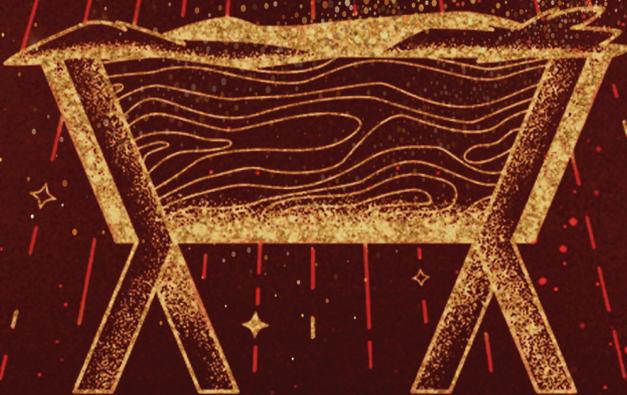




2023

MIRACULOUS

♪ A Musical Journey ♪



Thanks for Visiting!

CHRIST CHURCH

Uniting People to God and People to People



Thank you for allowing us to be included in your holiday plans. Every single year, it gives us great joy to see people—from all walks of life—come together in celebration of Jesus' birth.

Our church has been truly blessed with talented artists who are passionate and dedicated about sharing God's message of love and hope. Our prayer is that this concert will bring you a measure of this great love and hope—for the holidays and beyond!

We would also love to have you join us for one of our weekend services, whether in person or online. Visit ChristChurchUSA.org for locations, service times and viewing info. Also, subscribe to us on YouTube and join us on Facebook and Instagram for life-giving conversations.

Enjoy the show, and may you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Drs. David & Marlinda Ireland
Founding Pastors

    [ChristChurchUSA](https://ChristChurchUSA.org)



Inside Miraculous

Get ready for a fresh look at the miracle of Christmas—featuring singing, dancing, acting, animation and other forms of artistic expression!

2023
MIRACULOUS
Songs & Production Order

PRELUDE

Excerpts from Isaiah 9

Voiceover: Kelly Tosado

SOMETHING MIRACULOUS

Original Song

*Featuring Christ Church Collective Band, Tiffany Wu (Harpist),
Rik Montero (Rapper), Charisa Rouse (Violinist), Sway Buckley
& Kelsey Holley (Dancers), Christ Church Collective Choir*

Written by: Rik Montero

Musical Score by: Pete Powers

JOY TO THE WORLD

*Featuring Ron Benson (Soloist) &
Christ Church Collective Choir*

HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Featuring Christ Church Collective Choir

MIRACULOUS

Original Song

*Featuring Anne Joseph (Soloist), Janet Mendez-Latouche
(Soloist), Will Perez (Soloist) & Christ Church Collective Choir
Written By: Jena Fisher, Anne Joseph, Zummah Gayemen
& Pete Powers*

ACT 1

*Featuring Mark Bowen (Actor), Akia Blandon (Actor),
& Marceline Lanzone (Actor)*

ANIMATION: THE PROPHECY

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

Featuring Christ Church Collective Band

SWEET BABY JESUS

Featuring Grace Carey (Soloist) & Ron Benson (Guitar)

ACT 2

*Featuring Mark Bowen (Actor), Akia Blandon (Actor)
& Marceline Lanzzone (Actor)*

ANIMATION: ANGELIC VISITATION

LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

*Featuring Ron Benson (Soloist), Damaris Richardson
(Soloist) & Christ Church Collective Ensemble*

O HOLY NIGHT MEDLEY

Featuring Amanda Camille (Soloist) and Tiffany Wu (Harpist)

CAROL WORSHIP MEDLEY

*Featuring Jena Fisher (Soloist) & Ezechial Thurman (Soloist)
& Christ Church Collective Ensemble*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Featuring Christ Church Collective Choir

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Original Arrangement

*Featuring Charisa Rouse (Violinist)
& Christ Church Collective Choir*

PASTORAL STORY

OFFERING

THIS CHRISTMAS

Instrumental Featuring Christ Church Collective Band

ACT 3

*Featuring Mark Bowen (Actor), Akia Blandon (Actor)
& Marceline Lanzzone (Actor)*

ANIMATION: THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

MIRACULOUS (REPRISE)

*Featuring Zummah Gayemen (Soloist) &
Christ Church Collective Choir*

FALL ON YOUR KNEES (O HOLY NIGHT)

*Featuring Dom Bradford (Soloist) & Christ Church Collective
Choir & Ensemble*

MIRACLE STORY

Rik Montero

A Journey from Hip Hop to Gospel



At age 9, Rik Montero discovered a love for hip-hop that would fuel his rise to becoming a successful rapper. He shared the stage with major artists and gained prominence on some of rap's biggest platforms, like Hot 97 FM and *The Source* magazine.

His pinnacle moment as an artist came when he earned a Gold plaque for his collaboration with Fat Joe on the *Cradle 2 the Grave* soundtrack. However, an invitation to church by his barber in 2005 would soon change everything. Rik had been consumed with the fast-paced lifestyle that came with his success, focusing on pursuing money and fame. But his encounter with God led to his decision to end his secular career in favor of rapping for Christ. Inspired by his faith, Rik would go on to establish a Christian clothing line (Proclaim Clothing) with his wife Irsi, as well as establish Christ Jam, an organization focused on empowering youth through music.

Today, as a servant of Jesus, family man and dedicated artist, Rik's journey continues to exemplify the redemptive power of faith.



Meet the Creators & Artists *of Miraculous*

Our talented creatives love to share their gifts and talents for God's glory. Get to know a little about the hardworking team behind this production.



Jena Fisher

Director/Producer/Soloist

Jena is the Multisite Worship Director and the principal worship leader at Christ Church. She has performed in numerous Christmas productions. Jena has also been a featured vocalist in major theatrical and musical productions, such as *The Mile-Long Opera* and August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*. She is a published songwriter (SEASAC)—collaborating with recording artists, such as Uche Agu and Nathan Curtis. Jena graduated from Calvin College in Michigan (B.A. in History and Secondary Education) and spent 10 years as a high school advanced-placement history teacher.



Pete Powers

Music Director/Bass Guitar

Pete's musical journey began at 12 when he delved into piano and basic music theory. By 14, the allure of bass lines from James Brown's music, and gospel recordings, led him to embrace that instrument, too. Equipped with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jazz Performance from The New School in New York City, Pete has shared the stage with numerous gospel and mainstream artists. Most recently, his composition skills were showcased in the faith-based indie film, *After the Wait*.



Anne S. Joseph

Assistant Director/Soloist

Anne is an accomplished singer/songwriter and guitarist. She serves as a Christ Church worship leader, the Assistant Director for this year's Christmas production and composed the featured song, *Miraculous*. Currently on tour with Jackson Chery & Bridging the Gap, she has also collaborated with other artists such as Uche Agu on *Soldiers of the Cross*. Her passion is to spread the Gospel through music and to lead people to encounter the love of God.



Zuumah Gayemen

Choral Director/Soloist

Zuumah has been singing since the age of 3. Today, she is a proud alumnus of the Cicely Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts in Newark, New Jersey. Zuumah has a bachelor's degree in music and is pursuing her master's in music education. She has performed with and for the late Whitney Houston, as well as Emily "Cissy"

Houston, Dionne Warwick, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker, Jill Scott, Tweet and others. She is grateful for her Liberian roots, which laid the foundations of her love for music.



Kezia Harley

Vocal Director/Ensemble

Kezia Harley is a singer/songwriter and has appeared in several of Christ Church's Christmas productions. She was a featured artist and songwriter for the Christ Church Worship Team's EP Release, *As We Wait*. Kezia is a principal worship leader and vocal director at Christ Church. She studied Music in Worship at Nyack

College, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science. A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, Kezia has been faithfully serving her community through worship.

Featured Animation Artist



Laura Yumang

Animator

Laura studied at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. She initially started out as an Animation major but later switched to Illustration to become a digital artist. She currently works on the Christ Church staff as a graphic designer. As someone who embodies creativity,

it is no surprise that she has won awards from sewing to digital illustrations.

Featured Vocal Artists



Ron Benson

Soloist

Ron Benson has a deep passion for worshipping God in song and for leading others into God's presence with adoration, declaration, grit and boldness. He attended North Central University in Minneapolis, MN, where he received a degree in Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies. Ron has worked in full-time ministry for over a decade and is currently a worship leader and the Christ Church

School of Worship Director. He and his wife, Leanne, live in the Poconos with their four beautiful children.



Amanda Camille

Soloist

Amanda Camille is a multifaceted singer-songwriter whose journey began at 12, faithfully serving in worship ministry. She commenced her education at William Paterson University, majoring in Popular Music. Continuing her studies at Berklee School of Music, she earned a master's in Creative Technology, specializing in songwriting and music production.

In her musical journey, Amanda has penned three tracks on the Dove Award-nominated album, *Venga Tu Reino*, by Maverick City Musica. In February 2023, Amanda marked a significant milestone with the independent release of her single, *Solo Tu*.



Charisa Rouse

Soloist

Professionally known as "the Violin Diva," Charisa is a classically trained jazz violinist, contemporary vocalist and a member of the Christ Church band. Her unique fusion of soul and jazz has afforded her the opportunity to record and perform alongside Patti Labelle on *Black Girls Rock*, Demi Lovato, Vivian Green, Kim Burrell, Cyndi Lauper, William

McDowell, the Rolling Stones, Diana Krall and Quincy Jones. Charisa is also the creator and instructor of the "Stringtastic Curriculum," a unique program designed to reach underserved Black and Latino string players in the tristate region.



Dominique Bradford

Soloist

Around the age of 6, Dominique developed a passion for God, piano music and eventually choral conducting. While serving as a church choir director, he earned a degree from the Music Educators of Tomorrow (MET) program. Dominique went on to become part of the world-renowned Harlem Gospel Choir as a featured

soloist and music director. He is married to Lateafa Draughn-Bradford, and currently serves as minister of music at the Ark City Church in Newark, New Jersey.



Damaris Richardson

Soloist

Since the age of 14, she has performed on stage at Carnegie Hall, been a soloist/lead character for various festival events and college-level productions, and appeared on production recordings. She works in Jersey City as a director for the nonprofit, New City Kids.

Damaris graduated with a bachelor's degree in professional writing from CUNY Lehman College, with a minor in Music. She aims to fulfill two goals in life: becoming a voiceover actress and a writer of children's books.

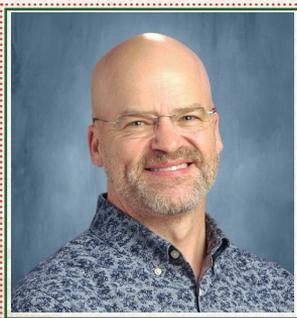


Grace Carey

Soloist

Grace Carey has been singing and worshipping Jesus from the age of 5. As time went on, she developed a passion and love for leading worship in church and seeing people give their hearts to the Lord. She began to write songs about the goodness and faithfulness of Jesus—and released her first single in 2021. She and her

husband, Matthew Lusk, got married in 2023 and together have led worship at several youth retreats and community events.



Ezechial Thurman

Soloist

Ezechial Thurman is a worship leader who serves as a member of Christ Church Collective, bringing 30 years of ministry experience, which includes nationally leading worship on platforms such as the *The Jim Bakker Show* and for Dr. Myles Munroe. Passionate about God's presence and fostering unity, Thurman, a classically trained opera singer with a master's in Voice Performance, crosses musical genres. Notably, he founded Hill-Freedman Records, a record label for Philadelphia public school youth. As an award-winning educator, his students' album is featured in the HBO documentary, *Growing Up Black*.

Featured Dance Artists



Sway Buckley

Dancer

Sway Buckley, inspired by her mother, began creating board games at age 8 to "stay busy." Her early artistic inclinations led her to specialize in music and dance at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. While pursuing her bachelor's in Dance at Texas Christian University, she founded a staffing business that would go on to fund her education. Sway has also served as a resident choreographer at The Potter's House under Bishop T.D. Jakes. She currently serves in ministry at Highpoint Bible Church in the Bronx with her husband.



Kelsey Holley

Dancer

Kelsey hails from Durham, NC and is a graduate of the University of the Arts (NC). After graduating, she performed with Royal Caribbean International, and as a dancer, singer and actress in the West Side Story International Tour, along with the Netherlands production of *The Lion King*. Equipped with a master's degree in Recreational Therapy from the College of Public Health at Temple University, Kelsey is employed as a recreational therapist.

Christ Church Collective *MUSIC TEAMS*

Band



Christ Church Collective Band is a group of skilled musicians who are members or friends of Christ Church. This group represents nearly four decades of experience along with formal and ongoing multi-genre training. Noteworthy accomplishments range from Grammy-award winning music tours as well as rich, dedicated devotion

to the local church. The opportunity to serve in this production allows room to express their art and heart for God.

Ensemble



The Christ Church Collective Ensemble shines as they bring their passionate contemporary worship style to *Miraculous*. Featured in *Little Drummer Boy* and *Worship Medley*, these vocalists are the glue to the weekly worship experience at all Christ Church campuses.

Choir



Christ Church Collective Choir is a group of passionate worshippers who serve faithfully at Christ Church. Christmas affords opportunity to expand the choir to regional Christ-followers who love the power of music. Under the direction of Zuumah Gayemen, vocalists learn from a mix of classical, contemporary and gospel traditions of music. The choir

joyfully sings in six songs in the powerful presentation of *Miraculous*.

Christ Church Collective **THEATRE ARTS**



Mark Bowen

Actor

Mark has served as a writer, director, cinematographer, producer and editor of stage and screen for over 30 years. Since the age of 6, he has loved storytelling. He occasionally takes on acting roles for opportunities to “get the silly out.” As an ordained minister, he believes one of his greatest gifts is the power to make someone laugh. Mark resides in Union, NJ with his loving

wife, Frances, and his amazing sons, Isaiah, Joshua, Kaleb and Mark Jr.



Akia Blandon

Actor

Dr. Akia Blandon’s enthralling journey melds medicine and the arts with a lifelong commitment to drama. Immersed in storytelling from a young age, she refined her craft in New York City’s top performing arts schools. As a thespian scholar, Akia seamlessly wove her love for drama into her pursuit of medical knowledge. Her performances—enriched by diverse life

experiences—captivate audiences, delving into the essence of the human experience.



Marceline Lanzone

Actor

Marceline is delighted to make her acting debut as Ruthie in *Miraculous* at this year’s Christ Church Christmas Concert. A very active third-grader at American Christian School in Morris County, NJ, “Celine” is also an accomplished synchronized ice skater and serves as a kid host for live Sunday morning worship services at Christ Church. Marceline is passionate about

God, spending time with friends, family games and baking, and enjoys spending time with her father, mother, brother and a lovable labradoodle.

Production Credits

Executive Producer
Marlinda K. Ireland

Director
Jena Fisher

Assistant Director
Anne Joseph

**Music Director/
Composer**
Pete Powers

Stage Manager
Janet Mendez-
Latouche

Choir Director
Zummah Gayemen

Acting Coach
Karen Stefano

Dance Coach
Andrea Locke

**Dance Ministry
(Movement Makers)**
Gladys Mendez-
Montalvo
Angeliqua Jones

Marketing/Design
Jerry Laguerre
Tanisha McKinnon
Laura Yumang
Casey Schwiippert
Gabby Ruthland

Visual Producer
Freddie Robbles

Audio Producer
John Nieves

**Assistant Media
Producers**
Lovelene Glaude
Moises LaPorte
Gabby Ruthland

Technical Director
Moises LaPorte

Lighting Operators
Luis Tosado

Video Editors
Kelly Tosado
Patrick Fider
Joshua Siniscal
Rayshard Bennett
Claude Apollon
Zach Erwin

Video Directors
Zerom Kiflemariam
Micheal Daniels
Cristian Castillo

Camera Operators
Kelly Tosado
Claude Apollon
Darnell Gillet
Rosalie Charles
Koldby Lynch
Tennyson Depeiza
Edwin Pierre
Deanna Morris-Davis
Dwayne Williams
Noelle Mayers
Mathew Leriche
Ron Kelly
Howard Sims
Harry Maseko
Christopher Lopez

Audio Engineers
Filipe Mora

Audio (Lead)
Lewis Denis

Audio Assisant
Tyquan Griffin
Jason Worthem
Angel Moya-Velasco
Tyquan Griffin

**Computer Graphics
Operator**
Lovelene Glaude

Livestream Operator
Dorvan Robinson

Photographers
Luis Tosado
Michael Gatlin
Baruch Santana
Rebecca Mancini
Antonette Brown

Stage Tech
Christopher Martinez

Animation Artists
Laura Yumang
Casey Schwiippert
Luis Tosado
Programs Used:
Midjourney, Procreate
Dreams

Makeup & Wardrobe
Anne Joseph
Kelly Desario-Capozzi
Lorraine Lee
Markell McCormick

**Song Writing &
Arrangments**
Jena Fisher
Anne Joseph
Kezia Harley
Pete Powers
Charisa Rouse
Donnie Aitis

YOU'RE INVITED TO *Holidays* AT CC ✨



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24

Before the family games, carols, Christmas traditions and gifts, join us for an awesome celebration as we praise the reason for the season—Jesus!

Plus, we've got some delicious goodies for you to enjoy during your after-service hangout time.

Montclair: 9:00am, 11:00am & 12:45pm

Rockaway: 9:00am & 11:30am

Clifton: 10:00am

Online: 11:30am



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31

There's no better way to end and begin a year than to be in the presence of God! Get ready for an awesome worship party as we ring in 2024.

Montclair: 9:00am, 11:00am & 12:45pm

Rockaway: 9:00am & 11:30am

Clifton: 10:00am

Online: 11:30am

HOLIDAYS WITH QUEST STUDENT MINISTRIES

December 16-31

Visit ChristChurchUSA.org/Holidays to learn more about our holiday happenings for children, teens, college students and young adults!

Watch our livestreams via

CHRISTCHURCHUSA.ORG/ONLINE

or on social media @ChristChurchUSA  



THE ANOINTING

NEW SERMON SERIES

BEGINS JANUARY 7

We know it when we see it. We undeniably need it to make the greatest impact. But what is it, *really*? Prepare to dig into how *the anointing* holds the key to empowerment, transformation and guidance in your faith and life. You will learn to unlock God's power in your life in 2024. Join us, as our Lead Pastor, Dr. David Ireland, and our Teaching Team, takes us on a unique journey that will lead you to the very heart of a timeless and captivating concept—**the anointing**.

CLIFTON

SUNDAY
10:00AM

ROCKAWAY

SUNDAY
9:00AM
11:30AM

MONTCLAIR

SUNDAY
9:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:45 PM

ONLINE

SUNDAY
11:30AM

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Expanding Our CARE
for the Community

The *Next Chapter* Movement is designed to expand our CARE for our community. Our hearts are stirring to meet people's felt needs through holistic ministry and to build strong families. Scan the QR code below to learn more and join the movement!



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!
ChristChurchUSA.org/TheNextChapter

WORSHIP WITH US!



Montclair Campus

SUNDAY

9:00am, 11:00am
& 12:45pm



Rockaway Campus

SUNDAY

9:00am & 11:30am



Clifton Campus

SUNDAY

10:00am



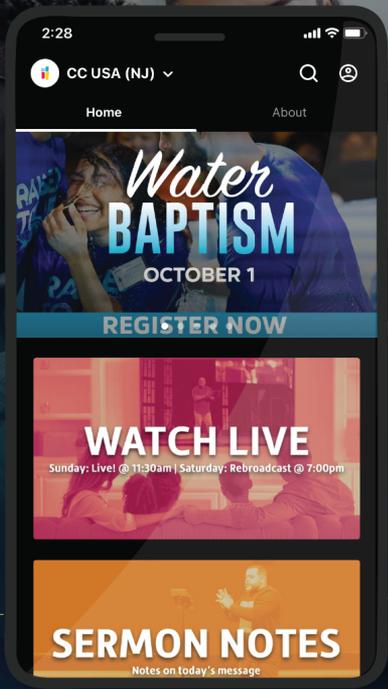
Online Campus

SUNDAY

11:30am

ChristChurchUSA.org

ELEVATE YOUR CHURCH EXPERIENCE *with the* CHRIST CHURCH APP



Life is busy, but staying connected with your CC Family shouldn't be a challenge. Our new app is designed to provide you with a seamless and convenient way to engage with all things Christ Church, right at your fingertips.



SCAN HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE CC APP



LEGACY GIVING SEMINAR

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024
9:30-11:30AM | Rockaway Campus

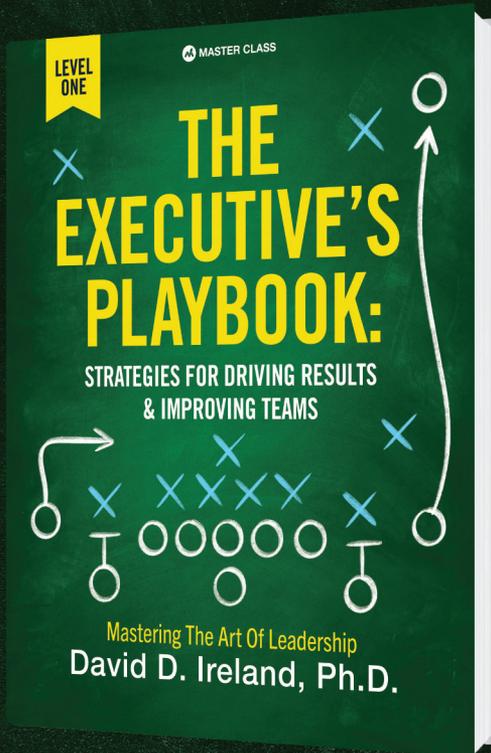
Unlock your legacy! At our Legacy Giving Seminar you'll discover how anyone can make arrangements today to ensure your charitable contributions are given to family, nonprofit organizations, etc., at a future date. Learn effective ways to create a lasting impact by crafting a will that incorporates charitable giving into your financial or estate planning.



REGISTER FOR FREE
ChristChurchUSA.org/LegacyGiving

The Executive's Playbook Master Class

Taking your leadership skills to the next level



Are you ready to lead in a way that maximizes your organization's potential and drives amazing results? Then prepare to revolutionize your approach through this dynamic Master Class!



REGISTER AT CHRISTCHURCHUSA.ORG/MASTERCLASS

QUEST Kids

Quest Kids is where we provide an age-appropriate, progressive worship experience for our young leaders who will be leading our churches tomorrow.

(Nursery-5th grade)

QUEST teens

Through our Quest Teens worship experience and other resources, our mission is to help your teen grow spiritually during these important and transformative years.

(Grades 6-12)

QUEST *College* MINISTRY

Quest College comes alongside our college-aged students to build, train and support them through dynamic activities, career development opportunities and resources for spiritual growth.

(College-aged Students)

QUEST YOUNG ADULTS

Quest Young Adults provides holistic ministry through biblical teaching, community-building gatherings, cutting-edge events, innovative programming and leadership development.

(Ages 18-35)

Learn More at ChristChurchUSA.org/Quest



— CALLING ALL — ***CREATIVES***

If you love to worship the Lord and you are gifted in any form of creative arts, then there's a seat at the table with your name on it! Simply scan the QR code below to get connected. There are opportunities to share your gifts for God's glory through special events like our Christmas concert, Sunday services and so much more!



Serving Opportunities Include:

Worship

Dance

Band

Drama

Visual & Media Arts



Learn more at ChristChurchUSA.org/Serve/CCC