

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)



November 28, 2021





First Christian Church
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PRELUDE

Two French Noël's
Carol Wilson, organ

Claude Balbastre

WELCOME

Rev. Philip Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenn Candib

ONE: There is an ember of Hope -

MANY: The banked fire of creation -

ONE: The promise of God

MANY: To Adam

ONE: To Eve

MANY: To us.

ONE: It glows in every heart;

MANY: In every soul, it seeks to burst into flame.

*OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Chalice Hymnal No. 122

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort, those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near.
bidding us to make repentance since the reign of God is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as begins God's holy reign.
For the glory of our God now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jenn Candib

ADVENT CANDLE READING AND LIGHTING

Congregational response

When God is a Child (vs. 1)

The Bachman Family
Chalice Hymnal No. 132

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
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.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Debbie Metz
New Revised Standard Version

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SERMON

Restore Us, O God: Hope

Rev. Philip Hayes

ANTHEM

Advent Gift

Patrick M. Liebergen

Chancel Choir, directed by Nancy Lingbloom

O holy child, come to the manger;
Lord, come in peace and love, your gift from God above;
Lord, come in peace and love, your gift from God above.
O light of God, holy redeemer, come shine upon my life and free me from all strife;
Come shine upon my life and free me from all strife.
Lord, come to the manger, I wait for your birth;
Now come Savior Jesus and bless all the earth;
the heavens rejoice for your coming is nigh;
all glory and honor to You, Lord most high.
O holy child, come to the manger;
Lord, come in peace and love, Your gift from God above;
Lord, come in peace and love, your gift from God above.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Philip Hayes

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.

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
 And open furrows, the sowing of our God.
 All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
 it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
 "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel":
 one whose name is "God with us," our Savior shall be,
 through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
 open new highways, new highways for our God,
 who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
 and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable, the Promised One appeared,
 yet feel that presence throughout the earth today,
 for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
 again, on arriving Christ brings us liberty.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Elder Prayers
 Meditation Music

Fantasia on "Greensleeves"
 Phyllis White, flute; Carol Wilson, piano

Rev. Philip Hayes
 Debbie Metz and Steven Gray
 Ralph Vaughan Williams

*After the music has begun, please partake of communion at your leisure.

CALL TO OFFERING

Jenn Candib

*If you are with us in-person, please place offerings in the box at the back of the sanctuary
 at the end of the service.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER, INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND OFFERING,
 and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Philip Hayes

The Invitation is an opportunity that is given each Sunday for individuals and families to take the next step in their journey of faith. This is an important tradition in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) family. We welcome you to come forward during the closing hymn to let us know of your desire to become part of our church family. You may also share your desire by messaging the church on Facebook or via the teleconference phone call, to which Pastor Jonathan will respond.

*CLOSING HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Chalice Hymnal No. 135

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
 who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
 the prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
 God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
 a Savior who will lead us to our eternal home.
 Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
 the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,
 the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
 to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
 O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

BENEDICTION

Rev. Philip Hayes

POSTLUDE

God's Son is Coming

Johann Buttstedt; Johann Walther

Following the service, we encourage you to connect with others in the Fellowship Hall or outdoors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children & Youth

Youth Sunday school (6-12th grade) meets on Sunday mornings at **9:00 a.m.** in the youth lounge. We will have a zoom link available for youth who are unable to join in person.

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY NOVEMBER 28, 2021.

Lighthouse is cancelled through December 6. Contact Jonathan Hall, senior pastor, with any questions.

Discipleship & Christian Formation

The **Chapel Class** meets via Zoom on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. They are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Contact Don Sarton, dsarton63@gmail.com or Cathy Liss, cathyliss1946@gmail.com.

The **Coffee & Conversation group**, led by Norman Heimer, meets on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They have a weekly topic based on events in the world.

Our nursery is open for children through age 5. Masks will be required for those who haven't been vaccinated, including children 2 years and older. Masks will be provided for the children.

Mission & Outreach



This month, **students at Mark Twain Elementary (K-5)** are exploring "Who is Mark Twain and why is he famous?" At the conclusion of the study, the students will submit artwork/essays depicting what they have learned. FCC has been asked to review these papers and award a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each grade level. **YOU are needed on Dec. 3rd at 9:30 a.m. at the church** to critique these works. If you can help, please talk to Debbie Metz or contact her at debbiemetz@q.com.

Items Needed for One Nation Walking Together (ONWT)



Towels (new/gently used)
New Underwear/socks
New Bed Pillows
Bedding (new/gently used)

Baby Diapers
Baby and Adult Wipes
Feminine Hygiene Products
Paper Towels

Toilet Paper
Masks and Gloves
Liquid Hand Soap
Hand Sanitizer

First Christian Church is not collecting other items at this time due to space and weight limitations. For more information on food and other items needed please call ONWT directly at 719-329-0251, email Laura@onenationwt.org, or go to <https://www.onenationwt.org/get-involved/donate/>

Stuff the Pews!

We will once again be collecting **new stuffed animals** during the first three weeks of Advent (**November 28, December 5, and 12**) to be distributed to young patients at Children's Hospital here in Colorado Springs. Bring them to church and place them in our sanctuary pews. Please note: Stuffed animals must be new, with tags attached. Let's stuff the pews with fuzzy, fluffy friends for children in our community! Thank you!



Winter is in the air, and **students at Mark Twain Elementary are in need of hats and mittens.** The **hat and mitten tree** is up in Fellowship Hall during the holiday season. Let's use our warm hearts to cover this tree with lots of hats and mittens to warm our partnering school population.



Please join us in a **non-event fundraiser** for the **Tennyson Center for Children** in Colorado Springs by **following the link** to the **Colorado Gives Day** site. Any *donations will be partially matched* by the Colorado Gives Day and any donations *received before Dec. 7* will be matched by a TCC benefactor. We can maximize our impact by giving in this way without the expense of an event. These funds will enable us to continue to serve families in Colorado Springs with home-based clinical care. These children are some of our most vulnerable, and need our care and expert therapy to set them on a loving, productive path. When you donate, please say a prayer for the children and a thank you to all who support them. Thank you! **DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO THE TENNYSON CENTER** at the following link:
<https://www.coloradogives.org/ColospringsforKids?step=step1>



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 26 we will hold a **Hymn and Carol Sing** during the worship service. So if we miss any of your heartfelt favorites during all of our Advent services, let us know, and we will do our best to include them in the hymn sing Sunday.



- **SEND A CHECK** (please specify fund, if any).
 - 16 E. Platte Ave, Colorado Springs 80903
- **GIVE THROUGH OUR MINISTRY ONE APP**
 - Search "Church by Ministry One" – First Christian Church Colorado Springs, CO
Or enter <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/fccos> into your search bar.
- **TEXT TO GIVE**
 - 719-626-8633, text amount.
- **PAYPAL**
 - Go to FirstChristianCO5.org, go to the bottom of the page, find the yellow donate button, enter amount and specify fund, if any.



Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles (Advent 1)

November 28, 2021

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of restoration, when the Israelites were exiled, you invited them to accept a new normal. Show us how to move forward when it seems all is lost. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Israel was exiled, and it looked like it was going to be for a long time. God's invitation to the people came with a promise: build a new life for themselves, and when they searched for God, God would be found.

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Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Tell of a time your faith was shaken. What happened? Where is your faith now?

Has God ever gone back on a promise?

For the littles: What's the first thing you do when you return home from being out?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you unshakable faith. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Write a letter on behalf of people exiled in the world today. Go to Amnesty International, Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, or other organization dedicated to working for justice. Learn what you can do to effect change.



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14, Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles

Monday, Jeremiah 1:4-19, Jeremiah's Call

Tuesday, Jeremiah 2:1-8, God Pleads with Israel to Repent

Wednesday, Jeremiah 3:1-5, Unfaithful Israel

Thursday, Jeremiah 30:1-9, Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah

Friday, Jeremiah 31:1-6, The Joyful Return of the Exiles

Saturday, Jeremiah 31:31-37, A New Covenant

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Pastoral & Music Staff

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We are 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.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity



FCC is a Green Chalice Church



To learn more, go to
<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/>

FCC is Open & Affirming



To learn more, go to
<http://disciplesallianceq.org/open-affirming-ministries/>

In a world that prefers black and white thinking and clear divisions, First Christian Church seeks to be a blessing to our community by empowering us all to find beauty, add color, and create connections. We invite all to experience the unfolding story of God's grace and love.