The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

—1 John 5:12

We think of eternal life, if we think of it at all, as what happens when life ends. We would do better to think of it as what happens when life begins...In other words, to live eternal life in the full and final sense is to be with God as Christ is with him, and with each other as Christ is with us.

—Fredrick Buechner

A vague religion—all about feeling God in nature and so on—is so attractive. It is all the thrills and no work; like watching the waves from the beach. But you will not get to Newfoundland by studying the Atlantic, and you will not get eternal life by simply feeling the presence of God in flowers or music.

-C.S. Lewis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Candle of Faith

Abby and Will Bennett

Paul reminds us, "...the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe."

EXACT TO WORSHIP

Sandy Willson

Psalm 33:18-22

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
²¹For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
²²Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

M HYMN OF ADVENT

"Joy Has Dawned"



Words: Luke 2:7, John 1:1-3. Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Molly Stone

Micah 5:1-5a

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

 ${}^{\scriptscriptstyle 5}\text{And}$ he shall be their peace.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

M HYMN OF THE INCARNATION

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand; Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood; Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, Spreads its vanguard on the way; As the Light of light descendeth, From the realms of endless day; That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th c; adapt. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: French melody, 17th century, PICARDY.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 5 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

MATHEMATICAL PROPERTY OF WONDER

"What Child is This?"

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant, king, to own him; The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy for Christ is born, The babe the son of Mary. This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898). Music: traditional English melody, 16th century.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"O Come, Emmanuel" Chancel Choir

O come, O come, O come, O come!
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine Advent here, And drive away the shades of night, And pierce the clouds and bring us light!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come Desire of nations, bind All people in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, And fill the world with Heaven's peace.

O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to Thee, O Israel,

O come, O come, O come, O come.

Words: Latin, trans. John M. Neale (verses 1 and 2), Henry S. Coffin (verse 3).

Music: Elaine Hagenberg.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

Children's Worship Information:

Children ages 3 to 4 may attend Children's Worship for the entire worship service, while kindergarteners through 2nd graders are dismissed during the Passing of the Peace. Following the worship service, parents will find their children attending Children's Worship in the following rooms:

3K ■ C224/C225 (available for the entire worship hour)

4K • C221 (available for the entire worship hour)

Kindergarten • C221 (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)*
1st & 2nd Grades • C316 (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)*

*Children on the main level will dismiss through the door leading into the Fellowship Hall, and children in the balcony will dismiss through the door closest to the elevator.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors and members, please take a moment to fill out the pew pad with your full name and names of any family members attending with you. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 19.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Heath Henderson

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 6:41-59

So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

52The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever." 59Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

All flesh is like grass,

And all its glory is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

MESSAGE

| "TRUE FOOD, TRUE DRINK" | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| John Fountain | | |
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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All who are united in Christ Jesus by faith and are baptized, communing members of His visible Church are invited to come to the Lord's Table. An usher will prompt each pew when it is time to come forward to receive the bread and the cup, and then you will return to your seat. If you are not communing but would like to participate, please come forward and cross your hands in front of your chest, and the one serving communion will pray a brief prayer for you or pronounce a blessing over you.

The congregation will read aloud the portions that are *italicized*.

Prayer of Confession

Dave Driskill

Most holy and merciful Father,
We acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature
prone to evil and slow in good and all our shortcomings and offenses.
You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your life.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, who are ashamed and sorry
for all wherein we have displeased you.
Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults,
and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son.
And O most holy and loving Father, help us, we beg you,
to live in your light and walk in your ways
according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Truly, Truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

—John 6:47

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit.

■ Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

◯ Congregational Response

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee;
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Mark 14:22-25

Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to commemorate in this breaking of bread the death of your dear Son Jesus Christ, that we may feed on Him in our hearts by faith, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast and united in ministry with your people in every place.

This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

If you desire gluten free bread, please walk down the center aisle, either upstairs or down, and the server will provide it accordingly.

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

Congregation, please sing the Hymns for the Eucharist during Communion.

"Come Light Our Hearts"



Words and Music: Sandra McCracken.

"The First Noel"

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel! Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee, And offered there, in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense; Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought;
Noel, Noel! Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Words and Music: traditional English carol.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

© CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 8 - 14, 2019

SUNDAY, December 8

8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages

(see page 21)

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

Children's Worship | Rising 3k through 2nd grades

12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

6:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service

(Dessert fellowship to follow; nursery care provided)

MONDAY, December 9

8:15 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Ingram Link's office)

MONDAY, December 9

6:00 p.m. PCA Jr. High Skating Party (rescheduled; Skates 280)

FRIDAY, December 13

5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop

(6th-8th grade girls)

SATURDAY, December 14

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop

(3rd-5th grade girls)

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Please see our full calendar of Covenant events at covpres.com/calendar.

Congregational Meeting. Today, we will have a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship to elect our class of 2022 Church Officers and our 2020 Nominating Committee members. Please remain in the Sanctuary.

Lessons & Carols. Our annual Lessons & Carols service is tonight at 6:00 p.m.! This service will be presented by our Chancel Choir and Children's Choir, with a full orchestra. There will be a dessert fellowship immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery childcare will be provided.

Act of Congress at Covenant. Join us for a Christmas concert with Act of Congress on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Act of Congress, one of Alabama's best-known acoustic bands, will be performing traditional and contemporary Christmas songs. You do not want to miss this opportunity to hear them live! (Nursery childcare available by reservation; nursery@covpres.com.)

PCA Young Adult Event. All young adults from area PCA churches are invited to Covenant's Act of Congress Christmas concert on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner to follow. Both the concert and dinner are free. This will be the kick-off event for future monthly gatherings sponsored by participating PCA churches. No reservations required!

Gospel Manhood. Our final event of the year is Tuesday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Sean Lucas, Senior Pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church (Memphis, TN). Invite a friend!

Christmas Eve Services. On Tuesday, December 24 we will have our Christmas Eve candlelight services at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for one of these services. Nursery childcare will be provided during the 4:30 service.

Come to the Table 2020. Ladies, our Come to the Table event is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for January 10, 2020. We will meet at Covenant to hear from one of our local missions partners and then head out to host homes in groups of six to eight to share a meal and work on a missions project together. This is such a fun way to meet women in our church! Invitations coming soon.

Sacred Studio 2020. Ladies, Sacred Studio is February 28 - 29, 2020. This third annual event includes gospel-centered teachings, delicious meals, and your choice of three project "studios." Registration is open at sacredstudio.org (cost: \$145). Register today!



CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT December 8, 15, & 22 Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS December 8 • 6:00 p.m.

 $An \ evening \ of \ worship \ presented \ by \ our \ Chancel \ and \ Children's \ Choirs$

ACT OF CONGRESS

December 15 • 6:00 p.m.

A concert of traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service • 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 29

Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE | COMMONS College students*

COMMUNITY | E305 All ages and life stages

CORNERSTONE | S104 30s and 40s

CROSSPOINTE | S100 Young families; 30s

FOUNDATIONS | E304 30s and 40s

LIGHTHOUSE | E301 30s and 40s

LIVING STONES | E303 40s and 50s

KINGDOM BUILDERS | E201 5os and 6os

OPEN DOORS | S105 *70s and above*

THRESHOLD | DINING ROOM Singles and young marrieds;

20s and 30s

UPPER ROOM | S101 *60s and 70s*

YOUTH | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12

^{*}College students gather in Commons Area at 12:00 for class and lunch.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFE

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator,

Senior Adults, Missions)

mcrawford@covpres.com

David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults, Shepherding)

Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Children)

Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries

Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor

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MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music

Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries

Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries

Katie Flores, Director of Pre-School Ministries

John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Youth)

Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus

Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities

Josh Johnson, Assistant Pastor

(Young Adults, Adult Discipleship)

Sara Litten. Director of Girls' Ministries

Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries

Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School

Laura Tucker, Director of Elementary Ministries

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell. Director of Design and Production

Meg Cotney, Director of Finance

Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services

Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)

Stacev Lovless, Director of Communications and Media

Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)

Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor

Traci Parker. Director of Food Services

Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator

Karan Stuart. Receptionist

Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)

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RULING ELDERS

2019 2020 2021 Ty Dedmon Bill Bennett Eric Getty Russell Martin Jeff Dyess Will Brooke Rick Flynn Michael Latta Daniel Murray Heath Henderson Charlie Logan Warren Norville Sandy Stradtman Tom McKnight Paul Loyless

Bob Schaffeld

Clay Wheeler

Richard Thompson Lee Sheppard

Steve Stigler Mark Taylor John Wood

DEACONS

John Smith T

2019 2020 2021

Nick Baggett Tripp Alexander Jim Bennett Paul Darden Ward Bailey Gary Gorham Samuel Bragg Jay Evans Keith Harrelson Bryan Flores Trey Clegg Jeff Hayes Will Graham Steve Killgore John Gant Jeff Hicks John David Gray Steve Pfitzer Jim Jenkins Brent Powell Marty Martin Alan Spooner **Bud Miller** Matt Searson Tyler O'Connor Patrick Strong John Shank

Todd Sitton John Shults
William Slappey Danny Smith
Billy Tapscott Robert Stephens
Darrell Tucker Clark Worrell

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers, and hymns. The scripture readings are from Ligonier Ministries and are designed around a one-year cycle that will allow you to read through the New Testament or the entire Bible in 2019.

DECEMBER READING PLAN

| | EZEKIEL | 2 PETER |
|-------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | □ 43-46 | □ 2-3 |
| | | 1 JOHN |
| 2 | □ 47-48 | □1 |
| | DANIEL | |
| 3 | □ 1-2 | □ 2 |
| 4 | □ 3-4 | □ 3 |
| 5 | □ 5-6 | □ 4 |
| 6 | □ 7-8 | □ 5 |
| 7/8 | □ 9-12 | □ 2 John - 3 John |
| | HOSEA | JUDE |
| 9 | □ 1-4 | □ Jude |
| | | REVELATION |
| 10 | □ 5-8 | □1 |
| 11 | □ 9-11 | □ 2 |
| 12 | □ 12-14 | □ 3 |
| 13 | □ Joel | □ 4 |
| | AMOS | |
| 14/15 | □ 1-6 | □ 5-6 |
| 16 | □ 7-9 | □ 7 |
| 17 | □ Obadiah | □ 8 |
| 18 | □ Jonah | □ 9 |
| | MICAH | |
| 19 | □ 1-3 | □ 10 |
| 20 | □ 4-5 | □ 11 |
| 21/22 | □ 6-Nahum 3 | □ 12-13 |
| 23 | □ Habakkuk | □ 14 |
| 24 | □ Zephaniah | □ 15 |
| 25 | □ Haggai | □ 16 |
| | ZECHARIAH | |
| 26 | □ 1-3 | □ 17 |
| 27 | □ 4-6 | □ 18 |
| 28/29 | □ 7-12 | □ 19-20 |
| 30 | □ 13-14 | □ 21 |
| 31 | □ Malachi | □ 22 |
| | | |