

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to His people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest,
Goodwill to all people on earth.

Refrain

Gloria, gloria, in Excelsis Deo.

Sing gloria, gloria; amen, amen, amen!

Amen, amen, amen!

Words & Music: Eric Gilbert ©2014 Christ Church East Bay Music

The Lord’s Word

Old Testament Lesson

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Is 63:15 Look down from heaven and see, from Your lofty throne, holy and glorious. Where are Your zeal and Your might? Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from us.

* * *

Is 64:1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You! **2** As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make Your name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You! **3** For when You did awesome things that we did not expect, You came down, and the mountains trembled before You. **4** Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him. **5** You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember Your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, You were angry. How then can we be saved? **6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. **7** No one calls on Your name or strives to lay hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have given us over to our sins. **8** Yet You, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand. **9** Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all Your people. **10** Your sacred cities have become a wasteland; even Zion is a wasteland, Jerusalem a desolation. **11** Our holy and glorious temple, where our ancestors praised You, has been burned with fire, and all that we treasured lies in ruins. **12** After all this, Lord, will You hold yourself back? Will You keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

The grass withers, and the flowers fade,
but the word of our God stands forever.

*Please be seated

Teaching

Series: Come Down, O Lord!

Title: Oh, Rend the Heavens

Preacher: Rev. Andrew Ong

The Lord’s Supper

Let us confess our faith from the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We 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. We 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. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Preface (Prayer of Praise)

(Sung)

**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!**

He Took, Blessed, and Broke

Words of Institution

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.

And now 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 in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

He Gave

Invitation

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Waiting

We are waiting on You, Lord,
For Your promised Holy One.
Come and set Your people free from this.
We are waiting on You, Lord.

We are longing for You, Lord,
For Your promised kingdom come.
Jesus, come deliver us from this.
We are longing for You, Lord,

Chorus 1

To turn our darkness into light,
And wipe away our tears.
Come and set our wrongs to right, O Lord.
We are waiting on You.

We are hoping in You, Lord,
For Your promised peace and rest.
Yet while we wait, You are still God of this.
We are hoping in You, Lord.

Chorus 2

No more pain, and no more loss,
No more sadness, no more tears.
Send Your Holy Light to us, O Lord.
We are waiting on You. We are waiting on You.

Words & Music: Eric Gilbert ©2021 Christ Church East Bay Music

Prayers of the People

Prayers offered for the Church, our city, and our world

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Let us offer our thanks to God, and ourselves to His service.

Lord of Advent, accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve You. Gladden our hearts as we watch for Your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

Words: Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751, Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841
Music: ADESTE FIDELIS, John F. Wade’s *Cantus Divirsi*, 1751

Blessing and Sending

Let us go in the name of Christ to love and serve the world.

Thanks be to God.