

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 • 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	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalms 34	Genesis 12:1-7	John 6:35-42, 48-51
Evening	Psalms 33	Hebrews 11:1-12	

TUESDAY

Morning	Psalms 68	Genesis 28:10-22	John 10:7-17
Evening	Psalms 72	Hebrews 11:13-22	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalms 85, 87	Exodus 3:1-12	John 14:6-14
Evening	Psalms 89:1-29	Hebrews 11:23-31	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalms 2, 110	Joshua 1:1-9	Hebrews 11:32-12:2
Evening	Psalms 29, 98	Isaiah 66:18-23	Romans 15:7-13 John 15:1-6

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalms 46, 97	Isaiah 52:7-10	John 12:14-21
Evening	Psalms 96, 100	Revelation 21:22-27	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalms 103	Isaiah 52:3-6	Revelation 2:1-7
Evening	Psalms 114, 115	Isaiah 61:1-9	Galatians 3:23-29, 4:4-7 John 2:1-11

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Morning	Psalms 146, 147	Isaiah 40:1-11	John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34
Evening	Psalms 111, 112, 113	Hebrews 1:1-12	

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The whole emphasis of the speech concerning the vine is obviously laid on the fact that, as the branches can only bear fruit as they abide in the vine, so the disciples, if they are to be what they are fruitfully, must abide in the One who speaks to them... That they are called to abide in Him presupposes that the free and responsible participation of Christians in their status in envisaged in the description of the fellowship between Christ and them. It presupposes that they are already in Him, and obviously because first and supremely He is in them and has made their being a being in Him. "I in you" comes first, but secondly and on this basis it must also be said: "Ye in me."

{ GATHERED WORSHIP: The Triune God Renews His People }

☒ OPENING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
O sing all ye bright Hosts of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest;

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Words: attr. John F. Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880).
Music: John F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751.

RULING ELDERS

Jason Peevy, Clerk of Session

jason287us@yahoo.com

AC Frese

Russell Martin

Bob Schaffeld

Eric Getty

Mark Miller

Lee Sheppard

John Hamilton

Daniel Murray

John Smith T

Heath Henderson

Norman Pless

Mark Taylor

Michael Latta

Warren Norville

Ben Walker

Paul Loyless

Bill Ratliff

Clay Wheeler

Robert Luttrell

Charlie Regan

Charles White

DEACONS

Gary Gorham, Chairman of the Diaconate

gmgorham@southernco.com

Lee Baker

Grant Haines

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: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

People: *Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!*

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

ALL: *Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!*

—Psalm 147:1, 7, 11-12

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

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthems drown All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died, and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring, And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, And round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of love! Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail Throughout eternity.

Thy praise and glory shall not fail Throughout eternity.

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Revelation 19:12).
Music: George J. Elvey, 1868.

BENEDICTION

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“Come All Ye Pining, Hungry, Poor”

Lord, we adore Thy boundless grace,
The heights and depths unknown,
Of pardon, life, and joy, and peace,
In Thy beloved Son.

Chorus:

*Come, all ye pining, hungry, poor,
The Savior's bounty taste;
Behold a never-failing store
For ev'ry willing guest.*

O wondrous gifts of love divine,
Dear Source of ev'ry good;
Jesus, in Thee what glories shine!
How rich Thy flowing blood!
(*Chorus*)

Here shall your num'rous wants receive
A free, a full supply;
He has unmeasured bliss to give,
And joys that never die.
(*Chorus*)

Words: Anne Steele, 1716-1778. Music: Brian T. Murphy.

☒ SECOND HYMN

“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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 29:1-14

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: ⁴“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

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 Apostle's 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness
 of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

–Ephesians 1:7

ALL: *Almighty and most merciful Father;
 We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
 We have followed too much the devices and desires
 of our own hearts.
 We have offended against your holy laws.
 We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
 And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
 And there is no health in us.
 But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
 Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.
 Restore those who are penitent;
 According to your promises declared unto mankind
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;
 That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
 To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.*

–Book of Common Prayer

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF RESPONSE AND GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed
When a virgin, blest with grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore!

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!
Evermore and evermore!
Evermore and evermore!

Word: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866).

Music: Plainsong, 13th century.

FINANCIAL UPDATE *through* December 23, 2016

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$3,247,692	\$3,169,530	\$3,215,695

2016 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$46,165)

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>
\$235,493	\$240,231	\$235,493

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

Children's Worship Information. Following the Sunday morning worship service, parents will find their children attending Children's Worship in the following rooms:

- 3K ▪ C224** (available for the entire worship hour)
- 4K ▪ C221** (available for the entire worship hour)
- Kindergarten ▪ C227** (dismissed during the worship hour)
- 1st through 3rd Grades ▪ C316** (dismissed during the worship hour)

Christian Service Mission Food Drive. Please return the grocery bag you received with your Advent and Christmas Journal, filled with non-perishable food items, to the church office any time this week. We will deliver the bags to Christian Service Mission next week. CSM would welcome items including, but not limited to, peanut butter, jelly, green beans, corn, rice, noodles, and spaghetti sauce. Thank you!

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.

Children are dismissed at this time.

GUEST PREACHER

We welcome Rev. Tom Franklin, RUF Campus Minister at Birmingham Southern College, as our guest preacher this morning. Tom came to Birmingham Southern College for undergrad and remained on campus working in the Admission Office for three years. Tom then moved to St. Louis, MO, to attend Covenant Theological Seminary, where he received his Masters of Divinity. In 2005 he returned to Birmingham to start a new RUF ministry at Birmingham Southern. That same year he met his wife Kristin. The Franklins have two children, Thomas, Jr. (3) and Lila (2), and live in Homewood.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: January 1-7, 2016

SUNDAY, January 1

9:30 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship (Parlor)

10:00 a.m.

Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

Children's Worship | 3 years through 3rd grade

MONDAY, January 2 - SUNDAY, January 8

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 any time this week, and we will deliver the food to CSM. Thank you!

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, January 2-8).