

DAILY WORSHIP RESOURCES

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. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • CHRISTMAS DAY

Morning	Psalms 2, 85	Zechariah 2:10-13	John 3:31-36
Evening	Psalms 132, 110	1 John 4:7-16	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalms 28, 30	2 Chronicles 24:17-22	Acts 7:59-8:8
Evening	Psalms 145	Acts 6:1-7	

TUESDAY

Morning	Psalms 97, 98	Isaiah 44:1-8	John 13:20-35
Evening	Psalms 118	1 John 5:1-12	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalms 8	Jeremiah 31:1-17	Matthew 18: 1-14
Evening	Psalms 19, 126	Revelation 21:1-7	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalms 18:1-20	Isaiah 12:1-6	John 7:37-52
Evening	Psalms 18:21-50	Revelation 1:1-8	

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalms 20, 21	Isaiah 25:1-9	John 7:53-8:11
Evening	Psalms 23, 27	Revelation 1:9-20	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalms 46, 48	Isaiah 26:1-9 2	Corinthians 5:16-6:2	John 8:12-19
Evening	Psalms 90	Isaiah 65:15b-25	Revelation 21:1-6	

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Morning	Psalms 93, 96	Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12	Matthew 1:18-25
Evening	Psalms 34	Hebrews 2:10-18	

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Having declared that they who received Him were “born of God,” and had become “sons of God,” he adds the cause and reason of this unspeakable honor. It is that “the Word became flesh,” that the Master took on Him the form of a servant. For He became Son of man, who was God’s own Son, in order that He might make the sons of men to be children of God. For the high when it associates with the low touches not at all its own honor, while it raises up the other from its excessive lowness; and even thus it was with the Lord. He in nothing diminished His own Nature, by this condensation, but raised us, who had always sat in disgrace and darkness, to glory unspeakable.

– St. John Chrysostom, “Homily XI, John 1:14”

☒ OPENING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847);
adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

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Russell Martin

Bob Schaffeld

Eric Getty

Mark Miller

Lee Sheppard

John Hamilton

Daniel Murray

John Smith T

Heath Henderson

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Bill Ratliff

Clay Wheeler

Robert Luttrell

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Brent Powell

Brandon Bishop

John Harrelson

Carey Rome

Aaron Coffey

Jeff Hayes

Matt Searson

Nathan Collums

Fred Henry

Robert Stephens

Paul Darden

John James

Steve Stigler

Ty Dedmon

Steve Killgore

Patrick Strong

Jim Dye

Randall Lancaster

Patrick Strubel

Rick Flynn

Stephen Mince

Darrell Tucker

John Gant

Duncan Morris

Jonathan Gidley

Steve Pfitzer

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: He came as a baby in a manger

People: *O come, let us adore him.*

Pastor: He came in a lowly stable.

People: *O come, let us adore him.*

Pastor: Shepherds brought their worship.

People: *O come, let us adore him.*

Pastor: Angels sang his praise.

People: *O come, let us adore him.*

Pastor: Magi brought their gifts.

People: *O come, let us adore him.*

Pastor: What shall we do?

ALL: *O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.*

❧ PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, who has given us your only begotten son to take our nature upon him, and this day to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost now and ever. Amen.

Gregorian Sacramentary, 8th Century; Thomas Cranmer, 16th Century

“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.

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.

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

❧ BENEDICTION

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n and nature sing,
 And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods,
 Rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, and wonders of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arr. B Lowell Mason.

❏ SECOND HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Angels we have heard on high
 Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply
 Echo back their joyous strains.

Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo
 Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 Say what may the tidings be
 Which inspire your heav’nly song?

Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.
 Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.
 Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.

Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.
 Glo...ria
 In excelsis Deo.

Words: Traditional French carol. Music: Traditional French melody; arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

ALL: *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 eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body and our souls washed through His most precious blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.*

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Celebrant: 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, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**If you desire gluten free bread, please walk down the center aisle, either upstairs or down, and the server will provide it accordingly. Congregation will sing the printed hymns during Communion.*

GOD WELCOMES US TO HIS TABLE

INVITATION

The Nicene Creed

All: *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

–Hebrews 2:17

ALL: *Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Maker of all things,
Judge of all men;
We acknowledge and weep over our many sins and wickedness,
We have sinned by thought, word and deed,
And we have done so against your divine majesty,
Justly provoking your anger and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent as we heartily grieve our many misdoings.
The remembrance of each is distressing to us;
The collective burden intolerable.
Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us most merciful Father;
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

–Book of Common Prayer

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

—Galatians 4:4-5

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

ALL: *Amen.*

MORNING MESSAGE

REV. BILL BOYD

Lined area for a morning message, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

❖ HYMN OF RESPONSE AND GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“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, 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’reently 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, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Words and Music: Traditional English Carol.

FINANCIAL UPDATE *through* December 16, 2016

GENERAL FUND GIVING (147 commitments totaling \$1,905,770)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$3,215,102	\$3,082,705	\$3,194,192

2016 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$111,487)

2016 Operating Reserve: \$0

2016 Line of Credit: \$65,000

FAITH PROMISE GIVING (100 commitments totaling \$202,730)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Funds Disbursed</u>
\$214,239	\$236,581	\$214,239

If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Marty Crawford in the church office or members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Ty Dedmon	Merrill Johnston
Jeff Dyess	Lee Sheppard
Gary Gorham	Mark Miller
Fred Henry	John Wood

| *The Campaign for Covenant* |

FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

Pledges (252 commitments): **\$3,506,682**

Receipts:	\$2,249,814
Funds from sale of building:	<u>\$1,987,385</u>
Total funds provided:	\$4,237,199
Funds used for debt:	<u>(\$1,983,644)</u>
Funds available:	\$2,253,555
Costs to date:	<u>(\$1,201,344)</u>
Net funds available:	\$1,052,211

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

And so Lord, we pray as Christ taught:

ALL: *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.*

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

End-of-Year Giving. The church office will be open on Saturday, December 31, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon to receive any final contributions for 2016.

New Year's Day Service. Next Sunday, January 1, we will have gathered worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will not have Sunday School, but the nursery and children's worship will be available during the service.

Christian Service Mission Food Drive. Please remember to fill the grocery bag provided with your Advent and Christmas Journal with non-perishable food items for Christian Service Mission. Bring your bag to the church office no later than January 8, and we will deliver the food to CSM.

Sav-A-Life Vestavia. Sav-A-Life in Vestavia has an immediate need for volunteer receptionists to work on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Tuesday evenings 4:00-7:00 p.m. Basic computer skills are needed and training will be provided. Please contact Laurel Schweers if you are interested (205-823-1846 or laurelschweers@savalife.org).

Missions Festival 2017. Save the date for our Missions Festival. Our 2017 festival will be February 11-15. Visit covpres.com/missionsfestival to sign up and be involved in sharing gospel hospitality with our missionary partners.

kidConnection 2017. Our Wednesday night children's activities will resume January 18 from 5:30-7:15! kidConnection has provided our 3k-6th graders with a chance to fellowship, worship, learn, play, and connect with each other in a unique and powerful way. Check out covpres.com/weekly-activities for more information. Registration is coming soon!

Barnabas Training Basic. Save the date for Barnabas Training Basic on March 4, 2017! Covenant is excited to host this one-day seminar led by counselors from the Barnabas Center counseling ministry in Charlotte, NC. Barnabas Training Basic equips you to better encourage friends facing difficult times in life and faith. This seminar helps you understand others by gaining a biblical understanding of your own heart. It includes lectures, an interactive small group experience, and reflective time to apply principles to one real-life friendship. The seminar will help you better understand yourself as well as invite others into a deeper relationship in Christ. Details and registration coming soon!



PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the LORD be with you.

People: *And also with you!*

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation such as those above.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

The "passing of the peace" precedes the Lord's Supper as a liturgical reminder of our unity as members of Christ's body. 1 Corinthians 11:18-19 implores us to not let factions and divisions remain in our midst. Thus, the peace calls us to move toward our brothers and sisters as Christ moves toward us.

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. If you are not communing but would like to participate, come forward and fold your hands, and you will receive a prayer of blessing from the server.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors, please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards located in the pew racks.

You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 14.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 25-31, 2016

SUNDAY, December 25

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship (Parlor)
10:00 a.m. Gathered Worship* (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, December 26

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, December 31

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon CHURCH OFFICES OPEN
to accept final 2016 contributions

**nursery childcare available*

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, December 26-January 1).