

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

10:45 am

THE GATHERING

Please greet those around you and welcome our guests before the service begins.

Gathering

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel! God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel!

Welcome and Greeting Renee Hoke

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*Call to Worship Andrew Allen

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presents, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift.

The Prelude Chancel Ringers
Christmastide arr. Sherman

*Hymn of Praise No. 155
Angels We Have Heard on High

*Invocation Andrew Allen

The Advent Candle of Love Tres Ward Family

Response *"When God Is a Child" - vs. 4* No. 132

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

And none shall be afraid.

THE WORD

Reading of the Scripture Andrew Allen

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible Page 1

Children's Message Madi Showalter

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer Renee Hoke

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our

sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response *Advent Amen* Chancel Choir

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir & Ringers
In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Buckwalter

The Sermon *Course Correction* Renee Hoke

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord's Supper

Hymn *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* No. 153

Communion Invitation Cheryl Smiley

Elders' Prayers Andy Wilson & Mike Spiller Jr.

Distribution of the Loaf and Cup

All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

Please partake of the bread as it is passed;

*we will share the cup together**,*

after sharing our common confession:

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The Offering

Invitation to Stewardship Renee Hoke

Offertory Chancel Ringers

Change Ringe on "Divinium Mysterium" Gramman

*Doxology No. 46

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.

*Prayer of Dedication Renee Hoke

THE GOING FORTH

*Invitation to Discipleship Renee Hoke

*Hymn of Discipleship No. 144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*The Benediction Renee Hoke

*Choral Response Chancel Choir

*Postlude Chancel Ringers

* If you are able, please stand.

** A few cups of water are in the communion tray for those on sugar-free diets

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

4th Candle - (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)

WELCOME TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Welcome! We're glad you are with us for worship today. We want you to feel right at home. For 125 years First Christian Church has been a place where people come seeking a richer relationship with God and neighbor. No matter what your background or previous experience of church, this is a congregation where you can put down roots and experience true community. Our ministry staff and elders leading in worship today will be available after worship to answer your questions. It is our prayer that any person searching for meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging will find it here at First Christian Church of Wichita Falls.

NURSERY

A quality nursery for infants and young children is available during our worship services. Also available during the week is our childcare programs of Children Come First and Young Ages Preschool.

"GODLY PLAY"

Children ages 3 years thru 2nd grade may participate in "Godly Play" following the Children's Message in the 10:45 worship service. Godly Play allows children to worship and fellowship together in an engaging and age appropriate environment. Children can be picked up immediately following the worship service in Room 213, use Exit door near altar and follow the signs for "Children Pick-Up".

HEARING AID DEVICES

Are available for those in need by asking an usher in the Sanctuary Narthex.

SERMONS

Last week's sermon is available in print form in the Narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary or at www.firstchristianwf.com.

COMMON GROUND RECOVERY MINISTRIES

Adult peer support groups each Sunday afternoon at 6:00 pm (Women's C.A.R.E., Anger Management, Chemical Addictions Recovery & Parent Groups) For more information contact Rev. Dave Brummett, 613-2112.

MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

We are offering a Wednesday evening period of quiet prayer and communion in our Chapel from 5:00-5:30. Members and visitors are warmly invited to come in and pray for however long or as little as they feel led; from 5:00-5:15, there will be a brief vespers service consisting of scripture, guided prayer and communion.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF A CHURCH MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED

Due to hospital policy changes & HIPAA laws, if a church member enters any hospital, the church office has no way of knowing and now needs for either the patient, a family member, a friend, or another church member to call and tell us. If in doubt, please, go ahead and call the church office as we would prefer to receive many calls about someone being hospitalized, than us not knowing at all!

MEMORIALS & HONORS

IN MEMORY OF CORA DELL MILLER given by Sam Maynor, Virginia Krebs, Carolyn Ford.

IN MEMORY OF MIL DINNIN given by Sam Maynor, Paul & Sharon Stradley, Ruth Beyer.

IN MEMORY OF GLENN TOLE SR. given by Peggy Fitts.

IN MEMORY OF KENNETH BOYLES, son of Wanda Boyles, given by Sam Maynor.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID HARTMAN SR., father of Dr. David Hartman Jr., given by Peggy Fitts.

IN HONOR OF DAVE HARTMAN JR. given by John Opie.

Sunday Evening Activities Schedule

- NO Chancel Ringers [High School-Adults] (Stratten Hall)
 Grow in Grace Choir [Grades K-5] (Stratten Hall)
 Come As You Are [Grades 6-12] (Room 403)
 Young Disciples [Grades K-5] (Scout Hall)
- 5:14 CGRM Bible Study (Rm 307)
- 6:00 Common Ground Recovery Ministries (CGRM) Groups:
 Parenting (Room 306)
 Anger Recovery (Room 304)
 Chemical Addictions Recovery (Room 305)
 Women's C.A.R.E. (Room 307)

Ministry News & Calendar Highlights

Congregational Meeting today in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:45 worship service to approve the nominees for the 2017-2019 Church Board.

The **New 2017-2019 Church Board** will meet today in the Sanctuary immediately following the Congregational Meeting to approve Board Officers.

Youth News: The Young Disciples and Chi Rho/CYF groups will not be meeting again until the 8th of January! However, on that Sunday (January 8th) we will be traveling to Fort Worth to attend University Christian Church's Boars Head Festival. All 3 groups will leave after the 10:45 AM service to make it there in time for the 3:00 PM performance. We should be back by 8:00 PM that same day! Cost is free, the kids are asked to bring a little bit of money to help offset the cost of dinner!

Christmas Eve rehearsals are as follows: December 21st, 22nd, & 23rd from 5:00-7:00 PM. For the Christmas Eve services the kids need to be there at least 30 minutes before the services, so 5:30 and 10:30 PM. We just want to ensure they have enough time to get costumes on and down to the Sanctuary on time.

The 20-22nd of January is JYF (3rd-5th grade) Retreat in Athens! Sign up can be found on the Disciples Crossing website!

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

For almost 50 years First Christian Church has presented the drama "Christmas Eve" by Herbert Burtis as the centerpiece of Christmas Eve worship. This dramatic telling of the Christmas story includes actors in costume and a beautiful set. Around the drama we hear the words of scripture, we share in the Lord's Supper, we sing our favorite Christmas carols, and we enjoy sacred music from our Chancel Choir. The service concludes with traditional candle lighting as we sing "Silent Night." Identical services at 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary, one holy night.

Christmas Day Worship

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 Christmas morning for coffee and donuts. Dress is casual for this unstructured, family friendly service which begins in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am. Children are invited to bring their favorite gift for the Blessings of the Toys. A simple Christmas meditation by Dr. David Hartman, time at the Lord's Table, and a Christmas prayer mark this holy day.

New Year's Day Worship

We begin the new year by committing ourselves afresh to follow the One who is God-with-us. Worship on this day includes a "Service of Covenant Renewal." 8:40 in the Chapel and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

First Christian Church
 3701 Taft Blvd, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
 (940) 692-2282, www.firstchristianwf.com

Dr. David B. Hartman, Jr., *Senior Minister*
 Rev. Renee Hoke, *Associate Minister*
 Jeanette Showalter, *Director of Music Ministries*
 Meredith Buckley, *Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries*
 Madi Showalter, *Children's Ministries Intern*
 Rev. Dave Brummett, *Director of Recovery Ministries*
 Heather Dickerson, *Director of Children Come First*
 Karen Bivona, *Director of Young Ages School*
 Cheryl Appling, *Business Administrator* Susan Marrs, *Executive Secretary*
 Tina Williams, *Financial Secretary* Ann Hunter, *Receptionist*
 Debbie Watson, *Organist* Glenda & Preston, *Custodians*

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS OFFERING

- 8:40—Worship.....Chapel
 9:30—Sunday School
 9:45—Journey Through Scripture.....Parlor
 10:45—Worship.....Sanctuary
 12:00—Congregational Meeting.....Sanctuary
 12:10—New 2017-2019 Church Board Meeting.....Sanctuary
 5:14-7:00—Sunday Evening Activities - NO Youth Groups or Choirs

Monday, December 19, 2016

- 7:30-6:00—Children Come First (M-F)
 Young Ages School Closed until January 3rd
 10:15—FCC Staff Meeting.....Office
 1:30—CWF Group 1 Meeting 4811 Nursery
 5:30—CWF Group 2 Meeting Applebee's on Kemp
 7:30—Boy Scouts Troop 15 Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

- 2:00—Tea at Two Parlor
 6:00—Stewardship Ministry Meeting..... Room 310
 6:00—Children Come First Staff Christmas Party Room 403

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

- 7:00—Elders' Breakfast..... Room 405 & Chapel
 10:30—The Redemption of Scrooge IV Room 310
 NO—Mid-Week Communion Service.....Chapel
 5:00-7:00—Christmas Eve Rehearsal Sanctuary
 5:30—Food Truck Meal Outside Fellowship Hall
 6:00-7:00—The Neighborhood Worship Fellowship Hall
 "The Redemption of Scrooge III & IV"
 7:00—Chancel Choir (High School-Adults).....Stratten Hall

Thursday, December 22, 2016

- 5:00-7:00—Christmas Eve Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, December 23, 2016

- 5:00-7:00—Christmas Eve Rehearsal Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24, 2016

- 6:00 & 11:00—Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25, 2016

- MERRY CHRISTMAS
 NO—8:40 Chapel Worship
 NO—Sunday School
 NO—Journey Through Scripture.....Parlor
 10:45—Worship.....Fellowship Hall
 NO—Sunday Evening Activities

Monday, December 26, 2016

- Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed
 Children Come First & Young Ages School Closed until January 3rd

Love

For God so loved the world ... he gave his only ... Son.
John 3:16



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF
 ADVENT



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Wichita Falls, Texas