



3701 Taft Blvd. | Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
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Livestream: [Facebook.com/FCCWF](https://www.facebook.com/FCCWF)
[YouTube.com/First Christian Church Wichita Falls](https://www.youtube.com/First Christian Church Wichita Falls)
Live Service Audio: 940-322-1100

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 19, 2021

THE GATHERING

Prelude (10:45)	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i> – arr. McChesney	Chancel Ringers
Welcome and Call to Worship		Dr. Mark Bender
Opening Hymn	<i>Joy to the World</i>	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.***

***Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks and hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.***

The Lighting of the Advent Candle		DeLeon Family
Unison Prayer:		

God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person - babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

Response	<i>When God Is a Child</i> – vs. 4	No. 132
	<i>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.</i>	

THE PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading	Micah 5:1-5a	Jeanette Showalter
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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.

Anthem

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" – arr. Martin

Chancel Choir

Sermon

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Dr. Mark Bender

THE RESPONSE

Communion Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem – vs. 1 & 3

No. 144

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the joys of highest heaven.
No ear may hear Christ coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.***

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution

Cathy Biggs

Prayers for the Bread & Cup

Gary Ballard & Kerry Roach

Music during Communion

In the Bleak Midwinter – arr. Buckwalter

Chancel Ringers

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

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

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

THE SENDING

Sent from the Table & Invitation to Discipleship

Dr. Mark Bender

Closing Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear – vs. 1 & 2

No. 153

***It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.***

***Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.***

Benediction

Dr. Mark Bender

Postlude

We Three Kings – arr. Dobrinski

Chancel Ringers

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

In memory of Jean Puckett given by Suzy & Chuck Fields.

Additional Poinsettias:

Alice & Harry Gordon in memory of Ralf Grady, Robert, Larry & Don Gordon.

Alice & Harry Gordon in memory of Johnny Choate, Naomi Ham.

Alice & Harry Gordon in memory of Verbel Ford.

Alice & Harry Gordon in memory of our parents: Grady & Mattie Lou Gordon.

Alice & Harry Gordon in memory of our parents: P.A. & Ervie Choate.

Alice & Harry Gordon in honor of our girls: Lori Gordon, Leann Elder, LaDonna Cole & Dana Givens.

The poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24.

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Sermon Notes

1. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

2. St. Augustine – we may have it backward

3. Why Bethlehem

4. A Christmas prayer

5. *Where meek souls will receive him still*

Looking for Housing

We are looking for housing (e.g. garage apartment) for Brooke Reid, our new Minister to Youth and Young Adults for January – May 2021. If you have a space available or know of someone who does, please let Mark know (mark@firstchristianwf.com or 940.692.2282).

Journey Through Scripture

will not meet on Sundays, December 26th and January 2nd.

Pantry Sunday – Jan. 2

The December collected items will be: pineapple, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese.

You can continue to help keep the pantry shelves filled by: Donating the monthly items or any type of food items directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. To support Interfaith with a financial gift, you may mail your donation to Interfaith (1101 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301), or donate on their [website](#).

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the joys of high - est heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING		
8:40 am	Worship Service	Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School / Journey Through Scripture	
10:45 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary/ Livestream
12:00 pm	Church Board Meeting	Sanctuary
NO	Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults)	Stratten Hall
5:00 pm	Youth (Grades 6-12)	Room 403 / Gym
5:00 pm	Young Disciples Choir (Grades K-5)	Stratten Hall
6:00 pm	Young Disciples (Grades K-5)	Rooms 402/405
Monday, December 20		
	Young Ages Preschool Closed Until January 5	
7:30 am–6:00 pm	Children Come First "CCF" (M-Th)	
9:00–10:00 am	CCF Chapel	Chapel
1:30 pm	CWF Group 1	Room 310
6:00 pm	CWF Group 2	Cheddar's
7:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 15	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 21		
9:30 am	FCC Staff Meeting / Worship Planning	Room 310
6:00 pm	Stewardship Ministry Meeting	Room 310
6:30 pm	Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups Anger Management, Parenting, Rebuilding Your Life, Domestic Violence Prevention	Rooms 304 to 308
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 22		
7:00 am	Elders' Breakfast	Room 405
9:00-am	CCF Spanish	Room 300
NO	Stretch Class	Parlor
NO	Neighborhood Service / First Kidz / Youth	
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir (High School-Adults)	Stratten Hall
Thursday, December 23		
9:00 am	CCF Polar Express	Room 300
5:00 pm	CCF Closes Early	
7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE		
	Church Offices & All Programs Closed	
6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 25 CHRISTMAS		
	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	

Manners Matter Etiquette Class

Manners Matter is an etiquette program for 5th and 6th graders taught by the fun and energetic Dee King. During this program students will learn simple etiquette like handshakes, introductions, small talk, table manners, and cell phone/technology etiquette.

What to know: Dates: Thursdays, January 20-February 17.

Times: 6:30-8:00pm except February 17th which is 6:00-8:00pm.

Location: First Christian Church. Cost: \$75. Registration is open to all.

Register online at www.firstchristianwf.com.