



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
December 29, 2024 10:30AM CDT

Listen and Ask Questions

Presiding Elder Rob de Zwart

Announcements

Welcome

Invitation to Worship

Psalm 148:1-4

- ¹ *Praise the Lord!*
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
- ² *Praise him, all his angels;*
praise him, all his host!
- ³ *Praise him, sun and moon;*
praise him, all you shining stars!
- ⁴ *Praise him, you highest heavens,*
and you waters above the heavens!

***Hymn of Praise** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” **CCS #27**

***Invocation** **Ylva Hup**

*Response

We Sing of Peace “My Peace” **CCS #149**

Prayer for Peace **Jordan Joyce**

Hymn of Reflection “Be Thou My Vision” **CCS #167**

Message **High Priest Stan Troeh**

Disciples’ Generous Response **Jeff Cady**

***Hymn of Affirmation** “God’s Love Made Visible”

CCS #411

***Benediction**

Susan Boer

***Sending Forth**

We have been reminded of 12-year-old Jesus’s journey toward mission and elements of what that mission is for us today. He had questions and listened for answers. As we prepare for the new year, let us each be open to answers to the questions we may have about what God is calling us to do individually and in our gathered communities. Let us be ready to not only remember the Mission Initiatives but also be willing to put them into practice. Go into the new year with Christlike energy and witness!

***Response**

*Congregation standing as able

Bethel Community of Christ

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Pastor:

Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer:

Jeff Cady

Media Host:

David Troeh

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Announcements

- **Sunday 12/29 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – Luke 2:41-52
10:30 am *Listen & Ask Questions* – Stan Troeh
- **Wednesday 1/1** New Year's Day
- **Sunday 1/5 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – John 1:1-18
10:30 am *Receive Grace upon Grace Speaking* – Rob de Zwart
Hybrid Communion
- **Monday 1/6 Epiphany** *A Star!*
- **Community of Christ draft statement/survey on Nonviolence**
<https://cofchrist.org/draft-statement/>
- **Stassi Cramm's Pastoral Letter** on church leadership changes
<https://bit.ly/4etLfyI>
- Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links
bethel.forthrightsystems.com
- Give through [eTithing \(https://www.cofchrist.org/give\)](https://www.cofchrist.org/give)
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

Lectionary: 3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our scripture

This Week December 29 [Listen and Ask Questions](#)

Luke 2:41-52 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17
Doctrine and Covenants 162:7c-d

Next Week January 5 [Receive Grace upon Grace](#)

John 1:1-18 Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14
Moroni 10:29

Monday, January 6 [A Star!](#) Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12 Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12

Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)

The Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission, through the Graceland University Community of Christ Seminary, has opened fall classes for enrollment. To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit graceland.edu/CIMM. Cost is \$25 unless noted.

Spring A (January 6–March 2, 2025)

- **Introduction to Pastors Ministry** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Disciple** – Apostle Robin Linkhart
- **Christian Ministries Certificate: Practical Ministry** – Zac Harmon-McLaughlin (\$100)

Spring B (March 3–April 27, 2025)

- **Introduction to Priesthood Ministry** – Rick Maupin
- **Ministry of the Seventy** – Bethany Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Teacher** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Bishop** – Presiding Bishop Carla Long
- **Christian Ministries Certificate: Dialogue, Understanding, and Peacemaking** – Andrew Bolton (\$100)

Upcoming CIMM Sessions

CIMM Sessions are short seminars on topics of theology, culture, and Community of Christ Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs and practices. These sessions are broadcast live on **Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday nights**. To register, please visit www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions.

- Dec 4 – Star Trek Community – Star Trek Community Group
- Dec 9 – Worship in a Changing Culture part 1 – Tyler Marz & Karin Peter
- Dec 11 – Becoming a Prophetic People – Linda Stanbridge
- Dec 18 – Worship in a Changing Culture part 2 – Tyler Marz & Karin Peter
- Jan 8 – Listening with the Lectionary – Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith



Midlands Mission Center

7615 Platte Purchase Dr, Suite 116
Kansas City, MO 64118

presidentteam@midlandsmc.org
www.midlandsmc.org

SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Dec 3 | Giving Tuesday: cofchrist.org/giving-tuesday |
| Dec 7 | The Huixqui Sisters Concert |
| Dec 14 | Ministry of the Priest class @ Shawnee Drive |
| Feb 28 - Mar 2 | TWIST @ Shawnee Drive |

NONVIOLENCE STATEMENT FEEDBACK

In response to 2019 WCR 1319, the First Presidency has crafted a draft Statement on Nonviolence. You are invited to read the statement and provide feedback on each section **by February 28, 2025**. The FP will review the feedback and update as necessary by May 2025.

Statement: bit.ly/NonviolenceStatement (click “Draft Statement”)

Survey: bit.ly/NonviolenceSurvey

JOB OPENING

Midlands Fulltime Peace & Justice Specialist

The Peace and Justice Specialist will work with individuals and groups in MMC to support diversity and inclusion of all persons. This includes working with individuals and groups to foster acceptance and understanding of social injustice. The specialist will initiate actions to inform, encourage, and facilitate community development. For more information and an application visit bit.ly/MMCPeace.

Under the Spire Concert Series

The Temple Sanctuary is a world class performance space. As you sit beneath a 195-foot nautilus inspired spiral ceiling, you will feel the music soar in this unique acoustic environment. We are hosting gifted folk musicians who write and perform songs that evoke inspiration and peace. There is no ticket fee, but we do suggest a \$20 donation. Cost shouldn't be a barrier to participation. This series is sponsored by Community of Christ and the Independence Square Association. For more information, please visit www.centerforlivingwater.org/concerts.

The Huixqui Sisters

7pm Saturday, December 7

The Huixqui Sisters – pronounced like "whiskey" – are a vocal duet accompanied by guitar and keys. They create custom arrangements of their favorite songs across a variety of genres, with a vocal blend only achieved by sisters and vocal precision. Originally from the small town of Huixquilucan (whikey-loo-kahn), Mexico, their hometown inspires identity and artistic passions. From the artist: It is in honor of this beautiful village, nestled in the mountains outside of Mexico City, that we named ourselves and hope to share some of its beauty with you.

Temple School: Ministry of the Priest

Shawnee Drive Congregation

9 am – 5 pm Saturday, December 14

Lunch is provided. A zoom link will be sent to those who need to attend online. To register, please contact Dawn (816.718.8307) or Greg Bassett (816.210.4943) or email mmc_youth@midlandsmc.org. Please specify if you will attend in person or virtually. Attendees need to purchase their class materials from Herald House: bit.ly/PriestBook

Preaching in the Age of Ted Talks

Joey Williams

8:45 am – 2:45 pm

**Saturday, January 25 @ Olathe
or Saturday, February 1 @ Colonial Hills**

Midlands and Central Mission Centers will offer the same session twice, so choose the date that is convenient for you. A light meal will be provided. Register by January 18: bit.ly/preachingwithjoey

World Conference 2025

DELEGATES: World Conference will be held **May 30 – June 6, 2025**, in Independence, MO. Midlands is seeking **two more delegates** plus alternates. To submit an application: bit.ly/WC2025delegate.

LEGISLATION: Fourteen pieces of legislation have been submitted by mission centers and World Church Standing Teams for this gathering.

- View the legislation: bit.ly/WC25Legislation
- View the background and support statements: bit.ly/WC25LegSupport
- MMC's unique **proposed resolution prioritization survey** is **open until Dec 14** to everyone, not just delegates: bit.ly/WC25Priority

ZOOM SUPPORT: Volunteers are needed to support remote legislative sites. Multiple roles for non-delegates are available based on schedule, interest, and skills. Contact Brad Bryant at 309.706.6179 or BBryant@CofChrist.org.