

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016

6:00 pm & 11:00 pm

THE GATHERING

The Prelude

Please be in prayerful meditation as we open our minds and hearts to God.

Entrance of the Christ Candle

Renee Hoke

*Hymn of Praise *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 148

Invocation & Lord's Prayer

David Hartman

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.

*Congregational Response

No. 143

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven,
and heaven and nature sing.**

THE WORD

Reading of the Scripture Luke 2:1-20 David Hartman
Pew Bible Page 58

A Christmas Drama

Christmas Eve

by Herbert Burtis

(Please, no flash photography)

Ministry of Music *O Holy Night* Meredith Buckley (6 pm)
Sharon Mucker (11 pm)

Pastoral Prayer

David Hartman

THE SACRAMENT

Musical Meditation

There is Faint Music

Chancel Choir

Forrest

The Lord's Supper

Communion Invitation

Polly Tonemah (6 pm)

Gary Cook (11 pm)

Elders' Prayers Cheryl Smiley & Eddie Tucker (6 pm)

Susan Buckley & Doug Thompson (11 pm)

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 LIGHT

Reading of the Scripture John 1:1-5 David Hartman
Pew Bible Page 91

*A Song of Joy *Silent Night*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

† **Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior is born.**

*The Benediction

David Hartman

*Postlude

Debbie Watson

* If you are able, please stand.

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

† Please raise your candle as we begin the final verse.

There are offering baskets located in the Narthex and at exit doors throughout the Sanctuary. Your tithes and gifts will be gratefully received and faithfully invested in our ministry in 2017.

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

5th Candle - (white) **"THE CHRIST CANDLE"** - The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"* (John 1:29)

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.' In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.' 'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'" (John 3:1-8)

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!

“CHRISTMAS EVE”
by Herbert Burtis

Narrator Chris Showalter
 Joseph Luke Ward
 Mary Ainslee Buckley
 The Magi Luke Machado, Tyler Thomas, Jack Cantrell
 The Shepherds Davidson Cook, Braelyn Crowe, Ethan Earley
 Hannah Earley, Emily Thomas, Bentley Ware

 The Dancing Angel Hannah Ward
 The Dancing Shepherds Madi Showalter & Hannah Ward

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 Director Sarah Cook & Meredith Buckley
 Choreography Sarah Cook
 Musical Coordinator/Organist Jeanette Showalter
 Costume Design Ilma Craft, Angela Smyth & Marilyn Vaughn
 Lighting Erwin Soell, Showtech

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

Saturday, December 24, 2016
 CHRISTMAS EVE
 6:00pm & 11:00pm—Christmas Eve Services.....Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25, 2016
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
 NO—8:40 Chapel Worship
 NO—Sunday School or Journey Through Scripture
 10:45—Worship Fellowship Hall
 NO—Sunday Evening Activities

Monday, December 26, 2016
 Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed

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)
 CGRM Bible Study (Rm 307)
 Young Disciples [Grades K-5] (Scout Hall)
 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)



CHRISTMAS | LUKE 2:8-20

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Wichita Falls, Texas