



JESUS STORIES

A white graphic of an open book with decorative flourishes extending from the pages, positioned below the title.

PARABLES FOR
PEOPLE LIKE US

*"You go and work...
and I will pay you
whatever is right"*

- MATTHEW 20:4

PLAYING FAVORITES

MATTHEW 20:1-16



SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Welcome!

Are you new at Christ Church? Please stop by our Welcome Table in the Gathering Hall or Family Life Center Lobby to learn more about our church and how to get involved.

We offer three worship services each Sunday morning. Preaching today are:

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE (MASK ONLY)

Pastor Dan Conway

10:30 TRADITIONAL SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Pastor C. Chappell Temple

10:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE IN COVENANT HALL

Pastor Dan Conway



WORSHIP TEAM

Dr. C. Chappell Temple
Lead Pastor

Dan Conway
Pastor of Discipleship & Outreach

Michelle Hall
Pastor of Congregational Care & Missions

R. DeAndre Johnson
Pastor of Music & Worship Life

GT Mangum
Director of Contemporary Worship

Beth McConnell
Organist / Accompanist

For a full list of our staff members, please visit christchurchsl.org/staff.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

As the parable we are looking at this morning suggests, interest in money is hardly a novel idea in society. For in the time of Jesus, at least seven different coins were used by folks in the Roman occupied province of Judea. The well-known widow mentioned in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4 had only two small copper coins which were technically referred to as *lepton* but more commonly have been called simply the widow's mites. They would have been worth only a few cents at most.

On the other hand, the "official currency" of the Temple in Jerusalem was a Tyrian *shekel*. It was Herod's only silver coin which all were supposed to use to pay the Temple tax. That's why money-changers set up shop just outside the Temple itself. It's also the coin that Judas would have been paid with upon striking his deal with the religious authorities to betray Jesus. Then there was the Greek or Seleucid silver *drachma* cited in the story of the woman who lost one of her coins in Luke 15:8. It was perhaps actually out of circulation by the time of Jesus, but it still would have been passed from mother to daughter to be a part of a dowry, as we mentioned when looking at that parable a few weeks ago.



By far, however, the most referenced coin in the New Testament, showing up some 16 times, was the *denarius*, a silver coin about the size of an American dime. For just as the Jewish authorities required shekels for the Temple tax, the Roman authorities specified that civil taxes had to be paid using this coin. What's more significant, however, is that an average day's worth of labor was compensated with a single denarius.

As you hear the parable this morning, thus, perhaps it's worth doing the math in your mind. And then just imagine it: how might you feel indeed if the Lord was to pay not just you, but all those "slackers" around you, the exact same daily rate for all your hard labors?

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:

JESUS STORIES (Parables for People Like Us)

SEPT 19 | **LEARNING TO FORGIVE** | MATTHEW 18:21-35
Pastor Hall preaching at 8:30 Blended and 10:30 Contemporary;
William Murphree preaching at 10:30 Traditional.

SEPT 26 | **SOWING IN THE RIGHT PLACES** | MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23
Pastor Temple preaching at 8:30 Blended and 10:30 Contemporary;
Pastor Conway preaching at 10:30 Traditional.



OCTOBER SERMON SERIES, BEGINNING OCTOBER 3:
"LET'S GET SERIOUS:
BECOMING A WORLD CHRISTIAN"

BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICE

8:30 AM • SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Welcome home to worship! As a means of caring for each other, in this service we ask that you keep your face covering on for our entire time together. Children in worship are invited to pick up a take-home activity packet on the tree on the landing for use in worship and afterwards.

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
arr. Larry Shackley
BETH McCONNELL

GREETING

*OPENING SONGS

This Is Amazing Grace

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNITY MOMENTS

SHARING OF OUR PRESENCE & GIFTS

His Mercy Is More
Giving today may be made online at christchurchsl.org/give, or at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please register attendance online today at christchurchsl.org/attend.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TESTIMONY

LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON SERIES: JESUS STORIES, PARABLES FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

"Playing Favorites"
PASTOR DAN CONWAY

*CLOSING SONG

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Reprise



REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE
OR GIVE ONLINE

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary today are donated by Bret and Jacque Dyer in honor of their grandsons', Jaxson and Maverick Dyer, baptisms.

If you would like to commemorate a special event, donations of altar flowers may be made by signing up on the calendar in the hallway next to Pastor Dan's office, or by contacting Jan Randolph at janr@christchurchsl.org.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 AM • SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Welcome home to worship! To care for each other, those in the mask-only section are asked to keep their face-coverings on throughout the service. Activity packets for children are available on the tree on the landing.

PRELUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
arr. Larry Shackley
BETH McCONNELL

GREETING

*HYMNS OF PRAISE

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty (UMH 139)
Grace Greater Than Our Sin (UMH 365)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TESTIMONY

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

MAVERICK AND JAXSON DYER
Austen & Marissa Dyer, parents
Bret & Jacque Dyer, grandparents

COMMUNITY MOMENTS

ANTHEM

When In Our Music God Is Glorified
arr. Taylor Davis
TAYLOR DAVIS CONDUCTING

MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF OUR PRESENCE & GIFTS

How Can I Keep From Singing
arr. Taylor Davis

Giving today may be made online at
christchurchsl.org/give, or at the entrance
to the sanctuary. Please register attendance
online today at christchurchsl.org/attend.

DOXOLOGY (UMH 95)

LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON SERIES: JESUS STORIES, PARABLES FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

"Playing Favorites"
PASTOR C. CHAPPELL TEMPLE

*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy (UMH 121)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
arr. Sondra Tucker



REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE
OR GIVE ONLINE

**Please stand as you are able.*

Our Bride's Room is also open for the use of parents or those needing more privacy.



Join the Christ Church family in our annual weekend of service. We will come together to be the servant hearts that Christ has called us to be. Opportunities are available on-site and off-site to help those in need. This is a great opportunity to serve together as a family! We have projects to suit all ages. We will be filling food bags, constructing, crocheting, coloring and creating, and maybe even caroling. Whatever your gifts, they can be put to use. You can also participate at home via zoom! Teams can fill quickly, so sign up soon! You can find a full list of our on-site and off-site projects at christchurchsl.org/ctw.

October 2-3
Registration opens today!
christchurchsl.org/ctw

OCTOBER 2

8:30 AM - breakfast
9:00 AM - Sending Service
9:15 AM - serve!
(most projects end by noon)

OCTOBER 3

9:15 AM - serve at the church
10:30 AM - break for worship

**YOU CAN ALSO SERVE
FROM HOME!**

MASKS ENCOURAGED

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
Contact: sarahs@christchurchsl.org

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CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

10:30 AM | SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Welcome home to worship! Children are invited to pick up a take-home activity packet at the entrance and on the tables reserved for families today.

GREETING

OPENING SONGS

Never Gonna Stop Singing
This Is Amazing Grace

CHILDREN'S LESSON

WILLIAM MURPHREE

COMMUNITY MOMENTS

SHARING OF OUR PRESENCE & GIFTS

Hallelujah For The Cross

Giving today may be made online at christchurchsl.org/give, or at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please register attendance online today at christchurchsl.org/attend.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TESTIMONY

LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON SERIES: JESUS STORIES, PARABLES FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

"Playing Favorites"

PASTOR DAN CONWAY

CLOSING SONG

How He Loves

BLESSING & DISMISSAL



FROM SHAKES TO STORMS

Even as we continue to assist with recovery efforts in Haiti from the recent 7.2 earthquake that hit that island, our compassion and prayers are now turned to our neighbors to the east in Louisiana following the destructive landfall of Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm. In addition to over \$10,000 already sent to Haiti, Christ Church has sent an additional \$10,000 from our Emergency Response Fund to the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church where it will be used for recovery and rebuilding efforts.

We have also been asked to help provide both heavy duty tarps and materials for roofs (min. tarp size of 10x30; 3 inch deck screws and bundled furring strips) and baby food and formula. Monetary contributions may be made through the giving tab on our website using the *"Disaster Response Fund"* drop-down tab. Requested supplies may be left in the designated bins near the downstairs kitchen by tomorrow evening. And as soon as we are given an all-clear, we will also look at assembling a mission team to go to Louisiana and assist with the clean-up efforts there.

Our thanks to all for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in need.



REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE OR GIVE ONLINE



Want to remember a loved one or honor someone? Do so by ordering an engraved paver to be placed in front of the Sanctuary entrance. Order may be placed now through September 30 by contacting Benita Sebesta at benitas@christchurchsl.org or 281.732.2217, at the church office, or you may go online at christchurchsl.org/paver. Cost is \$100 each, and proceeds will benefit Christ Church's Trust Fund. We will celebrate a special All Saints Day service at 11:45 AM on Sunday, November 7 in front of the Sanctuary, where the memorial pavers will be consecrated.

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PRAYERS

In Our Prayers:
Curtis Dickinson

Our Love & Sympathy:
Family and friends of Reba McNally

You may submit any prayer requests 24 hours a day by visiting our website at christchurchsl.org/prayer. For confidential spiritual care, please connect with Stephen Ministry at christchurchsl.org/stephenministry.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

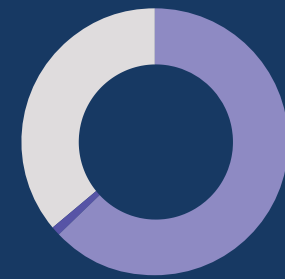
Received this week: **\$39,318**

2021 Annual Budget: **\$2,827,334**

Projected Year-to-Date: **\$1,843,640**

Received Year-to-Date: **\$1,859,028**

Giving may be made, scheduled, or reviewed at any time at christchurchsl.org/give.



65% OF BUDGET NEEDED
66% OF BUDGET FULFILLED

MONTHLY PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE

THIRD THURSDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16

6:15 PM | COVENANT HALL

Join us for a new prayer service on third Thursdays in Covenant Hall, beginning on September 16. We will broaden our normal Thursday prayer offering to include testimonies, anointing, and prayer for healing as well as songs of praise. Join in a Holy-spirit filled gathering with others as together we praise, intercede and especially listen to God in prayer. God is ever-present, God cares and is responding.

join us
for...

BRING YOUR "USELESS" BIKES TODAY

Drop bikes off at the fence next to the playground **by tomorrow evening**

Our brothers in Christ at the Vance Unit repair bicycles for needy children in the Third Ward and other areas of Houston. No bike is useless - it can be used for parts. Refurbished bikes will be given as Christmas gifts this December. Visit our Restorative Justice Ministry table in the Gathering Hall today to learn all the ways you can help bring Christ to an inmate. To learn more, contact Betty at bbw1m@aol.com.

COLOR WARS!

Tonight | 5 - 7 pm | FLC / Back Field

Hey, Youth! Join us for Color Wars tonight at 5 pm! This is your chance to get messy and throw (non-toxic) powder at all your friends! And you WILL get messy, so you might want to leave any cute new jeans at home. Dinner starts at 5 pm. See you at the field! Questions? Contact Eric at erics@christchurchsl.org.

THE GOOD LIFE LUNCHEON

Third Thursdays, beginning September 16 | 11 am - 1 pm | Gathering Hall

This event is more than a meal. It is a monthly, mid-day time set aside for Christ Church members and the community that includes a devotional an entertaining/informational program and delightful table fellowship. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jan Randolph at [281.690.4773](tel:281.690.4773) or janr@christchurchsl.org.

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE FOR THE 3RD GRADE BIBLES

On September 26, our new class of 3rd graders will be receiving their Bibles. We would like to make a congregational ask that you share your favorite verse, to be highlighted into each new 3rd grade Bible. This is a wonderful way to share God's love with our future generation of Christians. Visit our ministry table today or next Sunday to write down your favorite verse. You can also send them to Sarah at sarahs@christchurchsl.org.

Worship
WITH US ON SUNDAYS

BLENDED SERVICE (masks required) | 8:30 am in the Sanctuary

TRADITIONAL SERVICE | 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE | 10:30 am in Covenant Hall

To worship from home, visit CHRISTCHURCHSL.ORG/LIVESTREAM.



Christ Church
Sugar Land

A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

3300 Austin Parkway | Sugar Land, Texas 77479 | www.christchurchsl.org

A MEMBER OF THE WORLD-WIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH