

# STAY *Connected* AT CCC

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, DECEMBER 8

9th-12th graders, join us for fellowship and study tonight at the Starts' from 5:30 to 7:30. Be sure to bring your own dinner! See the Weekly Update to sign up to bring a dessert to share.

## DECEMBER PRAYER FOR LEADERSHIP

Please be praying for the **elders, who will be meeting on Tuesday, 12/10**. Thank you for praying for us!

## WOMEN'S EVENT, DECEMBER 14

Save the date! Join us for a **Christmas tea and "favorite things" swap on Saturday, December 14th from 10a-12p**. High school girls, 9th-12th grade, are invited to join us for this event. More details to come!

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 15

**6th-12th graders**, join us from **6 to 9** for an evening of festivity and fellowship at the **Stonehaven Lower School Campus**. Pizza dinner will be provided. Please bring a white elephant gift (\$10 max) and see the Signup Genius in the weekly update to bring a dessert or side. Be sure to email Matt to **RSVP by 12/9** to receive some important information about some games we will play!

## YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 20

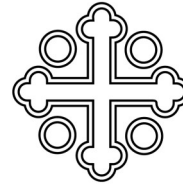
College students and young adults are invited to a Christmas party at the **O'Sullivans at 7:00 PM**. Please see the Sign Up Genius in the Weekly Update to bring a treat to share and **RSVP to Matt by 12/16** to learn about the game we will play together.

## BUILDING FUND UPDATE

As of **11/24**, we have **\$291,420** in this fund. Thank you for your generosity! Please contribute by marking your gift "Building Fund."

## NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING IN JANUARY

You are invited to join Kathryn Baird in a **virtual Bible study** that will begin in January! This group has in mind women in our church family who may not be able to meet regularly in person, but can connect through a resource like Voxer or Marco Polo. The group will study the **book of Ephesians using the Hinged Bible Study video and book resources**, produced by CDM and written by women in the PCA, and connect virtually to discuss and share with one another. **Reach out to Kathryn to let her know you'd like to participate (klpbaird@gmail.com)!**



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CHURCH



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Christ Community Church is a local congregation of the PCA

OUR VISION:  
TO SEE THE GOSPEL CHANGE HEARTS, LIVES, AND COMMUNITY  
BY MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES IN NORTHWEST ATLANTA AND BEYOND  
**CHANGED HEARTS, CHANGED LIVES, CHANGED COMMUNITY**

# OUR *Worship* CELEBRATION

December 8, 2024

## **Prelude**

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

## **Welcome**

### **\*Call to Worship - Isaiah 40:6-8**

~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

### **\*Weekly Congregational Response**

~Our humble response to God's call to worship

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

### **\*Song of Preparation and Praise - Joy to the World**

~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

### **\*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Mark 9:38-41**

~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

### **\*Congregational Response: Amen!**

### **\*Song of Comfort - O Come, Divine Messiah**

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

### **Pastoral Prayer - Mwamba & Nyema Johnson- Vision Collegiate Ministries and Kings Chapel Presbyterian Church, Carrolton**

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

### **Sermon - Two Parables of the Kingdom Mark 4:26-34**

### **Preparation of the Table**

### **Partaking of the Table**

~Practiced on a regular basis to make the Word visible.

### **\*Doxology**

### **\*Song of Response - We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

### **\*Announcements**

~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

### **\*Benediction - 2 Peter 3:14,18**

~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

### **\*Congregational Response: Amen!**

### **\*Stand**

*Giving boxes are located on the table inside the sanctuary by the doors and the welcome table in the lobby.*

## ***We Will Feast in the House of Zion***

*We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things,  
We will say together  
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the Faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom.

*SONG OF Response*

# Doxology

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Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen

# CALL TO Worship

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A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the  
flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when  
the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the  
people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the  
word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:6-8

## The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## “TWO PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM”

MARK 4:26-34

MATT O’SULLIVAN

**Key Truth: Jesus grows His Kingdom in certain yet surprising ways that we do not expect and cannot control.**

### Introduction:

**Q: *What concerns you about the future of God’s people in this world? How are your concerns affecting your hope and participation in God’s Kingdom today?***

### Mark 4:26-34: Two Parables of the Kingdom

“Like the patient farmer, Jesus is supremely confident in the coming kingdom. Though beset by opposition from religious leaders and misunderstanding from followers, Jesus is not disheartened, distraught, or desperate. Nor should there be anxiety among his disciples. The faith that Jesus requires of disciples is to sleep and rise in humble confidence that God has invaded this troubled world not with a crusade but with a seed . . . that will grow into a fruitful harvest.”

**James R. Edwards, *The Gospel According to Mark***

### Application Questions:

1. *Where do you see Jesus growing His Kingdom in surprising ways?*
2. *Where do you need to practice waiting upon the Lord with confident patience as He grows His Kingdom by the power of His Word?*
3. *What is one humble opportunity or unexpected relationship you can cultivate because Jesus is King?*

**Mark 4:26-34 teaches us that Jesus grows His Kingdom in certain yet surprising ways that we do not expect and cannot control.**

## *O Come, Divine Messiah*

O come, Divine Messiah  
The world is longing for the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flies away

*Dear Savior come to tired earth  
And bring the grace of dawn  
Dispel the night with Thy face  
Come, Messiah, Come*

*O come, Divine Messiah, come  
Come Messiah come*

O Thou whom nations sigh for  
Whom priest and prophet long Foretold  
Does break the captive fetters  
And bring the wayward home

There is hope today  
That God Himself might shine upon  
Our souls and say  
Unto you a Savior comes and  
Everything will change  
Everything will change  
There is hope today  
That God Himself will take  
Our Wounded world and say  
Unto you Savior comes and  
Everything will change  
Everything will change

*O come, Divine Messiah, come  
Come Messiah come*

SONG OF  
*Comfort*

## *Joy to the World!*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n  
And nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make  
His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world  
With truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

SONG OF  
*Praise*

Gracious and Merciful Father,

We come before you to confess our sin as  
Your redeemed and beloved children. May  
Your Spirit alone convict us of our sin and  
remind us of our pardon in Christ through  
repentance.

*(Take a moment to silently confess.)*

We confess that we often live in fear of what  
we see in the world rather than by faith in  
what You promise about Your Kingdom  
**(Mark 4:26-34).**

We confess these things before You because  
You are faithful to forgive us in Christ.

Bless us with the assurance of our pardon  
by Your Holy Spirit in Christ alone, by faith  
alone, through Your grace alone, from Your  
Word.

Amen.

## Assurance OF PARDON

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone  
casting out demons in your name, and we tried  
to stop him, because he was not following us.”

<sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one  
who does a mighty work in my name will be  
able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> For  
the one who is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For  
truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of  
water to drink because you belong to Christ  
will by no means lose his reward.

**Mark 9:38-41**

(Leader) - And based on the gift of this  
assurance of pardon to us, God’s people,  
we all can’t help but say,

**(Congregation) - Amen!**

Confession OF SIN