



THE LORD'S DAY
December 31, 2023
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Piano/Chancel Organ*

CALL TO WORSHIP & STRIKING THE HOUR *"Adeste Fideles" The Carillon Bells*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† INTROIT *"The King is Coming" Page 763*
 † *Please stand as you are able. (Verse 1)*

† HYMN *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Page 277*
 (All Verses)

† PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
 † ANTHEM *"Gloria Patri" Page 813*

HYMN *"Love Has Come!" Page 256*
 (All Verses)

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND RECITE GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES

PASTORAL PRAYER
 RESPONSORIAL *"Psalm 66" Psalter 66^B*
 Sung To The Tune of: *"O' Little Town of Bethlehem"*
 (Verses 7,10)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WE RETURN OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE UNTO THE LORD

RECEIVING THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 † DOXOLOGY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER



WE LIFT OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

HYMN *"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Page 267*
 (Verses 1,3,4)

SPECIAL MUSIC

EXPOSITION OF THE WORD AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE SERMON
"Glorifying God, in His Protection, Direction and Perfect Justice"
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

† THE APOSTLES' CREED

† CLOSING HYMN *"Go Tell It On The Mountain" Page 258*
 (Verses 1,3)

† BENEDICTION

† ANTHEM *"The Family of God" Page 419*

DEPART IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

*If you are visiting with us today, we're glad you're here.
 We are ordinary people on an extraordinary journey,
 learning to love and serve like Jesus. Come with Us!*



In this constantly changing world, our goal is to reflect and recapture the historic and classical worship of Almighty God. Central to our service is the proclamation of the Word and a biblical understanding of the Sacraments in the tradition of the Evangelical and Reformed faith.

OUR MISSION
 TO PRESENT CHRIST TO EVERYONE,
 EVERYWHERE, AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.



THE LESSONS FOR USE ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE ~ YEAR B
 Isaiah 61:10-11 • Psalm 147:13-21
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- The Holy Trinity of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God has revealed Himself fully and decisively in Holy Scripture. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God and our guide for faith and life.
- There is only one way to Salvation - through Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of human life based on our creation in the image of God and our election by God for service in His Kingdom. This leads us to respectfully affirm the sanctity of life at every stage, from conception to ordinary death.
- The Biblical principles of immutable gender and sexuality: The exclusive union of one man and one woman in marriage; and fidelity to its vows. And, chastity outside of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom.
- God made all people from one man and although people can be distinguished by different ethnicities and nationalities, we are all one human race and absolute equals before God in creation, the need for repentance, and the offer of redemption.
- That the mission of the Church is to spread the Good News of the Gospel in every word and deed. Proclaiming to the world the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and seeking to bring every person into a life of faith, discipleship, and submission to Him.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 130		GIVING REPORT	
		<i>Week Ending December 24, 2023</i>	
Are you interested in Church Membership? We receive new members the last Sunday of each month. Please see Pastor Kler today.		\$6,012	
		Sunday General Giving	4,705
		Online General Giving	230
		Interest Income	414
		Total General	5,349
		Less 3% to Building	-160
		Less 10% to Missions	-535
		Net Revenue	4,653
		Designated Giving	
		Building Maintenance	360
		Flowers	148
		Gals	65
Hospitality	50		
Missions	735		
Total Designated Giving	1,358		
Net Revenue	4,653		
Designated Giving	1,358		
Total Receipts	\$6,012		
<small>Monthly Reports are posted in the Fellowship Hall.</small>			

Our Church believes in financial transparency and so our Quarterly Reports are displayed on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

With **Holidays**, it's easy to think that once a given day is past, we're on to the next one, so you may be surprised to know that Christmas is not over! In fact, according to age-old tradition, it has another week to go. Christmas is not just one day; it is a season. The season of Christmastide, or as it is more commonly known - the 12 Days of Christmas begins on December 25th and ends twelve days later on January 6th, which is Epiphany, which commemorates the arrival of the Magi offering gifts to the New Born King.

Come to think of it, you may know more about Christmastide than you thought because the 12 days of Christmas are remembered in popular culture through the cryptic carol of the same name - "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This English Christmas carol lists a group of increasingly elaborate gifts given on each of the successive 12 days. Their coded references point to essential aspects of the Christian faith. Some sources disagree on the individual meanings, but the ones below represent the consensus view.

The Meaning of Each Gift

1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree: The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a partridge perched upon a tree (the Cross), the only bird that will die to protect its young.

2. Two Turtledoves: These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world.

3. Three French Hens: These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1st Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

4. Four Calling Birds: One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. Five Gold Rings: The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament or, alternately, (and I like this one better) the Golden Chain of Salvation from Romans 8:29-30

6. Six Geese a-Laying: These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God "hatched" or formed the world.

7. Seven Swans a-Swimming: Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, and Compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they are a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

8. Eight Maids-a-Milking: Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was one of the lowest jobs in England during this period; this line conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of noble birth. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes, from Matthew 5:3-10.

9. Nine Ladies Dancing: These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

10. Ten Lords-a-Leaping: This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments.

11. Eleven Pipers Piping: This one is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the Twelve. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 Faithful Disciples:

12. Twelve Drummers Drumming: This final gift is tied directly to the all-important 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. the holy universal, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and the life everlasting.



Use this season to reflect not just on the birth of the Babe in the manger but on the totality of what the life of Jesus means. ~ Happy Christmastide



The Chancel Flowers Are Placed by:
Vickie, J.J. & Kitty Kler
in celebration of Pastor Joe's 55th Birthday



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- JANUARY 2024-----
- Removing of the Greens.....Friday, January 5th at 6:00 p.m.
(We will be serving meatball subs prior to taking down the decorations.)
 - GAL's Meeting.....Monday, January 8th at 12:30
 - Board Meeting.....Tuesday, January 9th at 5:00 p.m.
 - Guy's Lunch.....Thursday, January 11th at 11:00 a.m.
 - ~~~ Guy's Prayer Group.....Thursday, January 11th at 10:30 a.m.

- REGULAR SCHEDULE-----
- Wednesday Bible Study..... Weekly at 4:00 p.m.
 - Sunday School.....Weekly at 9:00 a.m.
 - Lord's Day Worship.....Weekly at 10:00 a.m.



Loose Change for LOCAL MISSIONS
in the JOASH CHEST supports the
THOMAS PROMISE FOUNDATION.

Their Mission is to provide Pasco County's most valuable resource - our school children - with the simplest things that most of our kids take for granted. Each week they pack more than 1,100 backpacks with safe, non-perishable, and nutritious food to see needy children through the weekend when school meals are not available.

THE ELDERS
TEACHING & WORSHIP
Rev. H. Joseph Kler
Senior Pastor / I.F.O.C. Chaplain
Rev. John O. Strauss
Worship Leader / Minister of Music

THE DEACONS
Jim Leitzke, Gary Hatrick

OUR MUSICIANS
Ann Dantuma
Pianist/Organist
Donna Zenisek-Huber
Flutist

SOUND BOOTH
Ric Romyn, Joe Negron,
Jonathan Kler

To contact Board President
John Vosteen, please call:
813-731-2803

To contact
the Pastor, please call:
813-323-0802

Join Us On
January 5th
@ 6:00 PM

Removing of the Greens

Taking down the Tree is just as fun as putting it up
(said no one ever) but please come help us anyway.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:
www.fcczhills.org
Email: fcczh@aol.com
Or Phone: 813-780-6027
Monday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



FAIRVIEW
COMMUNITY CHURCH of ZEPHYRHILLS
...a Christ-centered, Reformed faith fellowship.

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing, but Encourage one another as the Day of the Lord draws near. -Hebrews 10:25



Glorifying God
at Christmastide

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