



**THE LORD'S DAY**  
*December 24, 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" (Verse 1)* Page 763  
 † *Please stand as you are able.*

† HYMN *"Sing We Now of Christmas" (All Verses)* Page 275

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

HYMN *"Silent Night" (All Verses)* Page 253

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

PASTORAL PRAYER  
 RESPONSORIAL *"Psalm 66" Psalter 66<sup>B</sup>*  
*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 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (All Verses)* Page 249

SPECIAL MUSIC

**EXPOSITION OF THE WORD AND CONFESSION OF FAITH**

THE SERMON  
*"Gift of Love ~ Kiss of Peace."*  
 1 Thessalonians 5:19-28

† THE APOSTLES' CREED  
 † CLOSING HYMN *"O Holy Night" (Verses 1,3)* Page 285

† 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  
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ YEAR B  
 Mark 1:21-28 • Psalm 111  
 1 Thessalonians 5:19-28





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: 119

Are you interested in Church Membership? We receive new members the last Sunday of each month. Please see Pastor Kler today.

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

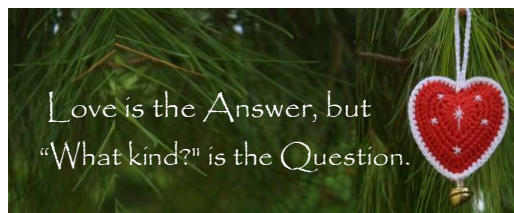
  
  
  


GIVING REPORT	
<i>Week Ending December 17, 2023</i>	
<b>\$3,159</b>	
Sunday General Giving	2,261
Online General Giving	630
<b>Total General</b>	<b>2,891</b>
Less 3% to Building	-87
Less 10% to Missions	-289
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>2,515</b>
Designated Giving	
Building Maintenance	87
Flowers	162
Gals	31
Hospitality	50
Missions	314
T-Shirts	40
<b>Total Designated Giving</b>	<b>644</b>
Net Revenue	2,515
Designated Giving	644
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,159</b>

Monthly Reports are posted in the Fellowship Hall.



HAVE YOU NOTICED . . . that everyone today seems to be in love with the idea of love? But it begs the question (as Fred Wolf posed last week in Sunday School.) "What kind of love are we talking about here?" In other words, a "love" defined and characterized by who? Nearly all of us have heard the expressions, "Love wins," "It can't be wrong if we love each other," "Who are you to tell me who I can and cannot love?" or the new fan favorite, "Love is love." Unfortunately, a common argument for the acceptance of homosexuality is that if God is Love, then He would not condemn the loves of others. *Love is love ~ right?*



It has been said that the defining battle of our time is the "war over editorial control of the dictionary." And the idea of defining love is one of the places where the fighting is the fiercest. The skirmishes look like this: Who defines love and determines what it looks like? Now, at this point, you may be tempted to ask, "Why does it matter?" And, here's why: Saying "love is love" doesn't mean anything when the ultimate standard of love is our individual wants and feelings. As I have said repeatedly during Bible Study, (because it's one of my favorite quotes) "...in some cultures people love their neighbors, and in others they love to eat them. And who's to say which is right?" A subjective, feelings-based love becomes impossible to define and even harder to determine because everyone's feelings are as varied as our faces and fleeting as every passing thought. At the risk of upsetting the Christmastime mood this morning, saying "all love is love" is no different than saying "all water is water" while keeping in mind that some water comes from the refrigerator and some from the toilet bowl. Of course, if you prefer, you can drink toilet water, but should you? Would you want someone to stop you if you were about to, or trust someone who recommended its merits? Likewise, individual opinion in defining what love is can't be the answer. No, instead, what is needed is a return to the only unchanging source and standard of love, which is the reality that God is love, so he gets to set the standard. So, what is the nature of God's Love? Well, John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son," meaning that God gave his very best to a world that had turned its back on him. Because of this fact, we no longer wonder what love is or what it looks like. In Christ, God has put together a masterclass on love - and sacrifice is its curriculum. The "God kind of Love" is a conscious act of sacrificing one's desires, comfort, and even well-being for the sake of another. It was that kind of love within God the Father that sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins as the ultimate sacrifice of self for the good of another.

The question, then, in defining our human loves by that example becomes: "What constitutes the well-being of one another in love?" The world around us, and maybe even our own compassion within, might say that to support or affirm someone we know who is in a homosexual relationship is to respect their choices and to encourage their well-being. The Bible says otherwise. The New Testament Book of Jude calls homosexuality "unnatural." According to Romans 1:26, it is "disgraceful and vile." The epistle of 1st Corinthians 6:9 declares it will keep a person from the kingdom of God, and that homosexual behavior is a sin against one's own body. Since the totality of God's Word (Old Testament and New) declares that homosexual behavior is a separation from God's blessing and the epitome of self-harm, the only loving thing to do is to encourage people to stay away from it. To encourage others to indulge in sin (any sin) is to encourage them to reject God's blessings on their lives. It is the opposite of Love. The God who created us (and invented intimacy) insists that sex is an expression of love between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Outside of that context, sex is harmful and very much unloving; in fact, it is the height of selfishness. If we love others, we will not encourage them to sin, bringing harm to themselves. Instead, we will follow the greatest commandment and provide for them the genuine love they need from us - telling them the truth.

Having said all of that, it is essential to remember that all types of sexual immorality, not just same-sex activity, are listed alongside other sins in Scripture that God hates, indicating that God does not rank one sin as worse than another. Every sin is cosmic treason and punishable by both physical and spiritual death. People who practice homosexuality need both Christ's love and our compassion, just like all people do. They stand in need of forgiveness and salvation just like anyone who is involved in the more socially acceptable sins of adultery, fornication, or addiction to pornography does. Christians are called to love and to pray for all those who do not know Christ, to serve them, and to share the message of Jesus with all people - not just with those who look, act, or think as we do. That is Real Love - at Christmas and all year long.



The Chancel Flowers Are Placed by:  
Don & Ginny Jennings  
in celebration of Ginny's Birthday



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



-----DECEMBER 2023-----  
Christmas Eve Service.....Today at 6:30 p.m.

-----JANUARY 2024-----  
GAL's Meeting.....Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30  
Board Meeting.....Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.  
Guy's Lunch.....Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.  
~~~ Guy's Prayer Group.....Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 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

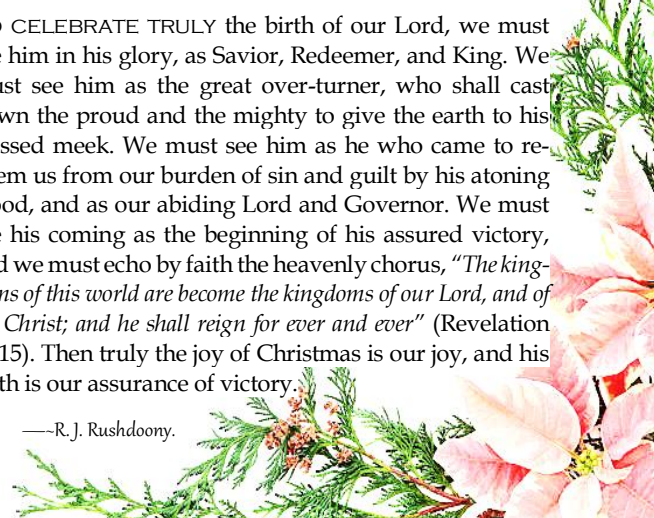
**THE DEACONS**  
Jim Leitzke, Gary Hatrick

**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

TO CELEBRATE TRULY the birth of our Lord, we must see him in his glory, as Savior, Redeemer, and King. We must see him as the great over-turner, who shall cast down the proud and the mighty to give the earth to his blessed meek. We must see him as he who came to redeem us from our burden of sin and guilt by his atoning blood, and as our abiding Lord and Governor. We must see his coming as the beginning of his assured victory, and we must echo by faith the heavenly chorus, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). Then truly the joy of Christmas is our joy, and his birth is our assurance of victory.  
---R.J. Rushdoony.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:  
[www.fcczhills.org](http://www.fcczhills.org)  
Email: [fcczh@aol.com](mailto: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



The **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

For the Love of Christmas...

7900 Fort King Road - Zephyrhills, FL 33541  
813-780-6027 / [fcczh@aol.com](mailto:fcczh@aol.com)  
[www.fcczhills.org](http://www.fcczhills.org)