First Christian Church of Freedom

THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE / ESTABLISHED IN 1858



Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship

Knute Ogren, Pastor

November 15, 2026

Prelude

Centering

"The wrath of God is a way of saying that I have been living in a way that is contrary to the love that is God. Anyone who begins to live and grow away from God, who lives away from what is good, is turning his life toward wrath."

—Pope Benedict XVI

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship A Portion of Psalm 90
From Peterson's *The Message*

God, it seems you've been our home forever; long before the mountains were born, long before you brought earth itself to birth, from "once upon a time" to "kingdom come"—you are God.

Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well!

Come back, God—how long do we have to wait? — and treat your servants with kindness for a change. Surprise us with love at daybreak; then we'll skip and dance all the day long.

Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well!

Make up for the bad times with some good times; we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime. Let your servants see what you're best at— the ways you rule and bless your children. And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us, confirming the work that we do. Oh, yes. Affirm the work that we do!

Oh! Teach us to live well! Teach us to live wisely and well!

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,
You grow tired of how comfortable we can be with the ways we fall short. You roll your eyes when we make excuses and choose ways that are not your ways. You are not pleased when we lack a passion for sharing the gift of love with our neighbor. Help us to learn about your desire for goodness. Shape us into the tools of hope and compassion you need at work in this hurting world. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Announcements

***Hymn:** O God, Our Help in Ages Past #67

Reading: Zephaniah 1: 7; 12-18
Read by Mark McKinley

Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand!

The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Read by Martha Blaser

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us

keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep … sleep at night, and those who are drunk … get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: Well Done, My Faithful Servant[1]

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His

master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Wondering

Sermon

***Hymn:** We Give Thee but Thine Own #382

Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy
C: hear our prayer

Offering

***Doxology**

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

***Hymn:** God Whose Giving Knows No Ending[2] #606

Benediction *Traditional Irish Blessing*[3]

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rains fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again,
May you keep safe in the gentle, loving arms of God.

Postlude

*Please stand, as you are able.

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Jolly Holly Day in Freedom Village

DECEMBER 12

firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org/jollyhollyday

Visitors

We welcome your presence with us for worship this morning. Please sign the guestbook at the back of the church, and join us for coffee after the service in the Davidson Room.

Pastoral Visits

Should you want a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Knute or one of the deacons. Also, if you notice that someone hasn't been in church for several weeks, please mention it to a deacon or the Pastor.

Deacons

Judy Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, Carol McIntire, Jim Osborne, Dianne Park, Marty Perreault, David Wilcox and Libby Wilcox, Martha Blaser, Eve Klotz and Bev Perry

Today in Church

Head Usher: Mark McKinley
Coffee Hour: Dan and Cathy Ryan

The altar flowers are given by Mark McKinley, in Memory of Chester McKinley, Jr.

Prayer List

Family of Kathy Avery
Calla Battenfelder
Ellie Bossdorf
Nancy Bossi
John Bourque
Family of Sandy Boyle
Susan Brown
Family of Dorothy Brooks
Cecilia Costa
Family of Bill Elliott
Nancy Essex
Anna Hlushuk
Susan Jancetic
Grace Kull
Family of Melissa Maas
Family of Jean Marshall
Bob McKenny
Tammy Merrill
David Meserve
Matthew Meserve
John Moceri
Gale Morris
Chuck Morrison
Kelley O'Connell
Wendell Packard
Marc Perreault
Bob Phinney
Willa Plunges
Henry Rodriguez
Nancy Sarden
Alan Scales
Family of Bob Smart
Dan Spear
Ellie Stokes
Meg Taylor
Jim Tracey
Robin Tyner
Family of Caitlin Veglia
Barbara Veglia
Renee Wheaton
Libby Wilcox
Marjorie Works
My Grandchild

Our country's military personnel and their families, first responders and all those who serve the public good.

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write down the information and place it in the offering plate or on the

administrative assistant's desk. Also, please let us know if you wish to have a name removed from the list.

Church Contact Information

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Visit freedomchurch.org to read today's Bulletin online.

Weekly Email Newsletter

If you are getting the E-News each Wednesday -- great!

Reading the E-News is essential for ensuring everyone is on the same page with all that is happening at First Christian. If you aren't yet receiving the weekly E-News, you can:

1. Scan this code with your smart phone and fill out the subscription form or:
2. Share your email with the church office using the visitor card in your (or neighboring) pew.

If you go with the second option -- please print carefully so that we get the email right. Thanks!"