

# CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 10:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP

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## Prelude

*I met my maker, I made him cry. And on my shoulder he asked me why his people won't fly through the storm. I said "Hey listen up, man, they don't even know you're born."  
-Oasis, Do You Know What I Mean*

*It sometimes feels as if we must choose between self-hatred and high-handed narcissism. God rejects both options. We hate ourselves, because we have learned to do so from the world around us. It's easy to think God hates us too - why wouldn't he? Yet, he is the one who wants to address our self-hatred with truth in love - to acknowledge our evil with the Spirit, forgive our evil with blood, and to dissolve our self-hatred in water. - Paul Maxwell, When Your Twenties are Darker than you Expected*

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

*Deliver us when we draw near to You,  
from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind:  
Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections,  
we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen*

## Call to Worship

Rev. Nathan Dicks

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**Congregation: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**Congregation: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God...**

Leader: He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing.

**Congregation: And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Leader: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

**Congregation: So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**All: Let us profess that Jesus is Lord! – from Isaiah 9:2,6; John 1:9; Phil. 2:6-11**

## Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

## Call to Worship

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

## Invocation

### Savior of the Nations, Come

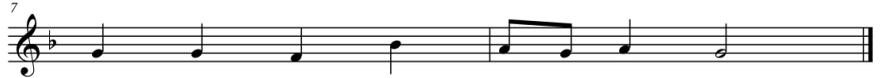
Words: St. Ambrose, Martin Luther,  
Translated by Calvin Seerveld  
Music: Johann Walther



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show your - self, the  
2. Not by hu - man pow'r or seed did the wo - man's  
3. Christ laid down his ma - jes - ty, passed through dark Geth -  
4. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our



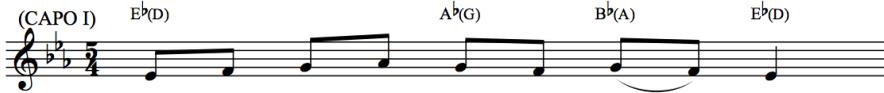
vir - gin's son. Mar - vel heav - en, won - der earth,  
womb con - ceive; on - ly by the Spi - rit's breath  
se - ma - ne. Though he left his Fa - ther's home,  
new - born King! With the Fa - ther, Spi - rit, one,



that our God chose such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh.  
Christ now sits on God's own throne.  
let your last - ing king - dom come.

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

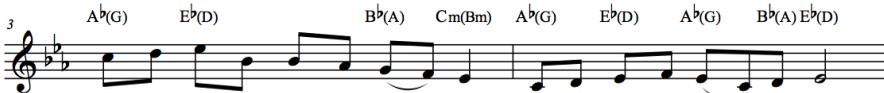
Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius,  
Translated by John Mason Neale, Henry W. Baker;  
Music: 12 Century plainsong



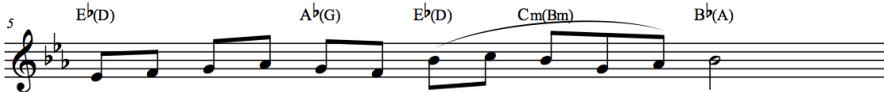
1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - - ten,  
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed,  
3. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him,  
4. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - - - ther,



ere the worlds be - gan to be,  
when the Vir - gin, full of grace,  
an - gel hosts, his prais - - es sing,  
and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,  
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sa - vior of our race;  
pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and King;  
hymn and chant and high thanks giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be;



of the things that are, that have been,  
and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - - - - er,  
let no tongue on earth be si - - - - lent,  
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - - ion,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er more and ev - er - more!  
first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er more and ev - er - more!  
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring, ev - er more and ev - er - more!  
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er more and ev - er - more!

### **Call to Confession**

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord: “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” — *Isaiah 1:18*

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.** — From the *Book of Common Prayer*

### **Declaration of Absolution**

God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

### **Declaration of Absolution**

Leader: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. To those who repent and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, the absolution of sins is effected in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

**Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

**Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley;  
Music: Felix Mendelssohn,  
Arr. by William H. Cummings

1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King;  
2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er last-ing Lord!  
3. Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

5  
peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!"  
Late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb,  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal-ing in his wings.

9  
Joy-ful all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De-i-ty,  
Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that man no more may die,

13  
with th'an-gel-ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el.  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec-ond birth.

17  
Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

## Offertory

"For Unto Us a Child Is Born" from *Messiah* arr. Pardo/Holley  
Kathryn Denman, Amy Pardo, Amanda Holley

## Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church. Some of us choose to put an offering in the plate, while others give online or by mail.

# Doxology

Words: St. Francis of Assisi;  
Music: Jonathan Gilley

1. All ye who are of ten-der heart, for-giv-ing oth-ers  
2. Let all things their cre-a-tor bless, and wor-ship him with

take your part. hum-ble-ness! Sing his prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia!  
O praise him, Al-le-lu-ia!

Ye who long pain and sor-row bear, praise God and on him  
Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir-it,

cast your care! O praise him! O praise him! Al-le-  
Three in One, O praise him! O praise him! Al-le-

lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

## Pastoral Prayer

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

## Pastoral Prayer

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

# Dismissal of Children and Passing of the Peace

## O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Words: Latin 6th century hymn;  
Music: Keith Getty

1. O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, O  
 2. Re - mind us Lord of life and grace how  
 3. For from the Fa - ther's throne you came, his  
 4. O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, the

Bright-ness of the Fa-ther's face, O Son who shared the Fa-ther's might be-  
 once, to save our fall-en race, you put our hu-man ves-ture on and  
 ba-nished child-ren to re-claim; and earth and sea and sky re-vere for  
 the world will see your ra-diant face, for you who came to us be-fore will

fore the world knew day or night, O Je - sus ver - y Light of Light, our  
 came to us as Mar-y's son. To - day, as year by year, its light brings  
 love of him who sent you here; and we are ju - bi - lant to - day, for  
 come a - gain and all re - store. Let songs of praise your name a - dorn, O

con - stant star in sin's deep night, now  
 in our world a pro - mise bright, one  
 you have washed our guilt a - way. O  
 Christ, Re - deem - er, vir - gin - born, whom

hear the prayers your peo - ple pray through -  
 pre - cious truth out - shines the sun: Sal -  
 hear the glad new song we sing on  
 with the Fa - ther we a - dore and

out the world this ho - ly day.  
 va - tion comes from you a - lone.  
 this the birth of Christ our King!  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Chord markings: B m, F#m/A, G, A, B m, B m, F#m/A, G, A, B m, E, B m, D/A, G, A, B m, D, E, F#m/A, B m, F#m, G, A, B m.

## Passing of the Peace

We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other.

## Scripture Reading

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

*Romans 10.17*

## Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit.

*We encourage kids remaining in the service to use the Sermon Worksheet available in the foyer.*

## Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

*Servers come forward. Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free bread on the right for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.*

## Scripture Reading

*Luke 1:26-38, pages 855-856 in pew Bible*

Reader: The grass withers and the flower fades.

**Congregation: But the word of our God will stand forever.**

## Sermon

Rev. Rick Downs

## Lord's Supper

### *Invitation*

Minister: Christ is spiritually present at this meal – at work through our confession. What do you believe?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. – Apostles' Creed**

### *Words of Institution*

### *Distributing of Elements*

### ***Prayer for Those Searching for Truth***

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.*

### ***Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time***

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.*

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Chris Martin, Kathryn Mogk, Laura Martin, Nathan Brown, Nathan Dicks, Roger White, Sarah Brown, Sarah Dicks*

Kathryn Mogk

# Joy Has Dawned

Words and Music: Stuart Townend  
and Keith Getty

F Gm F/A B<sup>b</sup> C Dm Gm7 F/C C

1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion;  
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels;  
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;  
4. Son of A - dam, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som

5 F Gm F/A B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> C F

God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
as the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
gifts of men from dis - tant lands pro - phe - sy the stor - y.  
re - con - cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y Cham - pion!

9 F/A B<sup>b</sup> F/A Gm7 C Dm Gm7 F/C C

Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness.  
Gold, a King is born to - day; in - cense, God is with us;  
What a Sav - ior, what a friend, what a glo - rious mys - tery,

13 F Gm F/C B<sup>b</sup> C Dm7 Gm7 C F

but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus, born of Mar - y.  
Cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
myrrh, his death will make a way, by his blood he'll win us.  
once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

## Benediction

## Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

*Please join us in the social hall for refreshments immediately following the service.*

# WELCOME

Christ the King is a multi-congregational church with an English-speaking congregation that meets in Cambridge on Sunday mornings ([ctkcambridge.org](http://ctkcambridge.org)) and a mostly Brazilian congregation meeting in Portuguese in Cambridge on Sunday afternoons, as well as congregations that meet in Dorchester, Newton, Pembroke, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain and Somerville ([ctkboston.org](http://ctkboston.org)).

**Welcome visitors!** Please visit the welcome table in the foyer and fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you better. Also, find out more about us by talking with one of the pastors or our lead greeter, who will be standing in the back of the sanctuary. For more information about Christ the King, contact [office@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:office@ctkcambridge.org).

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### ADULT EDUCATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 8:45am, Christ the King offers classes for adults, youth and children. The topics of these classes reflect the desire of the church to equip its members with a better understanding of God's Word. Adult Education classes are taught in the social hall. Childcare and classes for children through Grade 5 are held downstairs, and Middle/High School meets in the office in the balcony.

**Grace Changes Everything: The History, Theology, and Continuing Impact of the Reformation.** Join us this fall as we explore the historical background and theological touchstones of the Reformation - and why it still matters 500 years on. We'll enjoy two guest lectures by Gordon-Conwell professors Gordon Isaac (on Luther) and Rick Lints (on justification by faith alone)! The class will run October 22 - December 17.

### CHILDREN DURING THE SERVICE

Children are always welcome in our service. Parents may opt to bring children to the programs below or to the social hall as needed where audio of the service plays and an area is partitioned for nursing mothers.

**Nursery (0–3 years):** Our nursery rooms provide safe care and are open throughout the service. Infants and non-walkers are upstairs and our 1's, 2's and 3's rooms are in the basement (exit through the right-side door for all rooms). Please sign your child in on the clipboard outside the room and take a visual pager number card.

**Children's Worship (4 years–Grade 2):** Children are dismissed before the sermon to classes designed to engage God in a manner more suitable to young hearts and minds. Kids begin in room 3 / 4 and are picked up from adjoining rooms.

**Children/Youth (Grade 3 & up):** Our older children attend the entire service, and a worksheet is provided to aid in the instruction during the sermon.

For more information about children's ministry, please see [ctkcambridge.org/kids](http://ctkcambridge.org/kids) or email [dana@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:dana@ctkcambridge.org).

### BULLETINS

Bulletins are available on the church website (<http://www.ctkcambridge.org/sermons/>) each Thursday before the service, allowing for download for use during the service on a smartphone or tablet.

*CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, CCLI #912939.*

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## CTK READER

Visit [ctkcambridge.org/reader/](http://ctkcambridge.org/reader/) to sign up for our weekly CTK Reader (electronic newsletter) with notes from our pastors, church announcements and community classifieds.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups are central to our life together at CTK, as we seek to live as followers of Jesus in relationship to one another. We encourage people to join a group near where they live, to gather over a meal and study, pray, and serve one another and our neighborhoods together. All are invited to join a group. To find a group near you, visit [www.ctkcambridge.org](http://www.ctkcambridge.org) or email [office@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:office@ctkcambridge.org).

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Men's and women's fellowship groups meet throughout the city to provide opportunities for fellowship, discipling, and growing in faith. For a listing of groups, visit [www.ctkcambridge.org](http://www.ctkcambridge.org). If you would like a group started near you, email [nathan@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:nathan@ctkcambridge.org) (men) or Emily DeBaun Stuntz at [emilydebaun@gmail.com](mailto:emilydebaun@gmail.com) (women).

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

To connect with women in the church and learn about women's events throughout the year, contact [hannah@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:hannah@ctkcambridge.org).

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 9:30-11:30am in the church social hall. Childcare provided. The group does not meet the first Thursday of each month. Contact Becky Williams ([john.n.becky@gmail.com](mailto:john.n.becky@gmail.com)).

## VOCATIONAL GROUPS

Vocational groups offer times of fellowship and discussion for those in the CTK congregations throughout the city who work in similar fields. Contact [nathan@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:nathan@ctkcambridge.org).

## PRAYER MEETINGS

**Morning Prayer:** Tuesdays, 6:30am-8:30am for prayer in the social hall. Coffee and snacks are provided. Please contact [office@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:office@ctkcambridge.org) with questions.

**Missions & Church Planting Prayer:** Periodically there is a time of prayer for the missionaries CTK Cambridge supports and for church planting in Boston. Contact [laura.a.martin87@gmail.com](mailto:laura.a.martin87@gmail.com).

## COLLEGE STUDENTS

CTK supports Reformed University Fellowship on nearby campuses. Contact our campus ministers at BU: [nathan.dicks@ruf.org](mailto:nathan.dicks@ruf.org), Harvard: [jeremy.mullen@ruf.org](mailto:jeremy.mullen@ruf.org), and MIT: [solomon.kim@ruf.org](mailto:solomon.kim@ruf.org).

## SERVING ON SUNDAYS

Members and regular attenders have the opportunity to serve in a variety of ways on Sunday mornings. To learn more about ways to serve our congregation, please visit [ctkcambridge.org/serve-church](http://ctkcambridge.org/serve-church).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Nominations for CTK Officers** are now being received. If you are a member of CTK and want to nominate someone for elder, deacon, or deacon assistant, please follow these steps:

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 for biblical qualifications.
2. Approach your nominee and ask that you pray together for wisdom.
3. With the approval of the nominee, please submit the nomination via [office@ctkcambridge.org](mailto:office@ctkcambridge.org).

The **Annual Women's Christmas Brunch** is coming up on Saturday, December 16th at 10 a.m. in the social hall. Please RSVP to Audra Wallace ([audrawallace24@gmail.com](mailto:audrawallace24@gmail.com)) if you can make it!

Our annual candlelight **Lessons and Carols service** will be held on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm.

Sundays, December 24 and 31, there will be **no Adult Education classes or Children's Sunday School**. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7.

**East End House's Holiday Programs** provide a great way for individuals, families, and community groups to give back to our Cambridge community during the holiday season. Whether by volunteering, participating in the Holiday Drive, or "Adopting a Family", there are many ways that you can help contribute. For more information please contact [camille@eastendhouse.org](mailto:camille@eastendhouse.org).

Mark your calendars! The **Winter Getaway** will be held February 2-4 at Camp Brookwoods. More information to come!

We use an **online giving platform** called Church Center Online. It's straightforward to use, is secure, and has more features in development which promise to improve the online giving experience. Try Church Center Online by visiting <https://ctkboston.church-centeronline.com/giving>. Questions? Email [giving@ctkboston.org](mailto:giving@ctkboston.org).

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***Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 354-8341 or by email:***

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Director of Children's Ministry	Dana Russell	<a href="mailto:dana@ctkcambridge.org">dana@ctkcambridge.org</a>
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