



December 14, 2025

9:30 a.m.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, December 14, 2025

### Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

*To respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Justin Quick, Elder

*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video.*

### WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

#### Prelude

Mary Coffman

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary*

#### \*Call to Worship (please rise as able)

Justin Quick & Congregation

L: A voice cries out:

P: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

L: Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;

P: the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

L: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

P: and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

L: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

P: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

#### \*Opening Hymn

CH #155 (all)

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

#### \*Invocation

Justin Quick & Congregation

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
ever faithful to your promises  
and ever close to your church:

The earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming  
and looks forward with longing  
to his return at the end of time.

*Continued on next page*

*\*Please rise as able*

Prepare our hearts,  
and ease the sadness that hinders us  
from feeling the joy and hope  
his presence will bestow.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### "O" Antiphons Reading

Shawn Quick

*"O Oriens – O Radiant Light"*

*Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy*

#### Prayer Hymn

CH #161 (all)

*"I Wonder as I Wander"*

#### Silent Meditation

#### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulsey

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

#### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

#### Psalm 96:1-4,11-13 (Chalice Hymnal)

Justin Quick & Congregation

L: O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

P: Sing to the Lord, bless God's Name;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

L: Declare God's glory among the nations,  
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

P: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
to be revered above all gods.

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

P: let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it.

L: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.

P: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with truth.

#### Special Music

Adult Choir

*"When Emmanuel Has Come"*

Sharla Hulsey, flute accompanist

*\*Please rise as able*

<u>Scripture</u>	Jennifer Schmehl
<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	
<u>Message</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<i>"Sunshine in the Valley"</i>	
<u>Invitation to Discipleship</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<u>*Invitation Hymn</u>	CH #154 (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)
<i>"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"</i>	
<u>Musical Interlude</u>	Mary Coffman
<u>Offering Meditation</u>	Diana Rich
<u>Tithes &amp; Offerings</u>	Diaconate
<i>Offering trays will be passed in the pews.</i>	
<u>*Doxology</u>	CH #47
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;	
Praise God, all creatures here below;	
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;	
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.	
<u>*Prayer of Dedication</u>	Justin Quick
<u>Call to Communion</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<u>Communion Hymn</u>	CH #150 (all)
<i>"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"</i>	
<u>Words of Institution</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<u>Communion Prayer</u>	Justin Quick
<u>Distribution of the Elements</u>	Diaconate
<i>Everyone is welcome at Christ's Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.</i>	

#### WE DEPART TO SERVE

<u>*Benediction</u>	Sharla Hulsey
<i>Taking the Light of Christ into the World</i>	
<u>*Closing Hymn</u>	CH #143 (vv. 1, 3)
<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	

*\*Please rise as able*

#### Serving Today

Pastor: Sharla Hulsey	Greeter: Gary Coffman
Elder: Justin Quick	Scripture Reader: Jennifer Schmehl
Deacons: Judy Colburn, Carol Hedrick	Choir Director: Carol Ann Winburn Accompanist: Mary Coffman

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- OUTREACH MISSION - Our Outreach Mission for December will be bagged meals, to be donated to The Carpenters Cup. You can either assemble a meal from instructions on the sheets in the foyer, bring ingredients for a meal & we will assemble them, or donate money towards the purchase of the ingredients. (Each bag costs about \$10.00 to assemble.)
- DISCIPLES WOMEN will be sponsoring a church-wide Christmas card exchange again this year. There will be a collection box placed in the foyer between *November 30 and December 21*. A directory list will also be available. Feel free to participate, but do not feel obligated. This is a fun activity for those who wish to share Christmas greetings.
- ELDERS & DEACONS MEETINGS - *Today* after worship
- COMMUNITY CAFÉ - *Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m.*
- BOARD MEETING - *Sunday, December 21* after worship
- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Join us for a candlelight service on *Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.*. Experience the warmth of carols, community, and candlelight as we reflect on the birth of Christ. All are welcome!

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#### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 14:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
		Elders Meeting
		Deacons Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 16:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday, Dec. 17:	5 p.m.	Youth Group
	6 p.m.	Choir Practice

#### NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 21:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 24:	6:30 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, Dec. 25:	Christmas Day/Office Closed	

*...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it ...  
~Philippians 1:6*



# THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

 2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING  
supporting the work of your Region and its ministries

# THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

100% of your giving to the Christmas Offering supports the work of our Regional ministries

One: When angels sing  
*Many: and starlight twinkles*

One: When kings reign  
*Many: and sheep bleat*

One: In a manger, wrapped in cloth  
*Many: surrounded by love.*

One: An infant's cries pierce the night  
*Many: and we know that Christ is among us.*

One: But what about...  
*Many: when the night goes silent and dark?*

One: When empires fall and shepherds rise?  
*Many: When the world turns upside down*

One: And the swaddling cloths fall away...  
*Many: Do we know that Christ is still among us?*

One: Do we offer our gifts with the Magi?  
*Many: Because this is when the work of Christmas begins.*

One: The work of Christ among us  
*Many: In our Region's ministries*

One: In our calling and discernment  
*Many: In our Camps and Conferences*

One: In our care of clergy and new ministry adventures  
*Many: In our collective calling to do Justice, love Mercy, and walk Humbly*

One: With every gift to the Christmas Offering,  
*All: the work of Christ in our Region begins with Christmas! Amen.*