

Lord's Day Worship

December 12, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

*(Asterisk) indicates *Please stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

* Call to Worship

* Opening Hymn *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

RENEWAL

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of light, you came among us in Jesus, the Word made flesh. He was and is Immanuel, God with us. Through Him you called us to love one another as you have loved us, but we confess before you our unwillingness and inability to obey this command. We are often consumed with jealousy and anger toward brothers and sisters. Instead of laying down our lives for others, we believe that they ought to serve us. Forgive us, Lord. Jesus, you left your throne to take on human flesh and give your life for us on the cross. By your Spirit, help us to walk in your light, loving you, and loving our neighbors, to the glory of your holy name.
(silent prayer)

* Song *"Dark is All the World below Him"*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

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.

COMMITMENT

Offering

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7:10-17

* Hymn *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

New Testament Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon *"The Gift of God's Presence"*
The Rev. Doug Kortyna

Prayer

* Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed (c. 3rd century)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Closing Song *"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"*

* Benediction

* Dismissal

Church, where are you going?

We go forth to serve God's world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to God!

Doug Kortyna: My Life Story

My Christian life story begins with my grandmother who had a radical conversion. It is through her story and life of joy that I was persuaded to become a Christian. She was the face of Jesus for me at a young age and well into my teenage years. I describe her as a person who one could find in a Flannery O'Connor novel or short story. She was Pentecostal, and spent many hours (sometimes eight hours) reading the Bible and serving her church. It was her death that led me to embrace Christ in a more intimate way. I was nineteen at the time. I prayed to receive Christ at a young age. However, I do not know if my "true conversion" was at nineteen or six years old. What matters is I continue to trust and know Christ in my life now and forevermore.

I think the most significant time that has shaped me over the past decade was living in Mexico for two years. It helped me to learn and understand how materially blessed we are in the United States, but also taught me that we are spiritually impoverished in the United States. I personally witnessed what the Church historian Philip Jenkins has called "The Next Christendom." The experience shaped me to learn to pray more and trust in God's providential hand.

I have been trying to help our presbytery think about the long-term trends of ministry. This means the challenges we face due to aging congregations and populations shifts. Sara and I have strong ideals in relation to evangelism. We try to make sure we connect with non-believers in our day-to-day life.

Doug Kortyna



CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“...so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (b) NRSV

**December 12, 2021 | The Rev. Doug Kortyna
3rd Sunday in Advent
“The Gift of God’s Presence”
Matthew 1:18-25**

Pastor - Phil Moran | Music Director - Jeff Davis

Christ Presbyterian Church Ministry Center

10280 W. Ustick Rd., Boise 83704

Ministry Center Phone: 208-391-4682

Church Office Email: office@christpresboise.org

Church Website: www.christpresboise.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/christpresboise.org>