

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
San Antonio, Texas



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WORSHIP, CONNECT, SERVE

*Experiencing life abundant
through **worshipping** God,
connecting with each other
and the community, and
serving others.*

Michael's Mind

I got an email notice that the check was in the mail. I had been waiting on this check for several weeks. I had obligated some of the funds from the check. I called the company sending the check to hasten the sending...but they were slow-walking the process. I am not good at waiting. Not skilled at waiting in a line, waiting on a package to be delivered, or waiting for a prayer to be answered. I know not a person who enjoys waiting. I know, I know that we learn things like wisdom and patience while waiting. Advent has a great deal to do with waiting. Like a kid for Christmas, waiting is taxing.



Our modern culture is built around the avoidance of waiting. We eat fast food, want faster internet, faster delivery, faster Uber, call ahead seating, no waiting! When I send a text, text me back! You can go shopping and buy with one click. Download a whole book and boom! There it is! Click a button and before it clicks back up, the money is out of your card account. I saw an article that quoted *The New York Times* stating that we will visit a website less often if it is slower than a close competitor by a quarter of a second. That's .25 seconds! That must be way too long for any normal person to wait. We want what we want and we want it now.

So, do you...but waiting does not need to be a waste of time. I must break myself of the tendency to rushing to the next place or the next thing. I am learning about being held up in traffic. It is an opportunity to breathe more deeply. I can pray for others. My spiritual life is bolstered by "those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength." I have even told God that an immediate response to my request is not necessary. I haven't got everything figured out anyway and waiting and deep breathing and praying are all good for me if I let them be good for me.

So, Advent is a great season of waiting and preparing. Christmas will come ready or not. Tell the kids you will just have to wait...tell it to yourself...rid yourself of the anxiety of waiting and find the peace in knowing that God is with us. Hey, the mail delivery brought only one missive for me. It was the long-awaited check.



I sincerely want to wish everyone the warmest of Greetings as we look forward to Christmas Day in this very strange year of 2020. My heart is full of desire to be encouraging to everyone and to challenge you to look for opportunities to spread Christmas joy. I think some words powerfully describing Christmas by prominent preachers are worth deeper pondering as we celebrate and talk about Christmas this year...

The Christmas Message: Emmanuel. God with us. He who resided in Heaven, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. He breathed our air, felt our pain, knew our sorrows, and died for our sins. He didn't come to frighten us, but to show us the way to warmth and safety.... *Chuck Swindoll*

Newborn Babe: What a paradox that a babe in a manger should be called mighty! Yet even as a baby, Jesus Christ revealed power. His birth affected the heavens as that star appeared. The star affected the Magi, and they left their homes and made that long journey to Jerusalem. Their announcement shook King Herod and his court. Jesus' birth brought angels from heaven and simple shepherds from their flocks on the hillside. Midnight became midday as the glory of the Lord appeared to men..... *Warren Wiersbe*

An Unfathomable Mystery: The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.... *Martin Luther*

In the Bleak of Midwinter: What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,-- Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.... *Christina Rossetti*

Because God So Loved: Jesus--a simple name with so much power and meaning, but on that night so long ago, the tiny baby, wrapped by Mary in swaddling clothes, waving little arms, hungrily sucking a fist, was like any other newborn baby. He was helpless and dependent, and Mary was His hope of survival, His nourishment, His very lifeline. God entrusted His most priceless gift to a very human, very young, earthly mother. Why? Because God so loved--that He gave. He relinquished His hold on His Son and placed Him in fragile human arms.... *Janet Oak*

The Staggering Miracle of Christ: In the super-miracle of the Incarnation, our very Creator, Preserver, Judge, becomes our Kinsman, Sinbearer, Redeemer! Of all miracles and mysteries this is the most staggering... *J. Sidlow Baxter*

Holy Gift Exchange: Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man--His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God--when we present our bodies a living sacrifice.... *Vance Havner*

A Most Unusual Christmas: Christmas—it comes around every year, whether you are ready for it or not. And this year is the most unusual of all the unusual Christmases of our lifetime. God came down—Jesus was born as the light of the world—and that should be our focus.... *Michael Passmore*

I challenge you to fully immerse yourself in the Spirit of Christmas and to actively pursue opportunities to share that marvelous spirit with everyone in your life. I pray God richly blesses your Christmas holiday season with the very merriest of Christmases this year!!

*Very Truly Yours in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
Bob Blake*

CCC DECEMBER 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Remember the Gift you were given. Use your words and welcome others	into your circle of love. -Heidi Gaul	1 Pray for those in medical need but have not the financial means to secure help	2 Pray for and talk to relatives separated by this virus that they know & feel your love	3 Ask God to help you spread hope all around as you smile at everyone you see	4 Pray for all college students for a successful semester, one finished; one starting	5 Lend a helping hand to your neighbors & thank God He put them near you
6 <u>2nd Advent</u> Pray that God's peace and loving grace be with each of us every day	7 Pray that you hear God's voice calling you to come and follow Him	8 Pray for & thank those who offer themselves in service to others in all walks of life	9 Ask God to help you choose the right path for your life – while keeping Him in it	10 Pray for young people who are figuring out life's journey that they do well	11 Pray for friends who are hurting and give them your caring love	12 Thank God that He took you on paths that led to better choices in your life
13 <u>3rd Advent</u> Pray that the joy and Good News of Jesus can be spread all over the world	14 Pray for our military who serve our nation and protect all of us that they stay safe	15 Thank God for friends who lend you a helping hand for they serve God as well	16 Thank God daily for His blessings to us of dear family and true friends	17 Ask God to help you grow in wholeness with Him in your lives	18 Pray and carry all your cares to God for He alone in His Son is all you will ever need	19 Pray that you never forget Jesus will help you in all things, for His love is everlasting
20 <u>4th Advent</u> Pray that we give to others the love God gave to us through His Son	21 In our changed lives right now pray & remember Christ is still with us in everything	22 Pray for the hungry as you donate to the food bank knowing your help is in Christ's name	23 Thank God for your blessings & share with others who do not have as much	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> Pray that you can be that light of faith to others as God is to you	25 <u>Christmas Day</u> Pray that all may know God's love and grace always	26 Pray that you always tell all of the Good News: Jesus has come to save us all
27 Thank God for the people in our lives who hold us up and always support our efforts	28 Ask God to help you find ways to share your abundance of time and resources	29 Ask God to help you stay focused on the good and not on minor gripes & complaints	30 Pray that we know God is always our refuge in all our troubles holding us up in His love	31 New <u>Year's Eve</u> Ask God to help us know each new day is a clean start - a new hope all year long		

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
John 1:1, 14

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



CCCSA Contributions

We hope everyone is doing great during these times.

If you are still wanting to give your Sunday contributions you can mail them to us here at Central Christian Church or now contribute via online , through this link: <https://www.cccsa.org/give>

Please let us know if you have any questions.



H	December 1	Rachel Stein
A	December 2	Cindy Ivy
P	December 5	Faye Bettis
P		Todd Henderson
Y	December 6	Cecille Martinez
	December 7	Susan Ashley
		Simpson-Obregon
	December 9	Caleb Moembo
B		Daniella Moembo
I		Jim Smith
R	December 11	Caroline Drake
T		Juliette Drake
H	December 12	Bette King
D	December 17	Velma Garcia
A	December 22	Zuzu Moembo
Y	December 24	Cherilyn Patteson
	December 27	Michael Anderson
		Peggy Wardlaw
	December 28	Les Bettis
	December 31	George R. Gregory

CCC DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<div>6</div> <div>2nd Advent</div> <div>10:50 am</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>Annual</div> <div>Congregation</div> <div>Meeting</div>	7	8	9	10	11	12
<div>13</div> <div>3rd Advent</div> <div>10:50 am</div> <div>Worship</div>	14	15	16	17	18	19
<div>20</div> <div>4th Advent</div> <div>10:50 am</div> <div>Worship</div>	21	22	23	24	25	26
				<div><u>Christmas</u></div> <div><u>Eve</u></div> <div>Church</div> <div>Office</div> <div>Closed</div> <div>7:00 pm</div> <div>Christmas</div> <div>Eve Service</div>	<div><u>Christmas Day</u></div> <div>Church</div> <div>Office</div> <div>Closed</div> <div></div>	
<div>27</div> <div>10:50 am</div> <div>Worship</div>	28	29	30	31		
				<div><u>New Year's</u></div> <div><u>Eve</u></div>		

Please note that due to the COVID-19 stay at home policy, all regular meetings scheduled for December will not occur, unless notified by email or telephone.

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