

## GOD'S MISSION FOR CHRIST THE SERVANT

(long version)

“Christ the Servant is a spiritual family on a mission to:  
Encounter God, Love one another, & Reach the world...like Jesus.”

(short version)

“Encounter God.

Love one another.

Reach the world.”

## GOD'S VISION FOR OUR FUTURE: ROOTED & GROWING

“We seek to *make disciples* who are equipped and sent to lead a world-transforming movement of God's kingdom *by putting Jesus' way of life into practice.*”

*“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” -*

Matthew 28:16-20

***“Disciples are the only thing that Jesus cares about, and it's the only number that Jesus is counting. Not our attendance or budget or buildings. He wants to know if we are “making disciples...If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples.”***

***– Mike Breen ‘Building a Discipling Culture’***

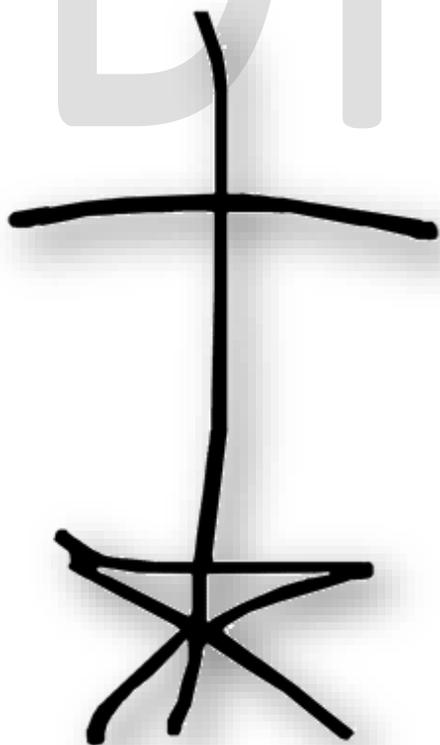
*What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who is putting Jesus' UP-IN-OUT way of life into practice by:*

- Encountering God's grace and truth, love and holiness, presence and power, invitation and calling...
- Connecting deeply and inviting others to experience authentic, loving, trusting, and healing relationships within a Christ-centered, spiritual family...
- Reaching out to the world with the love and message of Jesus within all of life...

## DESIRED OUTCOMES – KINGDOM FRUIT FROM OUR MISSION AND VISION

We desire to see the following outcomes from implementing our mission and vision:

- Development of a spiritual, relational, and organizational foundation for Christ the Servant to thrive as a healthy and fruitful, multi-cultural and multi-generational spiritual family for generations to come.
- **SPIRITUAL**
  - An established culture of discipleship with a leadership development process that produces disciples who make disciples and are empowered to preach, teach, heal, and forgive within the church and in daily life.
  - Spiritually engaged youth and young adults who are empowered to make disciples and live as ministers and missionaries in their daily lives.
- **RELATIONAL**
  - Deeply transformed hearts, lives, and relationships within our congregation and surrounding community.
  - Become trusted within our surrounding community as a welcoming center for spiritual renewal, healthy relationships, loving service, and neighborhood conversations.
- **ORGANIZATIONAL**
  - Adaptive, innovative, and relevant ministry methods and organizational structures that mobilize the church to encounter God, love one another, and reach the world like Jesus.



## PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our 'Cross and Cradle' logo reminds us that from birth to death Christ gave his life away in obedience to God and self-emptying love for the world. It represents the way of life Jesus calls us to follow. Our discipleship becomes deeply rooted as we imitate his UP-IN-OUT way of life through practices of discipleship.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)

*We seek to put Jesus' UP-IN-OUT way of life into practice through:*

- **RADICAL HOSPITALITY – ‘We Welcome Others as Christ Welcomes Us’ (sticky image = the cradle/manger - invitation to experience rebirth and new beginning)**

*“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you” (Romans 15:7).* Jesus practiced Radical Hospitality throughout his ministry, going above and beyond, exceeding expectations, including people in his rhythms of life who were excluded from every other aspect of society. He didn't seek privilege, keep his distance from those who were deemed as undesirable, or treat some people in a more preferred way than others. He ate with outcasts, tax collectors, sinners and foreigners. He touched and healed lepers and the unclean. He even welcomed children who, in his culture, were often considered a nuisance. From birth to death, he crossed cultural barriers and became vulnerable in order to extend welcome. Within the church and in our daily lives, we practice the same active, expectation exceeding, radical hospitality we first received from Jesus, going above and beyond to welcome all people into a relationship with God and God's family.

- **PASSIONATE WORSHIP – ‘We Wholeheartedly Encounter God's Presence and Power’ (sticky image = someone bowing down before the manger and the cross)**

*“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness” (Psalm 29:2).* With Jesus as both our example and our object of Passionate Worship, we practice holding nothing back, engaging our whole selves and our entire lives, to say that God is worth more to us than anything else. Through free and diverse expression and creativity, we “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name,” remembering and celebrating wholeheartedly who God is and what God does as well as who we are and what we are called to do. We gather regularly as a spiritual family to encounter God's word in the scriptures, God's promises in baptism and communion, God's family in the worshiping community, and God's calling to be children of God and servants of Christ. We listen to God's story and tell stories of God's presence and power in our lives. We are sent from the gathered community to worship God in all of life through prayer, scripture reading, spiritual disciplines, and loving service. Passionate Worship empowers us to live a God-first life!

- **INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT - ‘We Learn to Be and Become Like Jesus’ (sticky image = growth from spiritual infancy into maturity in Christ)**

*“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of people” (Mark 1:17).* Intentional Faith Development is learning how to follow Jesus and make disciples within all of life. It is becoming more like him in his character, the kind of person he is, and in his competency, doing the things he did and taught. With Jesus, life is our textbook and the whole world is our classroom. The forces are too great, the temptation too real, the internal and external pressure too overwhelming to be half-hearted about our faith development. Jesus intentionally developed faith in his followers by integrating three methods of teaching into a wholistic way of life; 1) delivery of information similar to classroom learning, 2) imitation through an apprenticeship into his way of life, and 3) immersion within the discipleship culture of a spiritual family. Through information, imitation, and immersion,

we practice developing a living, active, intentional faith of being and doing like Jesus that transforms people into his image and empowers them to live and follow his way of life.

- **RISK-TAKING MISSION & SERVICE - ‘We Reach Out to Bring the World Back to God’ (sticky image = exercising courage in following Jesus by bearing the cross)**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).* Jesus’ devoted his entire life to Risk-Taking Mission & Service in order to bring a lost and broken creation back into a reconciled relationship with God. He risked speaking and acting in ways that were faithful to God even though he knew it would attract criticism and disrupt people’s sensibilities. Through vulnerable, self-emptying love, he challenged, equipped, and sent his followers to pick up their cross and do the same. In doing so, he represented a threat to the people and systems of power within the world. We practice cross-bearing, risk-taking mission and service by challenging, equipping, and sending people to be salt and light, to be Christ’s hands and feet, to love our enemies, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, heal the sick, preach the gospel, forgive sinners, visit the imprisoned, release the captives, and comfort the broken-hearted, speaking and embodying the love and message of Jesus within all of life.

- **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY – ‘We Go All In to Put God First’ – (sticky image = All In?)**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

We have a living example of the Extravagant Generosity of God in Jesus Christ who went all in within all of life, investing his heart, mind, body, soul, relationships, and resources into giving away the Kingdom of God. The call for us as followers of Christ is to go all in as well, to invest everything to seek what is most valuable. We practice Extravagant Generosity by investing our whole selves, spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial in the Kingdom of God. From grateful hearts transformed by God’s Extravagant Generosity toward us, our lives overflow with abundant joy and blessing for others and the world into everything we say and do, everyone we meet, and everywhere we go. We practice Extravagant Generosity by investing our whole selves and our entire lives, everything we have and all that we are to encounter God, love one another, and reach the world like Jesus.