



3701 Taft Blvd. | Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
940.692.2282 | www.firstchristianwf.com
Livestream: [Facebook.com/FCCWF](https://www.facebook.com/FCCWF)
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Live Service Audio: 940-322-1100

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2022 – 6:00 pm

THE GATHERING

Prelude Debbie Watson & Jeanette Showalter

Entrance of the Christ Candle Claire Baer

*Carol No. 148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

***Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

***Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

Lighting of the Advent Candles Maggy & Ian Anderson Family

Unison Prayer:

Wonderful God, we thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. His coming is the Gift that makes hope, peace, joy, and love real in our lives. Empower us

to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. And may your Spirit put us in touch with you, the living God, through the words and music of this service. For this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Response *Joy to the World (vs. 1 & 2)* 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 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, hill, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Christmas Greetings

Dr. Mark Bender

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Christmas Story from Scripture

The Word of Promise Michah 5:2-5 Jeanette Showalter

Special Music *Still, Still, Still* – arr. Luboff Chancel Choir

The Word of Fulfillment Luke 2:1-20 Claire Baer

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

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ, who comes in lowly birth.

Come adore on bended knee Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid, Christ, whom choirs of angels praise;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

A Christmas Meditation *Savior* Dr. Mark Bender

1 John 4:7-16

Special Music *O Holy Night* - Adam Maggy Anderson, solo

A Christmas Eve Prayer & Lord's Prayer Brooke Reid

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.

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

Communion Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1 & 2

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
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth.
Your voices raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.***

Christmas Eve Communion Invitation and Words of Institution

Dr. Mark Bender

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Cheryl Smiley & Chris Showalter

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 LIGHT

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Light from the Christ Candle will be brought to each pew.

Please tilt your candle to receive the light and hold it upright as you share it with your neighbor.

Closing Hymn

Silent Night

No. 145

Teresa Archambo, Davidson Cook and Carlos Ramos, guitars

***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.***

Benediction

Dr. Mark Bender

MEMORIALS AND HONORS

*Please stand as you are able.

† Please raise your candle

CCLI License #504653

WHO ARE THE DISCIPLES?

THE PRINCIPLES OF IDENTITY

OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



1. We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world, requiring nothing more - and nothing less - as a basis of our life together.
2. We hold the centrality of scripture, recognizing that each person has the freedom - and the responsibility - to study God's Word within the community of the church.
3. We practice the baptism of believers, which emphasizes that God's grace demands a response of faith and discipleship, while also recognizing the baptism performed in other churches.
4. We gather for the Lord's Supper, as often as possible, experiencing at this table the gracious, forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.
5. We structure our community around the biblical idea of covenant, emphasizing not obedience to human authority but accountability to one another because of our shared obedience to Christ.
6. We participate in God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal the brokenness of creation and bring justice and peace to the whole human family.
7. We hear a special calling to make visible the unity of all Christians, proclaiming that in our diversity we belong to one another because we commonly belong to Christ.
8. We witness to the Gospel of God's saving love for the world in Jesus Christ, while continuing to struggle with how God's love may be known to others in different ways.
9. We affirm the priesthood of all believers, rejoicing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit - which include the gift of leadership - that God has given for the common good.
10. We celebrate the diversity of our common life, affirming our different histories, styles of worship, and forms of service.
11. We give thanks that each congregation, where Christ is present through faith, is truly the church, affirming as well that God's church and God's mission stretch from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.
12. We anticipate God's coming reign, seeking to serve the God - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - whose loving dominion has no end.

First Christian Church is a covenant congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

JOIN US FOR JANUARY EVENTS



BAD ADVICE | WISE COUNSEL

Who's always in your ear? Who's telling you what to do?
And how do we filter out the good direction from the
critical noise?

New worship series kicks off Sunday, January 8
at 8:40 am and 10:45 am.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER EXPERIENCE



On Saturday, January 7, help pack over 20,000 meals! This is a service experience the whole family can participate in as there are jobs for every age and ability. Learn more and sign up at firstchristianwf.com/rah.



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