

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

740 W. University Heights Dr. South
Flagstaff, AZ 86005

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School for Children & Youth

10:45 AM

Nursery Provided at the 2nd Service

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Friday: 7:30 am—11:30 am

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The GLORY of CHRISTMAS

The lights of Christmas help tell the story. We worship and serve the One who said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) Our candles that flicker in our homes and churches, our electric lights that adorn our Christmas trees and wreaths and outside our homes, all point us to the Christ of Christmas. O come, let us adore Him.

In the Bible, the glory of God is revealed through light. In creation, God said, "Let there be light"...and there was light. (Genesis 1:3) Moses encountered Yahweh at the burning bush and was commissioned to be the deliverer of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. Yahweh guided the Hebrews in the wilderness at night through a pillar of fire. Throughout the Old Testament we're reminded that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. The prophet Isaiah tells us, "Arise, shine, for your light has come" as he points us ahead to the coming of the Messiah. (Isaiah 60:1) Truly, Jesus is the light of the world. Embrace the light.

The theme of darkness and light pervades the Scriptures. Darkness represents human evil. Light represents God's redeeming grace. In these winter months, we experience a season of darkness. The morning light comes later and the evening darkness comes earlier. We recognize December 22nd as the shortest day of the year. In Alaska one experiences at this time only four hours of daylight each 24 hours. It's a season of darkness with ensuing depression and anxiety. Our world knows darkness in the terrorism and violence of our times. We yearn for the light. We hope for

God's light to triumph over the darkness. In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* C. S. Lewis referred to Narnia under the wicked witch's curse as "always winter and never Christmas". What a dismal thought. But Christmas has come! The Light of the world has invaded our darkness! Rejoice! Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

However, without God our world can become a very dark place. Evil kills 58 concert goers in Las Vegas. Evil murders 26 worshippers in a small Baptist church in Texas. There's a myriad of stories all across the earth of evil manifesting itself in dark deeds. In Jesus' time, an evil King Herod murdered the innocents in Bethlehem. And some would say, guard your heart, for we have a little Herod in each of us.

Eleanor Roosevelt is credited as saying, "It is far, far better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." We are ever so aware of the darkness in our world these days. By celebrating a Christ-centered Christmas, we can light one candle after another. People can drift away from Christ and His Church and Christmas is often a season when they find it in their hearts to return. Welcome home. Together, let us sing "I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. Shine is my heart Lord Jesus." (from a hymn by Kathleen Thomerson)

Our December newsletter is filled with opportunities to light candles to the glory of God. Come, join in our festivals of light and let us walk as the children of light. To God be the glory!

People's Pantry Sunday, December 17th

In August we donated 1,054 pounds of food to the People's Pantry inspired and led by our own Sandy Berry. Then, in September we donated 669 pounds, in October 503 pounds and in November 551 pounds of food. This ministry to the poor and hungry of Flagstaff is growing exponentially. The need is great. We were the first church to participate and now six additional churches have stepped up to join in providing food and essential items for hungry families. Now, this month, as an act of Christmas gift giving to the Christ Child, let us try to give generously to feed the hungry.

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... and the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:35 & 40)

Circle of Sisters

Please join the Circle of Sisters on Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. to share a reflection for this season of Advent at the church sanctuary.



Our precious Janie Stanford will lead us in an Advent Reflection and teaching from Scripture, "Charity: For Me or From Me?". Following our time of reflection and prayer, we will gather for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome, and do invite a friend for this special time together!



Navajo Christmas Celebration Mission Dec. 2, 2017 Leupp, AZ

Join FaithWorks for an afternoon of food, fellowship, giving and worship by coming alongside Pastor Dean and Lola Bahe and their Navajo brothers and sisters. A list with gift ideas can be found in the COR foyer. \$30 mission fee per person or \$50 per family.

For more information contact the FaithWorks Office (928) 774-0504, or the Trip Coordinator Jan Allen (928) 567-0092

Meet Your Staff



Bob Norton
Pastor
928-699-7592



Patty Gross
Worship Leader
928-225-9889



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December Sermon Series "The Glory of Christmas"

As we are often reminded *Jesus is the Reason for the Season* but let's hear the rest of the story as we journey through the Old Testament messianic prophecies and their fulfillment with the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. It is a story which deserves to be told again and again and each time building the bridge of relevance to our troubled times. We need *hope* in an age of terrorism. We need *peace* in times of violence. We need *authentic love* in a time when people are being used and abused. We need to know that people can be *transformed* through a vital faith relationship with the living Lord Jesus. We need to overcome our *apathy* with *action* which gives us a life of meaning and purpose. The Scriptures reveal the heart of God in the Christmas story and His heart is *for us* not against us. His love seeks us out in this season. The following sermons will discover the truths which will set us free and make us whole....

- Sunday, December 3rd - "Arise, Shine, Your Light has Come" Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1
Celebration of The Lord's Supper
- Sunday, December 10th - "A Candle in the Wind" Luke 2:1-7
Prayers for Healing & Wholeness
- Sunday, December 17th - "Cosmic Tentacles of Brilliance" (Angel passages)
People's Pantry Sunday
- Sunday, December 24th - (morning service at 10:45)
"The Light of the World" (John 8:12)
Sunday, December 24th - Bilingual Service at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. "Adoration of the Shepherds" Luke 2:8-20
- Sunday, December 31st - "Follow the Star" Matthew 2:1-12
(morning service at 10:45)

The Christmas season is a marvelous time to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you to worship. Make it an event by taking them out to breakfast or lunch after worship to talk about the relevance of Christ in our troubled world. They want to know why you believe (1 Peter 3:15). Tell them with gentleness and respect.



Announcing Our New Director of Youth Ministry GREG REIFF... a Charter Member of COR Teacher, Coach, and Administrator at Coconino High School

Our Session is pleased to announce our new Director of Youth Ministry at Church of the Resurrection - Greg Reiff. Greg will be working ten to twenty hours each week in youth ministry (middle school and high school youth). He is a trusted, tried and true leader of youth in our community. Greg is a seasoned educator with his Masters degree in education. He has taught and coached athletics at Coconino HS and currently serves as the Director of Student Success at CHS. He is also an experienced boatman with over 75 Colorado River trips. His authentic Christian faith and discipleship enables him to be supportive and transforming for working with youth and helping them to reach their full potential as disciples of Jesus Christ. Greg will be starting this new ministry on December 1st. Join his prayer support team and volunteer as a youth ministry volunteer to help this ministry thrive. Welcome, Greg!



Church of the Resurrection Presents *DivorceCare* Find Help - Discover Hope - Experience Healing Monday Evenings Starting December 4th, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room

Church of the Resurrection offers DivorceCare facilitated by Pastor Bob Norton to address the need for compassion for men and women going through the emotional pain of separation or divorce. This divorce recovery group is for the entire Flagstaff community. Our group is a part of a network of thousands of divorce recovery support groups meeting worldwide. Our goal is to help each person find help for their hurts, discover hope for the future, and experience God's healing. Each participant receives a workbook. Pass the word! DivorceCare is for Flagstaff! You don't have to go through this alone.

Church of the Resurrection Partnering with Flagstaff Shelter Services HOSTING THE HOMELESS The Week of Sunday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 9th

We count it a privilege and a joy to extend Christian hospitality to our homeless guests - men and women who have fallen on hard times and who appreciate greatly any help that Flagstaff's churches can provide. Sign up to volunteer on the Ministry Board in the Fellowship Hall. We are providing evening snacks, a hot breakfast in the morning, and warm clothing/socks/jackets etc. The men & women enjoy their time at COR because our people not only provide a warm and safe place to sleep, but also food and conversation to encourage them during these cold winter months. Come and be the compassion of Christ for our homeless guests. For more information, call the Church Office at (928) 699-2715.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services Sunday Evening, December 24th, at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

We invite all the families in Flagstaff to share in "the most beautiful night in all the year" as we sing carols and share Scripture lessons telling the story of the Christ Child. We encourage the people of COR to begin inviting early so all will know they are welcome to join in the Celebration of Christ's Birth.

We Are Helping the Children of Prison Families ANGEL TREE PROJECT



Gifts Given in the Name of the Absent Parent

Prison Fellowship founded by Chuck Colson discovered that gifts given to the children of Dads and Moms in prison opened hearts for the Christ Child. Over nine million children have benefitted and many have come to faith in Christ, parents and children alike. We are doing our part at COR. For more information, call Joan Stoner at (928) 853-9827.

COR and FaithWorks Are Partners in Mission FAITHWORKS NAVAJO CHRISTMAS MISSION Gifts Given in Jesus' Name to Open Navajo Hearts

The FaithWorks Navajo Mission takes place on Saturday, December 2nd, at Leupp on the Reservation. Many COR members and friends have purchased gifts to be given as a part of the Gathering. Food will be shared. Gifts given. The Gospel preached. For more information, call the FaithWorks office at (928) 774-0504.



A Special "Thank You!" to All of Those Donating for the ESV Bible Project

Children are Learning to Walk with Jesus at
PIONEER CLUBS, Tuesday, 330-500 p.m.

Award-winning PCA Publication *ByFaith*
Magazine Available (Free) at COR

A Heartfelt "Gracias!" to Our New Amigos y
Amigas at OASIS OF HOPE CHURCH for the
Festive and Delicious THANKSGIVING
FEAST, Sunday, November 19th!



"The Band of Brothers" MEN'S PRAYER
BREAKFAST & PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Saturday, December 16th, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

The men gather for breakfast and prayer in the Fellowship Hall and the women gather for breakfast and preparing Prayer Shawls in the Upper Room. It's a wonderful morning of kingdom work and rich fellowship. Come and enjoy!

