

CHRIST  CHURCH  
BELLINGHAM

*The joy of God in all life for all of Bellingham*  
12.18.16 | *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



# WELCOME

We're glad you're here to worship with us! This is a place where people in all stages of faith are welcome to come and experience Jesus Christ. Whether you've known Christ for decades or come as a skeptic investigating who Jesus is, our hope is that you'll find both the love and challenge of Christ presented in a thoughtful and compelling manner.

## CHILDREN

Children are very important to us, and we value them as a central part of our community. Children of all ages are encouraged to join us at any time during the service. In the children's portable behind the sanctuary, we also offer a safe place for our children to be discipled and learn the love and grace of Christ. Both classes use the Jesus Storybook Bible for the curriculum.

**INFANTS/TODDLERS** | The nursery is open at the beginning of service for children ages 2 and under. You may drop your child off at any time during the service. Our children learn the foundational stories of the bible through activities, songs, story time, and playing together. Please sign your child in with the service producer in the entryway of the portable on arrival.

**PRESCHOOL** | All our kids start with us in the service. You can find paper and crayons for them in the lobby if that's helpful. Children ages 3-5 who are able to sit together and learn will be dismissed to a separate class before the sermon. You can lead your child to the class or walk them to the teacher in the lobby. Our preschoolers learn the love and grace of Christ through dialogue with the teacher, deeper study of the Word, hands-on activities, and fellowship. They will return to the sanctuary when the sermon is over.

"The church, however, as the community of Christ's kingdom, can show the world an ethical integrity it must respect. When Peter describes the impact of Christian righteous deeds in a pagan world, he is thinking not of isolated saints, but of the people of God, called out of darkness into God's light. Christ witness that is limited to private religious experience cannot challenge secularism. Christians in community must again show the world, not merely family values, but the bond of the love of Christ. Increasingly the ordered fellowship of the church becomes the sign of grace for the warring factions of a disordered world."

Edmund Clowney, *The Church*

## WHY LITURGY?

'Liturgy' simply means the elements and sequence of the worship. Every church has a liturgy, whether or not it's talked about. It's a way of telling a story. Our liturgy tells the true story of God making all things good, the world and humanity turning against him, and his persistent forgiving love rescuing his people through Jesus Christ, who is making all things new in himself. Every week our liturgy tells us the good news that God saves sinners and shapes them into a new people for the good of the world.

While some of the ways we worship might be foreign to you, we encourage you to try them on for a while and see if you can't

benefit from them. Written prayers read in unison are meant to work the same way songs do—they give a common voice to our personal devotion as we each meditate on their meaning. Learning liturgy, C.S. Lewis said, is like learning to dance. It's awkward at first, but after a while you focus not on the individual steps, but on the One you are worshiping.

Throughout that learning process, we would love to walk with you and dialogue about any questions you might have—please get in touch with Associate Pastor Daniel Robbins (ccb.dfr@gmail.com).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER MEETINGS

On December 28th at 6:45pm, there will be a dinner and prayer meeting. (Host: TBD). This is a time for catching up over a meal, singing, a short devotional, and of course, prayer. Our God listens to and answers the prayers of his saints, especially as we join together for his church, our loved ones, and the furtherance of his kingdom.

Contact:  
Laura Ungersma

## CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER

CCBuilder is our online communication tool that keeps our church connected and updated on what is happening in our community. You can sign-up on our website (go to the link "Login", then click "Sign Up") Make sure to update your profile (including a picture!) when you sign up.

Or you can go to:  
[https://christchurchbellingham.ccbchurch.com/w\\_sign\\_up.php](https://christchurchbellingham.ccbchurch.com/w_sign_up.php).

## HOME GROUPS

Sign up to join a home group when they start the second week of January. This is the best way to connect with people on a deeper level at Christ Church. You can sign up on CCBuilder, or fill out a paper registration form in the lobby.

Contact:  
Nate Walker | [ccb.nateswalker@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.nateswalker@gmail.com)

## WINTER WORKSHOPS

On January 8th, we will begin our new adult class; "How to Read Your Bible" and a Home Group Leader Training class. Please register soon, as spots in our kids class and Godly Play fill up quickly! You can sign up on CCBuilder or fill out a paper registration form in the lobby.

Contact:  
Daniel Robbins | [ccb.dfr@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.dfr@gmail.com)

## SEMINARY AT CCB

Ever considered getting seminary training, but a move was too daunting and online classes seemed too lonely? In partnership with the NW Church Planting Network, CCB will be offering a opportunity to take online seminary classes with a cohort from our church and others. Content will be from Covenant Seminary, but our local community will deepen and enhance that learning experience. You can take classes for credit, or audit classes. This is open to anyone interested in deepening their knowledge to better serve the Lord. Our own Pastor Daniel will be the cohort mentor. More details to come!

Contact:  
Daniel Robbins | [ccb.dfr@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.dfr@gmail.com)

# PRAISE

## SONG OF APPROACH

*We begin our worship service acknowledging that God alone is worthy of our praise — that worship is about Him. In fact, He is the one who calls us to worship in the first place, so we can lay aside our anxieties and worship Him without fear.*

### COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

*Words Charles Wesley, 1744 | Music: Rowland Pritchard, 1855*

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,  
Day-spring from on high, appear;  
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news,  
glad tiding of a birth:  
“Go to him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
he whose glories knew no end;  
by his life he bring us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
this is the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4 Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### LUKE 1:57–66

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

# PRAYERS OF ADORATION

## THOU WHO WAST RICH

1. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor;  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;

2. Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
stooping so low, but sinners raising,  
heav'nward by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

3. Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship thee.

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song?  
*(Refrain)*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
*(Refrain)*

4. See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.  
*(Refrain)*

## SONGS OF THANKS

*Words: Frank Houghton*  
*Music: Trad. French carol, arr. Charles H Kitson, 1930*

*Words & Music: Trad. French Carol*

# RENEWAL

*We confess that though we are God's people, our hearts are still drawn to false gods; we have broken God's Law. But in Christ, God assures us of his grace, washes us, teaches and draws us nearer to himself.*

## CONFESSION

*Bold Words Read  
Aloud In Unison*

### FROM ISAIAH 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought the land into contempt ... but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

We are a people who walked in darkness

**We were lost,**

**But we have seen a great light;**

We are those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

**But on us light has shone.**

You, O Christ, have multiplied your people,

You have increased our joy;

**We rejoice before you**

**as with joy at the harvest,**

**as we are glad when we divide the spoil.**

For the yoke of our burden,

**and the staff for our shoulder,**

**the rod of our oppressor,**

**you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

And every garment rolled in blood

**will be burned as fuel for the fire,**

**You will bring eternal peace.**

For to us a child is born,

**to us a son is given;**

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,

And his name shall be called

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace

**there will be no end,**

On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
**to establish it and to uphold it**  
**with justice and with righteousness**  
**from this time forth and forevermore.**  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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### **LUKE 1:67–80**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

“**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,**  
**for he has visited and redeemed his people**  
**and has raised up a horn of salvation for us**  
**in the house of his servant David,**  
**as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,**  
**that we should be saved from our enemies**  
**and from the hand of all who hate us;**  
**to show the mercy promised to our fathers**  
**and to remember his holy covenant,**  
**the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us**  
**that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,**  
**might serve him without fear,**  
**in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**  
**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;**  
**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**  
**to give knowledge of salvation to his people**  
**in the forgiveness of their sins,**  
**because of the tender mercy of our God,**  
**whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high**  
**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,**  
**to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

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## **GREETING ONE ANOTHER & CHILDREN’S BIBLE LESSON**

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*Children 3 - 5 years old are  
welcome to stay for the sermon or  
be dismissed for a Bible lesson*

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Stand in Confidence*

*Bold Words Read  
Aloud In Unison*



# SONG OF ASCENT

*Words: German Hymn,  
Trans. Harriet Spaeth,  
Theodore Baker,  
and John C. Mattes.*

*Music: German melody, 15th  
Cent., arr. M. Praetorius*

## LO HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
as those of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
she bore to men a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us,  
and lightens ev'ry load.

# SERMON | THE PEOPLE OF GOD

REV. NATE WALKER  
MALACHI 3:13-4:3

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**3**: [13] “Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ [14] You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? [15] And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

[16] Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. [17] “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. [18] Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

**4**: [1] “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. [2] But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness

*More space for notes can be found on p. 17  
(opposite the Prayers page)*

# COMMITMENT

*In the commitment movement we respond to God's grace and promises by renewing our loyalty to him through professing our faith, praying for the church and world, and offering our whole selves to him and his mission.*

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### APOSTLES CREED

*The earliest written forms date to the second century*

*Read Aloud In Unison*

**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 the grave;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at 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 catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

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## PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH + WORLD

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### LUKE 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

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### SILENT NIGHT

1. Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heav'n afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

## OFFERING

*The offering is used entirely for the church's mission and ministry. It is an act of worship and a response to all that we receive in the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING SONG

*Music: Franz X. Gruber, ca. 1820.*

*Words: Josef Mohr, ca. 1816-1818.*



# HOPE

*The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.*

## LORD'S SUPPER

*There is wine in the outer ring and grape juice in the middle.*

Jesus invites you to his table to serve you and commune with you because he enjoys you. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the Church. Communion is for all baptized Christians who put their trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ. All baptized children are required to make a profession of faith to the elders of the church before coming to the Lord's Table. If you have come to faith in Christ and have not been baptized, our pastors would love to baptize you.

*Prayers are printed below for use during the Lord's Supper, especially for those not partaking*

### PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Please give me courage and hope as I consider both the reasons and cost for following you. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

### PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking the punishment I deserved so you could offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*All children are invited to come forward to sing  
and dance together for the sending song, and  
receive the benediction.*

## **SENDING SONG**

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
Words: Thomas Ken, 1709*

### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

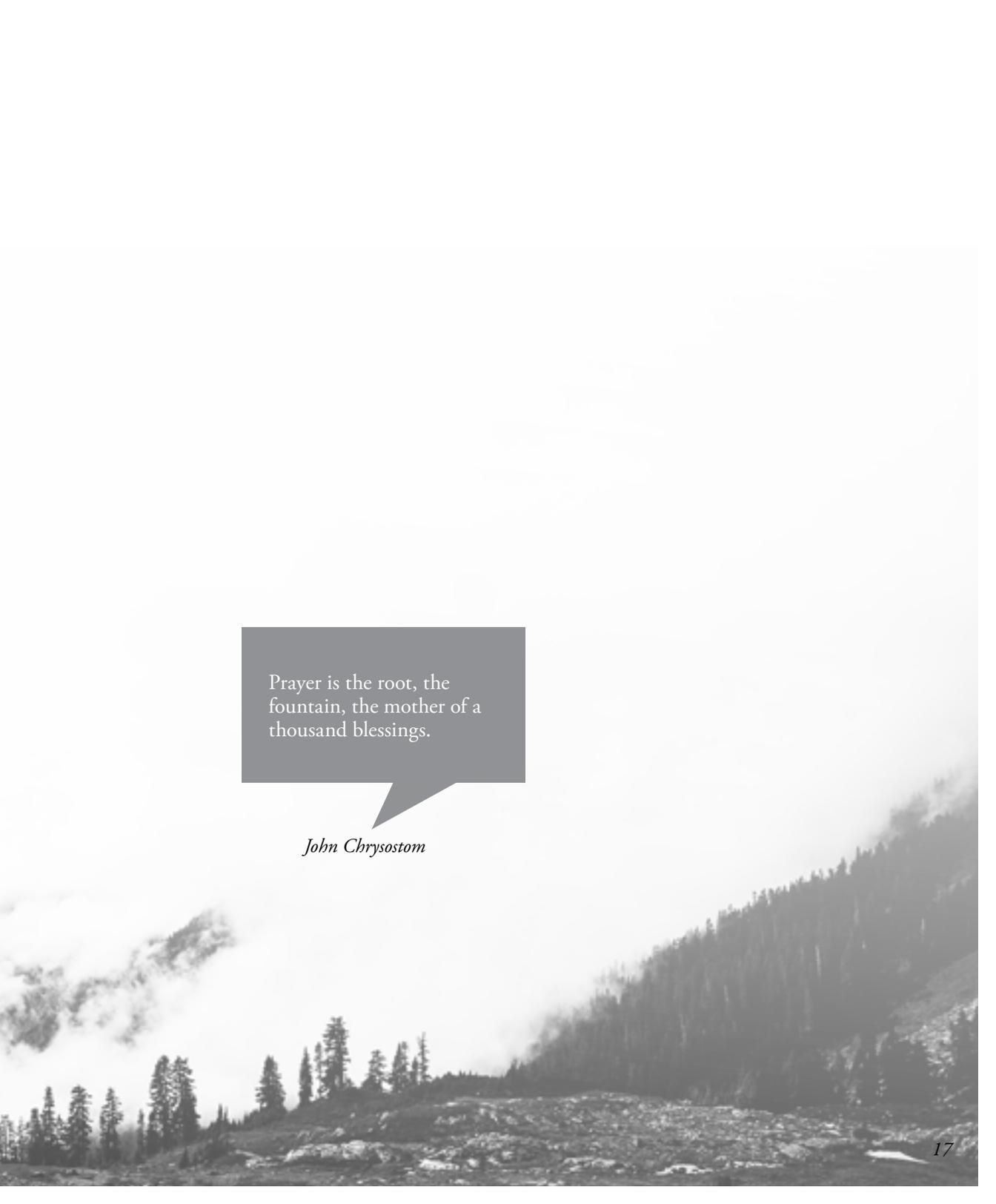
## **BENEDICTION**



# PRAYERS

Removed for the online version for the privacy of our members.

*Please send any requests or updates for the Prayer List to  
Laura Ungersma at [llungersma@gmail.com](mailto:llungersma@gmail.com)*



Prayer is the root, the  
fountain, the mother of a  
thousand blessings.

*John Chrysostom*

# MISSION

*The mission of Christ Church Bellingham is to proclaim the excellencies of God in Bellingham and throughout the world through worship, disciple-making, deeds of love, and church planting.*

	This Week 12.18.6 – Third Sunday	Next Week 12.25.16 – Fourth Sunday
	8:45 AM	11:15 AM
Children's Ministry	Check with Kate Ellis	Keep kids in worship— No children's ministry this week
Greeters	Kelly Family	Martha Copeland, Jane Sievers
Offering & Lord's Supper	Ryan Klassen, Art Lim	James VanNoord, NEED VOLUNTEER
Setup & Cleanup	Linville Family	Taron Family
Music & Sound Team	ATHANASIUS: Austin Miedema, Ron Camire, Marc Gallagher, Hannah Petersen, Autumn Greenleaf	AUGUSTINE: Nate Walker, Ron Camire, Ted Neufeld, Abby Branch, Marc Gallagher, Abi Gross, Jonathan Gross, Titus Ungersma



## ELDERS

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# HOW DO I CONNECT AT CHRIST CHURCH?

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*Daniel Robbins | Assoc. Pastor*  
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*Jessie Klassen | Women's Ministry*  
klassenjcg@gmail.com

*Rachel Gray | Contact for  
service opportunities*  
ccb.rachelgray@gmail.com

**1** GIVE US SEVEN | Worship is the heartbeat of our life together. To get to know us better, we ask that you “Give Us Seven.” Join us for seven Sundays over the course of a couple months. In doing so, you’ll come to learn who we are and what we believe, and experience the mission to which God has called us: to proclaim the excellencies of God.

**2** MEET WITH US | If you’re interested in meeting with a pastor, we’d love to buy you coffee and get to know you. Getting to know long-time members is another great way to know about us, and to be known.

**3** JOIN THE COMMUNITY | While worship is the heartbeat of our community, we know that to grow in the Christian faith you must experience the gospel in the context of the family of Christ, namely in a Home Group. We encourage everyone to join a Home Group, our primary means of connection and pastoral care. We also meet, pray, study and encourage each other through our Women’s Bible Study, Wednesdays 9:30am in the Sanctuary

**4** SERVE | God builds his kingdom through his people. Your gifts, talents, and resources are needed at Christ Church, not only to support what God is doing in our midst, but also to ensure that the good news of the gospel is taking shape throughout our city.



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