

# *Songs of the Season*



*We wait for you*



WORSHIP GUIDE - DECEMBER 3, 2017

# THE WEEKLY WORD

Right Now

by Pastor C. Chappell Temple



Spending Thanksgiving with our grandkids in England reminded me of one of our four year old's favorite sayings. For Tali seems to have a one-dimensional view of time: whatever she wants, she wants it "right now," even if it involves trans-Atlantic travel and stores that quite reasonably decide to close their doors at night.

On the other hand, I kind of agree with that sentiment when it comes to this time of the year. For once the season kicks off the day after Thanksgiving—and one of the highlights of our trip was the English saleswoman who asked us if we had "Black Friday" in America, too!—it seems that Christmas just can't get here soon enough for many of us.

But then that's all the more reason to relish Advent, I think. For even when the calendar conflates that season with Christmas Eve falling on the fourth Sunday as it does this year, Advent is a time for slowing down and thinking it all through, just as the gospels tell us that Mary *pondered* all that happened in her life on that first Christmas Eve.

What's more, since music is such a pivotal part of the story, we'll be focusing in on some of the songs of this season, specifically those that come out of the scriptural story itself. In the midst of all the business and busy-ness of Christmas preparations, thus, I invite you to consciously slow down and listen to the music of the heart that flows out of God's Word.

You may just decide that all you really need "right now" is "now" itself.

## Looking for a church home?

All are warmly welcomed at Christ Church. We invite you to stop by our "Welcome Table" downstairs in the Gathering Hall where you can find out more about our congregation. First time guests can also pick up a special welcome gift there. If you would like to join the Christ Church family today, you may do so either by professing your faith in Jesus Christ, or by transferring your membership from another Christian congregation. Simply fill out a new member card which may be found in the Sanctuary pew racks and bring it with you as you come to the front to meet the pastors during the closing music at any of our services. If you have not yet been baptized, we will be happy to recognize your decision today as well as arrange for a convenient time to talk with you about the meaning of that sacrament before scheduling it for one of our upcoming worship services. For more information about our programs, staff and beliefs, please visit our website at [www.christchurchsl.org](http://www.christchurchsl.org).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE \*All morning services are held in the Sanctuary.

FIRST LIGHT (Simple) - 8:15 - 9:05 am

CORNERSTONE (Contemporary) - 9:30 - 10:40 am

FESTIVAL (Traditional) - 10:55 am - 12 pm

### STUDENT WORSHIP

Sunday evenings from 5 - 7 pm in the FLC Gym.

Dinner served at 5 pm (\$2).

Our Bride's Room, located just to the right of the Sanctuary, is open during all services for the use of parents with young children, with worship streamed live into the room.

# TODAY'S FOCUS



DECEMBER 8 • 7-9 PM  
SUGAR LAND TOWN SQUARE

## HOLIDAYS IN THE PLAZA with STARS GO DIM

Join us at Sugar Land Town Square Plaza for an evening of holiday music from Stars Go Dim, sponsored by Christ Church Sugar Land!

## Advent Study

THURSDAYS (DECEMBER 7-21)  
11:30 am • 6:30 pm

Hope, anticipation, and expectation are all elements of our celebrating the season of Advent; what is and is yet to come. In preparation for Christmas, the pastors will share in teaching a three week Advent study, "Down to Earth: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Three Tonight." Studies will be offered Thursday mornings at 11:30 am in Faith Corner (brown bag lunch optional), and Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

## Songs of the Season

ADVENT SERMON SERIES - DECEMBER 3 - 31



### AND JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS

#### LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 11 PM

Listen and sing along as our women's choir leads us in traditional hymns and readings about the beginning of Jesus Christ's story.

#### STILL, STILL, STILL: A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 6 PM

The concert will feature each of our music ensembles accompanied by a full orchestra and our own Beth McConnell and Dr. Hangfong Au.

#### HOPE LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 • 11 AM

Have you lost a loved one or just had a challenging year? You're invited to share a holiday meal and celebration with Christ Church followed by a candlelight service.

## Christmas Eve with Christ Church

4 PM - CHILDREN & FAMILY 6 PM - TRADITIONAL 8 PM - TRADITIONAL 11 PM - ACOUSTIC

\*We will only have one morning service at 10 am on December 24.



**THE PRELUDE & ALTAR PRAYER TIME**

Beth McConnell  
*The First Noel* arr. Michael Dulin

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*You know what time it is,  
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.*

**For salvation is nearer to us now  
than when we became believers;  
the night is far gone, the day is near.  
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of light.  
Come, let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING SONG**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH 211

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Justin & Kate Flint

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are invited to lift aloud a brief prayer concern or joy,  
after which the pastor will say, "Lord, in your mercy,"  
and the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayers."*

**COMMUNITY MOMENTS**

**THE OFFERTORY**

Beth McConnell  
*Emmanuel Comes* arr. Mark Hayes/ Bill Wolaver

**Sharing of our Presence, Tithes, and Offerings**

*Please sign the registration book at the end of the pew and pass it to your neighbor.*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

**\*THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 26:1-9**

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES: Songs of the Season**

**THE MORNING MESSAGE**

*"Isaiah's Song"*  
Pastor Michelle Hall

**THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (said by all)**

**SHARING AND PRAYERS FOR HEALING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

*Following The United Methodist tradition, our table is open to all this day, irrespective of age or church membership. You may stand or kneel at any place along the altar rail to receive the bread which may then be dipped within the chalice. Gluten-free elements are available on the left side of the altar.*

**INVITATION TO FOLLOW CHRIST**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196

**THE BENEDICTION**

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.*





*Welcome to worship this morning! After the children's lesson, our children may follow the cross down the center aisle to go to their Sunday School classes. Parents are welcome to walk with their children, returning afterwards for worship. Children's activity packets are available at the tree on the landing for those children who remain in worship today.*

**OPENING SONG**

*The Lion and the Lamb  
He Shall Reign Forevermore*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Mike Andrade, Tracy Walker  
Jordan, James, Michael, Justin

**COMMUNITY MOMENTS**

**CHILDREN'S LESSON**

**A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**

**SONGS OF WORSHIP**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Selah*

**OFFERING SONG**

*Waiting Here for You*

*During the offering, please sign the registration book at the end of the pew, passing it to your neighbor.*

**THE WORD FOR TODAY**

Isaiah 26:1-9

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!***

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES: Songs of the Season**

**TODAY'S MESSAGE**

*"Isaiah's Song"*  
Pastor C. Chappell Temple

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

*If you would like to join Christ Church this morning, please complete a card in the pew and bring it forward during the closing song. Our Prayer Partners are at the altar to pray with any who desire to do so.*

**CLOSING SONG**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



Welcome to worship this morning! Children age 3 years - 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend our Children's Church in the Chapel during this hour. Children's activity packets are also available at the tree on the landing for those children who remain with their families in worship today. The acolytes today are Steven Godwin and Jake Ritter.

**PRELUDE**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten  
The First Noel*

Beth McConnell  
arr. Larry Shackley  
arr. Michael Dulin

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*You know what time it is,  
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.  
For salvation is nearer to us now  
than when we became believers;  
the night is far gone, the day is near.  
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness  
and put on the armor of light.  
Come, let us worship God.*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Jim & Linda Havas

**MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (said by all)**

**FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY MOMENTS**

**SHARING OF OUR PRESENCE & GIFTS**

*Please sign the registration book at the end of the pew and pass it to your neighbor.*

**OFFERTORY**

*"And the Glory of the Lord" from Messiah*

Festival Choir  
by G.F. Handel

**\*DOXOLOGY (sung by all)**

*Gloria*

UMH 238

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 26:1-9

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

**ADVENT SERMON SERIES: Songs of the Season**

*"Isaiah's Song"*

Pastor C. Chappell Temple

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Musical Setting B, UMH 18

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 our thanks and praise.**  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**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!**  
... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

**SHARING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

*All are invited to share in the bread and juice, regardless of age or membership.  
The congregation is invited to join in singing the following hymns during communion:*

**AN INVITATION TO WALK WITH CHRIST**



**\*CLOSING HYMN** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung by all)** UMH 221

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**THE POSTLUDE** Beth McConnell  
*People, Look East!* arr. Kristina Langlois

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
UMH (United Methodist Hymnal)*

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

*Pastors:*

**Dr. C. Chappell Temple**, *Lead Pastor*

**Dan Conway**, *Pastor of Discipleship & Outreach*

**Michelle Hall**, *Pastor of Congregational Care & Missions*

**Andrew Hook**, *Pastor of Family Life*

**R. DeAndre Johnson**, *Pastor of Music & Worship Life*

*Director of Contemporary Worship*

**GT Mangum**

*Organist/Accompanist*

**Beth McConnell**

*Director of Cantate & Chamber Choir*

**Kirsten Jordon**

*Bella Voce & Handbells Director*

**Molly Ness**

*Music Administrator*

**Sandy White**

*Missions Director*

**Renee Teel**

*Director of Church Operations*

**Roland Huysman**

*Communications & Audio/Visual*

**Oliver Carlock, BJ Figat,  
Stefanie Pepping**

*Assistant Accompanist*

**Dr. Hangfong Au**

*Children & Family Ministries*

**Kate Flint, Kim Ripley**

*Financial Office*

**Cheryl Johnson, Norma Pharr**

*Office Coordinator*

**Debbie Meier**

*Membership Administrator*

**Benita Sebesta**

*Facilities Staff*

**Ray Singleton, Michael Swayzer,  
Jose Linares**

*Christ Church School*

**Beth Carter, Becky Neese**

*Singing Churchman Director*

**John Richardson**

*Student Ministries*

**Todd Harris, Sabrina Salisbury**

*L.I.F.E. (Senior Adult) Ministries*

**Jan Randolph**

*Jacob's Well Manager*

**Mik Meier**

# THE WORD MADE *FRESH*

DEC  
10

**ADVENT SERIES: SONGS OF THE SEASON**

**MARY'S SONG**

**THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS | LUKE 1:42-55**

*Pastor Chappell Temple preaching at 8:15 and 10:55 am service.*

*Pastor Andrew Hook preaching at 9:30 am service.*

DEC  
17

**ADVENT SERIES: SONGS OF THE SEASON**

**ZECHARIAH'S SONG**

**PREPARE THE WAY FOR HIM | LUKE 1:67-79**

*Pastor Chappell Temple preaching at 8:15 and 9:30 am service.*

*Pastor Michelle Hall preaching at 10:55 am service.*

DEC  
24

**ADVENT SERIES: SONGS OF THE SEASON**

**THE ANGELS' SONG**

**PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS | LUKE 2:8-20**

*Pastor Dan Conway preaching at 10 am service.*

**EVENING SERVICES**

**A SONG IN THE NIGHT**

**OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN | JOHN 1:1-10**

*A special message from the pastoral staff to our children at 4 pm. (Adults invited to eavesdrop)*

*Pastor Chappell Temple preaching at 6 and 11 pm services.*

*Pastor Andrew Hook preaching at 8 pm service.*



## FAIR TRADE ADVENT CALENDARS

Want a fun and delicious family way to celebrate Advent? Count down the days to Christmas with a Fair Trade Chocolate Advent Calendar. Each day open a different door to read the Nativity Story and find a treat, along with a flag & Christmas greetings in many languages. Support Fair Trade cocoa farmers, and our own missions program. A limited number of calendars are available in Jacob's Well for \$10 each.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN & FAMILY [WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/CHILDREN)



**CHILDREN & FAMILY LISTENING SESSION**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 12:15 - 1:15 PM • RM 210/211

We want to hear from you! All families with kids in any Children's Ministry program are invited to join us for sharing our vision for 2018. Tell us what you see that you love and what you'd like to add or change. Light snacks provided. Childcare by reservation to [KimR@christchurchsl.org](mailto:KimR@christchurchsl.org).

## STUDENTS [WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/STUDENTS](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/STUDENTS)



**TOMORROW • 4-9 PM • SPRING CREEK BBQ**

Come support Student Missions and enjoy some tasty BBQ! On December 4, we will be at Spring Creek BBQ on HWY 6 in Missouri City from 4-9 pm.

Don't forget to tell them you are with Christ Church. See you there!

## ADULTS [WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/ADULTS](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/ADULTS)

CHRISTMAS STORIES & TRADITIONS FROM  
*Around the World*

Do you ever wonder how other Christians from around the world celebrate? All women are invited to join us as we hear about Christmas celebrations & traditions from women who have lived in, or are from, other countries. What a lovely way to share our lives and highlight our commonalities and differences. We will have refreshments from different cultures. Free childcare by reservation. Contact Kim Ripley at [kimr@christchurchsl.org](mailto:kimr@christchurchsl.org).

TODAY • 2 - 4 PM • GATHERING HALL



### CHRISTMAS AT BAMBI (BABIES AND MOTHERS BONDING INITIATIVE)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 1-4 PM • MEET IN CHURCH PARKING LOT**

Christmas reminds us that sometimes babies are born into less than perfect circumstances and even a world in turmoil. In response, we will once again be taking Christmas to women who are currently incarcerated so that they might celebrate the season with their own children. All women are welcome to join us as we caravan to the facility.

### CANCER SUPPORT MINISTRY

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 6:30 PM**


You are invited to join in a time of sharing and caring. Here at Christ Church you have others who share in some of your experiences whether you are one who has been diagnosed, cured, and/or are a caregiver. We believe that by coming together we are strengthened.

## SERVE [WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/SERVE](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/SERVE)

**SHOP YOUR CLOSET WRAPPING EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Today is the last day to bring donations of toys, toiletries, or other small gifts to the Collection Bins by RM 11/12.

Then, join us in RM 210/211 from 9:45 am -12:30 pm for a Wrapping Extravaganza!

**ANGEL TREE TAGS**

Today is the last day to stop by the Angel Tree in the Gathering Hall and pick a tag (or tags) to fulfill!

Bring Christmas joy to those in need. Visit [christchurchsl.org/christmasmissions](http://christchurchsl.org/christmasmissions) or view the **Christmas Missions brochure** available around the church for more information.

**HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS**

Place food donations in Gathering Hall Collection Bin by **Dec. 10.**

Visit the website for a full listing of food requested.



**GIFT**  
(GIVE IN FAITH TODAY)

Visit the GIFT table on Sundays, Dec. 3-17



## HAITI CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE & AUCTION

DECEMBER 10 & 17 • GATHERING HALL  
AUCTION ENDS ON DECEMBER 17 AT 11 AM

Buy Christmas gifts *and* benefit our Haiti Mission at the same time! Chocolate, coffee and tea for sale. Handmade purses from the Olivier Women's Sewing group and a Silent Auction of unique pieces of Haitian artwork collected by our 2016 Haiti team.



## POINSETTIAS

Honor a loved one or their memory and provide a beautiful adornment for our Sanctuary for \$10 each. Sign up in the Gathering Hall or the church office.

Questions? Call 281.980.6888.



## CHURCH-WIDE SURVEY

FOR PASTOR DAN'S DOCTORAL THESIS PROJECT

Please take 20 minutes sometime this week to fill out this online survey at [christchurchsl.org/survey](http://christchurchsl.org/survey) or in the Christ Church mid-week email. The composite report that is generated will be of help to Dan's thesis project as well as ministry planning for the church.

*Paper versions are also available in the church office.*



## CHURCH MATTERS

### A PEEK AT OUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, & GIFTS

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 3

#### PRAYERS

*Please be in prayer for the following:*

Jeanne Martin's friend; Joy Dowell's son; Claire Unger's friend; Dave and Ann Schmittgen's grandson; Lisa Warren Smith; Pam Bluestein's mother-in-law; Joe Guzman's mother.

*Our joys include:*

Claire Unger's cousin; Pam Bluestein's cousin.

*You may contact us 24 hours a day to let the church know of hospitalizations, illnesses, birth, death or other concerns by calling 281.980.6888.*

#### PRESENCE

Total Worship Attendance on November 26: **799**

*(includes nursery, children, streaming and other weekend services)*

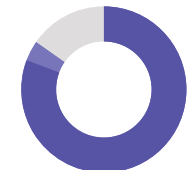
Our Membership as of 12/1/2017: **4,278**

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Contributions received during the week: **\$33,298**

*(includes on-line giving, tithes, and offerings)*

ANNUAL BUDGET	<b>\$3,140,000</b>
BUDGET NEEDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 26	<b>\$2,710,000</b>
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH NOVEMBER 26	<b>\$2,532,782</b>



**86%** OF BUDGET NEEDED  
**81%** OF BUDGET FULFILLED

## WORSHIP NOTES

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** today are shared by Michael & Terri Schnakenberg, in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary; and by Steve & Denise Lind (Johnson), in memory of Ruth & JJ Lind.

*Want to commemorate a special day or simply share in our morning worship? Donations of altar flowers may be made by signing up on the calendar in the FAITH Corner on any open Sunday, or by calling Debbie Meier at 281.690.4740, or emailing her at [debbiem@christchurchsl.org](mailto:debbiem@christchurchsl.org). Two arrangements are available each Sunday for a cost of \$50 each.*





## *Songs of the Season*

2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Stop by the Welcome Table to pick up a copy of the 2017 Advent Devotional Booklet written by the pastors, staff and lay leaders of the church. Based on the "Songs of the Season" sermon series, the booklet is a meditation guide for personal devotion throughout the season as we journey together to greet the coming Christ child. Each week focuses on a song that we sing during the season. As you follow along, you can listen to the songs featured by visiting [christchurchsl.org/adventsongs](http://christchurchsl.org/adventsongs)

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

VISIT [WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHRIST CHURCH'S EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY EMAIL - [CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/EMAIL](mailto:CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/EMAIL)



**Christ Church**  
Sugar Land 

A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

3300 Austin Parkway | Sugar Land, Texas 77479  
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