

THE GATHERING

Prelude Debbie Watson
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Josh deSteiguer
*Passing of the Peace[†]
**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor,
the rich seem suddenly poor.**

*Call to Worship Dr. Mark Bender
Let us worship our strong God,
Who raises up the lowly and casts down the mighty.
Let us praise our generous God,
Who feeds the hungry and sends the rich away.
Let us thank our merciful God,
Who promises us the gift of eternal life through Jesus, the Christ.

*Opening Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 155

*The Lighting of the Advent Candle The Brannon Family
Unison Prayer:
**O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of
excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in
those around us. But we know that for some, life's unhappy
things have made joy is hard to find. Give us the joy that does not
depend on earthly happiness but on your grace. Fill us with that
joy so that we may share it with a joyless world, we pray through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Response *One Candle is Lit – vs. 3* No. 128
**Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.**

THE PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading Luke 1:51-53 Claire Baer
Pew Bible N.T. p. 57

Anthem *Good News – Sleeth* Grow in Grace Choir and
Women of the Chancel Choir

Children's Message Claire Baer

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer Dr. Mark Bender

**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.**

Sermon *With His Strong Arm* Dr. Mark Bender

THE REPONSE

THE LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn *There's a Song in the Air* No. 159
Communion Invitation Alice Gordon
Elders' Prayer Dwight Ross III & Woody Gossom
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 Rev. Josh deSteiguer
Offertory *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord – Martin* Chancel Choir
*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.**

*Offertory Prayer

THE SENDING

Invitation to Discipleship Dr. Mark Bender
*Closing Hymn No. 164
Good Christians Friends, Rejoice – vs. 1 & 2
*Benediction Rev. Josh deSteiguer
*Closing Chorus *When God is a Child – vs. 3* No. 132
Solo: *Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Savior is born.*
All: **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.**

*Postlude Debbie Watson

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

In memory of Ruth Beyer given by Rick & Cheryl Appling, Nick & Linda Gipson, Roma Prassel, Peggy Fitts.

In memory of Rita Cason given by Rick & Cheryl Appling, Nick & Linda Gipson, Lou Murdock, Larry & Treva Spradley, Mark & Sheri Sutton, Peggy Fitts.

In memory of Anita Mills given by Rick & Cheryl Appling, Mitzi Brotherton, Nick & Linda Gipson, Lou Murdock, Rick & Holly Porter, Mark & Sheri Sutton, Peggy Fitts.

In memory of Helen Jackson given by Lou Murdock, Mark & Sheri Sutton.

In memory of Marilee Smith given by Richard & Margaret Phillips, Nick & Linda Gipson.

In memory of Ruby Swartz (sister of Margaret Phillips) given by Rick & Cheryl Appling.

Poinsettias may be picked up as follows: those in the Chapel after the 8:40 am service on Sunday, December 22; and those in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24.

SERVICE INFO

The acolytes serving this morning are Lucy Anderson & Jesse Hartman.

*If you are able, please stand.

**Gluten-free wafers are available in each bread tray. A few cups of water are in the cup tray for those on sugar-free diets.

†As part of our Table-centered spirituality, the "peace of Christ" is offered as a sign of our reconciliation to God and neighbor. It is a visible symbol of our being "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world," preparing us to "welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."



The Ministerial Staff of First Christian Church welcomes the opportunity to pray for your request and would like to share your request with our Elders. If possible, please obtain the person's permission to share their name with us.

YOUR NAME

YOUR PHONE NUMBER

NAME OF PERSON TO PRAY FOR

PRAYER REQUEST:

Check here if this request may be shared with the Elders

CONNECTION CARD

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Whether you are a member or a guest, please fill out the registration form below and drop it in the offering plate as it is passed.

ADULT'S NAME _____

ADULT'S NAME _____

CHILD'S NAME AGE _____

CHILD'S NAME AGE _____

CHILD'S NAME AGE _____

ADDRESS (if new or changes to our file) _____

CITY ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

GUEST OF _____

HOME CHURCH _____

I am/(We are):

- Member(s) Regular Attendee(s)
 First Time Returning Guest(s)
 Guest(s) Out-of-Town Guest(s)

I would like to:

- Learn more about First Christian Church
 Become a member
 Receive FCC Weekly Email
 Make _____ Lunch/Dinner Reservations

**PLEASE PLACE IN
THE OFFERING PLATE**

Christmas Fellowship Dinner and Children's Pageant

December 18 – 6:00 pm

Bring the whole family for a delicious potluck meal, beautiful sounds of the season from the Chancel Ringers, and a retelling of the Christmas story through carols and tableaux.

Make your reservations on the attendance form or by calling the church office, 692-2282.

Children preschool age and older are invited to help tell the story.

[Contact Claire Baer, (claire@firstchristianwf.com) for rehearsal details.]

Through the Bible in a Year

Thursday, December 19th
6:00 pm
Room 310

Christmas Eve Services

The Very First Christmas
Children & Family Service
3:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Children are invited to engage with the story of Jesus' birth as shepherds, angels, wise men, and other key figures. Enhancing the story they tell is the presence of live animals, the singing of familiar Christmas carols, and the celebration of Communion.

Traditional Services
6:00 pm and 11:00 pm
Sanctuary

These identical services will feature the 50th annual performance of Herbert Burtis' *Christmas Eve*, communion, and the traditional candlelight singing of *Silent Night*.

Welcome

Thank you...

For joining us today. We are glad to see you and to join in worship with you.

Here at First Christian Church, our vision is:

To provide a church in Wichita Falls where there is appreciation for differences in beliefs so that families can be united in Christ. Therefore, we promote spiritual growth with intellectual challenges, emotional support through small group activities, and opportunities to serve one another in the larger community.

We would love to help you take the next step in your own search for...a church home...deeper spiritual growth...significant community...meaningful service.

Several things for you to know:

- **Nursery** for children age 3 and under is available in Room 209. While there, your child will learn about God through storytelling, play, and music.
- Children age 4 through Second Grade are invited to **Children's Church** following the Children's Message. This age-appropriate worship and fellowship experience takes place in Room 213, where your child learns about faith through storytelling and art projects. You can pick up your child in Room 213 at the conclusion of worship.
- **Hearing devices** are available. A member of the Diaconate would be happy to assist you.
- **Audio CDs** of the service are available by calling the church office. You may also download messages from our website or pick up printed transcripts in the Narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary.
- The volunteers at the **Welcome Center**, located in the Narthex, are here to answer your questions about First Christian Church, and to assist you in making connections.

To find out more about First Christian Church, visit us at www.firstchristianwf.com.



Grow in Grace Choir—Grades K-5
Sundays | 5:00—5:45 pm | Stratten Hall

Young Disciples—Grades K-5
Sundays | 5:45—7:00 pm | Room 402

First Kidz—Grades K-5
Bible Study, activities, fellowship, and games
Wednesdays | 6:00—7:00 pm | Room 402

Come As You Are—Grades 6-12
Sundays | 5:00—7:00 pm | Room 403

After the Neighborhood... - Grades 6-12
Wednesdays | 7:00—8:00 pm | Room 403



Tuesdays | 6:30 pm
Adult peer support groups: Parenting, Anger Management, Rebuilding Your Life
Contact Rev. Margaret Scales
940.337.1712 or cgrm@firstchristianwf.com

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

3701 Taft Blvd. | Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
940.692.2282 | www.firstchristianwf.com

Sermon Notes

1. Protest songs

2. Little Bishop

3. The nature of revolution

4. Brought down

5. Changing expectations

Our Sock Tree

For the 24th year the Sock Tree for Fain Elementary School students is up in the church office and the items on it will be taken to Fain on Monday or Tuesday of this week, so get those colorful socks, hats, gloves and kids pajamas donated on it soon!

Pickleball!

Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Gym
Everyone welcome!

Christian Women's Fellowship

Group Meetings will be as follows on Monday, December 16th: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Patt Giddings' home, 2806 Mill Valley; **Group 2** will meet at 5:30 pm at Applebee's on Kemp; **Group 3** will meet at 1:00 pm in the Parlor.

December Meetings

Tuesday, Dec. 17th:

Stewardship at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

If you will need childcare, please RSVP to the church office, 692-2282, by noon on Monday, Dec. 16th.

Through the Bible in a Year Study

Thursday, December 19th,
6:00 pm in Room 310

Youth Lock-In

Grades 6-12
Friday, December 20th, 8:00 pm
to
Saturday, December 21st, 8:00 am
Room 403/Gym

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday in Advent		
8:40 am	Worship	Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School	
9:30 am	Children's Pageant Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
9:45 am	Journey Through Scripture	Parlor
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary
2:00-4:00 pm	Pickleball	Gym
3:45 pm	Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults)	Stratten Hall
5:00-5:45 pm	Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5)	Stratten Hall
5:00-7:00 pm	Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12)	Room 403/Gym
5:45-7:00 pm	Young Disciples (Grades K-5)	Room 402
Monday, December 16		
7:30 am-6:00 pm	Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)	
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Young Ages School "YAS" (M-F)	
9:00 am	CCF Chapel	Chapel
1:00 pm	CWF Group 3	Parlor
1:30 pm	CWF Group 1	2806 Mill Valley
5:30 pm	CWF Group 2	Applebee's
7:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 15	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 17		
9:30 am	FCC Staff Meeting	Room 222
10:00 am	YAS Music	Room 220
2:00 pm	Library Committee	Library
6:00 pm	Stewardship Ministry Meeting	Room 310
6:30 pm	Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups Anger Management, Parenting, Rebuilding Your Life	Rooms 305/306/307/308
Wednesday, December 18		
7:00 am	Elders' Breakfast	Room 405/Chapel
9:00 am	CCF Spanish	Room 220
10:00 am	YAS Music	Room 220
10:30 am	Sheri Sutton's Advent Bible Study	Room 310
6:00 pm	Christmas Fellowship Dinner & Children's Pageant	Fellowship Hall
7:30-8:30 pm	Chancel Choir (High School-Adults)	Stratten Hall
Thursday, December 19		
9:00 am	CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast	IHOP on SW Pkwy
1:30 pm	Knit Wits	Parlor
6:00 pm	Through the Bible in a Year	Room 310
Friday, December 20		
9:00 am	CCF Music	Room 220
8:00 pm	Youth Lock In Begins	Gym
Saturday, December 21		
8:00 am	Youth Lock In Ends	Gym

Additional Poinsettia Dedications

Billy & Melody Jennings in honor of Carly, Slate, Grey, Sloane, Andy, Kate and June.
 Gretchen & John Bridgman in honor of the Elders.
 Gretchen & John Bridgman in memory of Marilee, Jim & Laura Smith.
 Gretchen & John Bridgman in memory of Tom & Marie Green.
 Gretchen & John Bridgman in memory of Chuck & Neva Bridgman.
 Carolyn Ford in memory of Russell Ford.
 Carolyn Ford in honor of Nancy Littlejohn.
 Carolyn Ford in honor of Sarah Hardin.
 Carolyn Ford in honor of Melissa Ford.
 Carolyn Ford in honor of Rusty Ford.