



**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**Good Morning and Welcome to  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



***We are here to help people know God,  
find freedom, discover their purpose,  
and make a difference in the community, near and far.***

***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...  
You are welcome here.***

***Reach Up. Reach Out. Reach In.***

## PRELUDE

Aletta Wilson

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Holmes

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #172

### We Three Kings

Verse: 1 - 5

1

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

#### [Refrain (after 1 & 5 only)]

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

2

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.

3

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshiping God on high.

4

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom,  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5

Glorious now behold him arise,  
Christ and God and sacrifice:  
alleluia, alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.

**(Refrain)**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Karen Holmes**

Dear God, reveal to us this day what our eyes look for but cannot see; what our ears hear and cannot understand. Shine your light on the pages of our lives. In the places where we share the dark, everyone looks bright, and everything looks right. We are not anxious to move out of our darkness where we are fooled. In the darkness, our motives are not clear, our ideas are not voiced, and our relationships are not questioned. But when your light shines, everything is like an open window. We see clearly. Help us to move on with you, Light of lights. We praise you and pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **PASS THE PEACE**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

## **PRAYERS**

### **HYMN OF GRATITUDE**

**Chalice Hymnal #159**

#### **There's a Song in the Air!**

**Verse 1 - 3**

**1**

There's a song in the air!  
There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer  
and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire  
while the angel choirs sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a king!

**2**

There's a tumult of joy  
o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy  
is the Lord of the earth.  
See, the star rains its fire  
while the angel choirs sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem  
cradles a king!

**3**

We rejoice in the light,  
and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night  
from the heavenly throng,  
and we welcome the glorious  
gospel they bring,  
and we greet in the cradle  
our savior and king.

## **CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Joyful Noise Choir**

#### **Infant Jesus, Holy One**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Matthew 2:1-12 (FNV)**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**  
Seeking the Light

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Chalice Hymnal #469**

**I Am the Light of the World!**

**Verse 1, 2, 4**

1

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the magi and the shepherds  
have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:

2

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with  
warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

4

To bring hope to ev'ry task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing the colors of the earth!

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Zanté Garcia**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

**GOING FORTH HYMN**

**Chalice Hymnal #66**

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

**Verse 1, 2, 4**

1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

4

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praises we render: O help us to see  
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**POSTLUDE**

**Aletta Wilson**

## UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MST unless otherwise noted.

---

**January 12, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** Karen Holmes  
**Offering:** Scott Hays-Strom  
**Communion:** Patrick Crocker

---

**February 2, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** Zanté Garcia  
**Offering:** Paul Cook  
**Communion:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw

---

**January 19, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** Esther Devall  
**Offering:** Debby Johnson  
**Communion:** Scott Hays-Strom

---

**February 9, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** TBD  
**Offering:** Deb Cook  
**Communion:** Paul Cook

---

**January 26, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** Eric Hays-Strom  
**Offering:** Melissa McKenzie-Shaw  
**Communion:** Debby Johnson

---

**February 16, 2025**

**Worship Leader:** Sue Bogart  
**Offering:** Esther Devall  
**Communion:** Deb Cook

**Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.**

For more information, visit [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org).

*If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!*

*Please come worship with us again!*

## **About First Christian Church**

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

<b>Sun.9:00 am</b>	Bible Study
<b>Sun.10:15 am</b>	Worship Service *
<b>Thu.9:00 am</b>	Spiritual Practices

\* Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

### **MONTHLY EVENTS**

<b>First Sun.</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	Celebrate birthdays in the month
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Contemplative Worship
<b>First Wed.</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Crafter's Group
<b>Third Sun.</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	Potluck
<b>Third Wed.</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	Brown Bag Lunch
<b>Fourth Wed.</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Discussion Group

---

**First Christian Church**  
1809 El Paseo Rd.  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

**Website:** [www.fcclc.org](http://www.fcclc.org)  
**Facebook:** [@FirstChristianLC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianLC)  
**YouTube:** [@FirstChristianLC](https://www.youtube.com/FirstChristianLC)

**Office:** (575) 524-3245  
**Pastor:** (575) 635-6489  
**Email:** [office@fcclc.org](mailto:office@fcclc.org)

**For Text Alerts:**  
Msg **FCCTextMe** to **(844) 467-1299**