

Our Ministry Together

Sunday, November 26

Hanging of the Greens

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Worship Service

Sunday – Sunday

November 26—December 3

Family Promise here

Monday, November 27

- 1:00 PM Prayer Group

Tuesday, November 28

- 6:00 PM Scouts
- Disciplegram Deadline

Wednesday, November 29

- 6:00 PM Choir Practice
- 6:30 PM Youth Group

Friday, December 1

- 1:00 PM DWM Annual Meeting and Tea at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Cabinet Meeting
- 2:00 PM Communion at Tallgrass

Announcements

Church Women United's Annual Meeting and Tea is Friday, December 1 at 1:00 PM at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. There will be refreshments and a program. All women are welcome to attend!

There will be a **DWM Luncheon** on December 14 at 11:30 AM at First Christian Church Bartlesville. All women are invited to join us. Please RSVP to Sandra Skinner by December 1st.

We need volunteers for **Youth Group Dinners** in December and to teach **Children's Sunday School** starting in January. Sign-ups are at the Service Center. Thank you!

*****Our wi-fi name is DCCBville and the password is dcc1372a.**



Disciples Christian Church

Core Values

- Hospitality
- Spiritual Growth
- Justice through Service

*Please rise as you are able

CHIMES

WELCOME

Tim Collins

PRELUDE

Last Christmas

on screen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eli Holder

One: How shall we prepare this house for the celebration of the birth of Jesus?

Many: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

Many: By telling the story, asking questions, and listening.

One: For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming love of God.

We are reminded again of God's vision of wholeness for all of creation.

Many: Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Chalice Hymnal 119 v1,2

MEANING OF THE SERVICE

Josh Linton

Sacred surprises...A young woman, a long journey, a busy innkeeper, startled shepherds, bright stars, radiant angels, and a tiny baby...all part of the story of Christmas. In the coming weeks, we will let our imaginations run wild as we ponder how God might use this story to surprise us again this Christmas.

Before we get to Christmas, we have our own journey to make. It begins next Sunday on the first day of Advent. Both the seasons of Advent – the season of 'going toward' the birth of Jesus – and Christmas – have a long history. These seasons and their customs have developed through many centuries and many places. Old traditions and observances are refined, renewed, replaced; new ones are added. This morning our church building will "begin to look a lot like Christmas." As we decorate the church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols we use, we'll also rededicate these symbols – and ourselves – to the service of God. When we leave here today, we will be ready to start our Advent journey.

Words of Institution, Prayer, and Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Participation in Communion

Disciples Christian Church practices open communion, meaning all are welcome at the table. You may choose communion by intinction (breaking a piece of bread from the loaf and dipping it in the chalice) or by individual bread and cup. Please come forward to partake, choosing the option most meaningful to you.

*CLOSING SONG

Christians All, Your Lord is Coming

Chalice Hymnal #136 v1

*BENEDICTION

Eli Holder

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Our Emmanuel with Let Us Adore Him

Arranged by Marty Parks

A Note to Parents:

PRAY-ground: In the northeast corner of the sanctuary, we have an area rug and some quiet toys for young children. The PRAY-ground is designed for families who may not be ready to use the nursery or who prefer to keep their children in the sanctuary with them. Please use this area as you desire.

Those Who Serve

Senior Minister: Rev. Kelley L. Becker

Director of Youth Ministries: Josh Linton

Music Director: Marilou Bork

Administrative Assistant: Dianne Crow

Pianist: Brenda Lewis

Elders: Tim Collins, Cynthia Naylor, Adele Moore

Deacons: Jim and Lynne Shaw

Lay Leader: Tim Collins

Nursery: Cindy Bennett

Sound: Kevin Bennett, Scott Taylor

It became customary for devout Christians to welcome into their homes all who knocked at their doors on Christmas Eve. To turn away may have meant rejection of the Christ child.

During the Advent season we remember that the Christ child is wandering along our streets. Will he come to us an immigrant? A child with autism? Someone with whom we disagree politically? May our church and our homes be warm and welcoming to all who come.

***HYMN** *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* Chalice Hymnal #125

OFFERTORY
Call to Give **Tim Collins**
Today we have decorated the sanctuary so we can begin the journey of Advent. There is still work to do though. It's the work of preparing our hearts. We have four weeks to prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. As we reflect on what and how we are called to give, let us also reflect on how our lives might be different when we put our Christmas decorations away.

Offertory *Beautiful One with
O Come, Let Us Adore Him*
Arranged by Carol Tornquist

Offertory Prayer (in unison)
**Holy One,
Use our gifts as a gift to our community and our world. Amen.**

***DOXOLOGY**

COMMUNION

Invitation **Tim Collins**
There is nothing more powerful or more important than God's love for all of us. It is this love that Jesus was born to reveal. He came as a baby in Bethlehem. Like all babies, he was vulnerable, dependent, and full of promise. His life was a story waiting to be written. Throughout Advent, we will be drawn into this love story over and over again. Right now, here at this table, the story is made real to us in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine. Everyone is welcome here.

Silent Reflection

HYMN *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Chalice Hymnal 119, vs 3,4

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLORS **Roslin Johnson**

The way we keep time in the church is called the liturgical year. Next Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, marks the beginning of a liturgical year. Paraments, which cover our communion table, pulpit and lectern, are something like drapes or curtains in a home. With the changing colors of the liturgical year, they attract attention, add variety, and point to the significance of the season being celebrated. The traditional color for Advent is purple, a color that signifies royalty and God's authority. Some traditions use blue, which represents anticipation and promise.

PRAYER HYMN *Great Holy One* Spirit Singers

PASTORAL PRAYER **Josh Linton**

ADVENT CANDLES **Jenny Linton**
Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. One way we mark time throughout Advent is by lighting an Advent candle each Sunday of the season. The four candles provide us with a visual way to count off the four Sundays of the season. The flame of each new candle reminds us that something is happening, but something more is still to come. The Advent season is not complete until all four candles are lighted, along with the central Christ candle which is lit on Christmas Eve.

The tradition of the Advent wreath is traced back to an old Scandinavian custom that celebrated the coming of light after a season of darkness. In that day, candles were placed on the edge of a horizontal wheel. As the wheel was spun around, the lighted candles would blend into a continuous circle of light. We don't spin our Advent wreath around, but it's shape reminds us that God's light and love never end.

There is also symbolism in the colors of the candles in the Advent wreath. The three purple candles symbolize the coming of Christ from the royal line of David. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent and symbolizes joy.

HYMN

One Candle is Lit
Come surely Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.
Christ Jesus draw near us, our vision engage.
Each candle is lit as we wait, as we pray.

on screen

LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIAS

Dianne Crow

In the past two hundred years, a new element has found its place in our Christmas celebration. This tradition comes to us from our neighbors in Mexico. In the very early part of the 19th century, an American who served the United States as an ambassador, spent a tour of duty in Mexico. He admired the dramatic beauty of the bright red poinsettia that grew rooftop high and bloomed profusely at Christmas. He was awed when Mexican Christians told him why the bright red poinsettias were a part of their celebrations of the birth and life of Jesus Christ.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together; it goes like this: There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

*HYMN

Santo, Santo, Santo

Chalice Hymnal #111

EVERGREENS

Megan Greene

The most striking and most universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans, evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever – green, ever –

alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of God and the promise that we are never out of reach of God's love. Our forefathers called the procuring of these evergreens, "Bringing home Christmas!"

CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS TREE AND CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

Roslin Johnson

The Christmas tree is a symbol of peace and eternal life. The lights of the tree represent God's presence in the world. The ornaments on the tree are called Chrismons. The word Chrismon is a conflation of the words Christ and monogram. The ornaments are Christian symbols and vary from one Christian community to the next.

Chrismons are always white and gold, symbolizing the innocence and magnificence of Christ. We have quite a variety of Chrismons on our tree. There are doves, symbols of both the Holy Spirit and peace. There are Chrismons with the Star of David on them. The Star of David is made of two equilateral triangles and reminds us that our roots are in the Jewish faith tradition. There are Greek letters on the tree. Two of them are the letters Alpha and Omega. Alpha means beginning and Omega means end. God is the beginning and the end...and everything in between.

And there are fish on the tree. The Greek word for fish is an acronym for the Greek words, Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. The fish was an early symbol which was used by Christians to identify themselves to one another. When two people met, the Christian would draw in the sand, or in the dust of the road, a half arc, which is a portion of the fish symbol. If the other person drew the other arc, completing the "sign of the fish," it revealed that they were both followers of Jesus and could safely talk about their faith. The fish also reminds us that Jesus called his followers to be fishers of men, proclaiming God's love in all places and all times. You are invited to look closely at the ornaments on the tree. They tell quite a story!

ANTHEM

Prophets Knew
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Spirit Singers

CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Eli Holder

Long before the celebration of Christmas, candles were used to signify the light of Christ in the world. In medieval times there was a legend, which said that on Christmas Eve the Christ child wandered throughout the world, looking for places where he would be welcomed. Those who loved him, hoping that he might find their homes, placed lighted candles in the window to invite him in.