The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday January 7, 2018

Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining, Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall; Angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion, Odours of Edom, and offerings divine? Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favour secure; Richer by far is the heart's adoration, Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

—Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

{ GATHERED WORSHIP: The Triune God Renews His People }

READING FROM THE PROPHETS AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Crawford

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you,

and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: And nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Pastor: Lift up your eyes all around, and see;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from afar,

and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

People: Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and exult,

because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Pastor: A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

People: They shall bring gold and frankincense,

and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Pastor: Let us worship God.

HYMN OF ADORATION

"We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him God on high. (*Refrain*)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (*Refrain*)

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies. (Refrain)

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Lord of Light and Salvation,
Whose unspeakable glory was made manifest in Your incarnation and holy life,
we, like the wise men of old,
bow before you,
offering gifts,
even our very lives,
that you may be honored as King of all kings and Lord of all lords,
Now and through eternity. Amen.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Brent Latta

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. "And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

HYMN OF EPIPHANY

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare; So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1860; alt. 1961.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by William H. Monk, 1861.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

M HYMN OF LOVE

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshine's blaze its day May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Words: George Matheson, 1882. Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Our Great God"

Eternal God, unchanging,
Mysterious and unknown.
Your boundless love unfailing,
In grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne.
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our Sovereign God.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Let every creature in the sea
And every flying bird;
Let every mountain, every field
And valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God,
Who rules them by His Word.

Words and Music: Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega, 2002 New Spring (Admin. By Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.).

The Sacrament of Baptism

Frances Lynn Ledbetter

DAUGHTER OF LAUREN AND WILLIAM LEDBETTER

Porter Neal Zomlinson
SON OF SARAH AND GREG TOMLINSON

Harry Edward, Weston SON OF SUSAN AND TODD WESTON

Isabel Jane Weston

DAUGHTER OF SUSAN AND TODD WESTON

Stewart Jay Weston
SON OF SUSAN AND TODD WESTON

PARENTAL VOWS

- 1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in (his/her) behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for (his/her) salvation, as you do for your own?
- 3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before (him/her) a godly example, that you will pray with and for (him/her), that you will teach (him/her) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring (him/her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE BAPTISM

THE PRAYER OF BLESSING

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.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leslie Brooks

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 22.

Children are dismissed at this time.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Daniel Murray

MESSAGE

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13		
"FREE WILL OR PREDESTINATION?"		
SANDY WILLSON		

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. 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.

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Holy Father,

Whose eyes are too pure to look upon iniquity and Who cannot tolerate wrong, we confess that we have committed many wrongs and that our hearts are plagued with iniquity; we have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Please forgive us; and, by Your grace and power, cleanse and renew us that we may serve You with grateful hearts and demonstrate Your unfailing love to the world; through Jesus Christ our gracious Redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore 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. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

—Hebrews 2:14-18

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

ALL: 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 Praise

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; tr. By William H. Draper, 1926.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN.

Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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 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

Pastor:

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:

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.

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

"Come, Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted"

Come, ye souls by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross behold the crown;
Look to Jesus, Look to Jesus, Look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy yoke and wear it; Love will make your obedience sweet; Christ will give you strength to bear it, While His grace shall guide your feet Safe to glory, Safe to glory, Safe to glory; Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see Him,
Bless the ears that hear His voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust Him,
And in Him alone rejoice:
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrim's weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest the cross supplies:
All who taste it, All who taste it,
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Words: Joseph Swain (alt. Twit). Music: Kevin Twit, 2013.

"Jesus Paid it All"

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small, Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r, and Thine alone, Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone. (*Refrain*)

For nothing good have I Whereby Thy grace to claim; I'll wash my garments white In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. (*Refrain*)

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete, "Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat. (Refrain)

Words: Elvina M. Hall (1820-1889). Music: John T. Grape (1835-1915).

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O star of wonder, star of light, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: January 7-13, 2017

SUNDAY, January 7 Women's Retreat Registration Deadline

8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons) 9:00 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

Children's Worship | 3 years through 3rd grade

10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages

(see page 25 for details)

MONDAY, January 8

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

TUESDAY, January 9

11:30 a.m. Women's Study: The Book of Romans (DIning Room)

WEDNESDAY, January 10

5:30-7:15 p.m. Wednesdays@Covenant

5:30-7:15 | Nursery Care (Nursery Floor)

kidConnection* (3rd floor; dinner included)

5:30-6:15 | Fellowship DInner (Fellowship Hall) 6:15-7:15 | Youth Activities (Youth Rooms) Chancel Choir Rehearsal** (S103)

Biblical Parenting (E201)

"God Owns It All," Ron Blue (Dining Room)

Praying Together (E305) A Heart for the World (E301)

*registration at covpres.com

**rehearsal begins at 6:00

FRIDAY. January 12 Youth Winter Retreat begins (Camp ToKnowHim)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dave Driskill, January 8-14).

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 - C221 (dismissed during Passing of the Peace)

1st through 3rd Grades - C316 (dismissed during Passing of the Peace)

Wednesdays Covenant. Our Wednesday night activities kick off this week with adult studies, choir, kidConnection, and youth activities. There is something for everyone, so make plans to join your Covenant family and connect over a midweek meal, prayer, and studying God's Word. See page 23 for a full schedule and visit covpres.com/schedule for all the details.

Prayer Focus. Our new Prayer Team, formed by Covenant's Strategic Vision Committee, has committed to seek God each day for personal and corporate renewal. Will you join us? We have two opportunities for you to pray. First, set an alarm each day for 7:14 p.m.! When the alarm sounds, take a moment to pray for our church's vision for growth and healing. Our first focus verse is 2 Chronicles 7:14. Second, come pray with us! On Wednesdays we will meet for a special time of corporate prayer from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in E201. Join us as we study biblical prayer principles and then pray together. All are welcome!

Women's Winter Retreat. Ladies, join us January 26-28 at the Auburn Marriott at Grand National. Abby Hutto will be our guest speaker, and she will be teaching about "The Heart of the Father." Invite someone to join you and register at covpres.com/womens-ministry.

Gospel Manhood. Men, our next Gospel Manhood lunch is Tuesday, January 16. We will continue "The Man and..." series with "The Man and His Friends," so invite yours to join you! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m.

Missions Festival 2018. Save the date for our annual Missions Festival February 10-14, 2018! We will have close to 20 of our missionary partners here with us, both local and global. Visit covpres.com/missionsfestival for details and to volunteer for the events.

FINANCIAL UPDATE through November 30, 2017

GENERAL FUND GIVING (181 commitments totaling \$2,306,030)

<u>Budget</u> <u>Receipts</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$3,120,013 \$2,839,867 \$3,066,129

2017 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$226,262)

2017 Operating Reserve: \$108,469

2017 Line of Credit: \$0

FAITH PROMISE GIVING (83 commitments totaling \$187,711)

<u>Budget</u> <u>Funds Received</u> <u>Funds Disbursed</u>

\$188,081 \$231,436 \$188,081

FAITH PROMISE RESERVE: \$107,305

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

Ty Dedmon Lee Sheppard
Gary Gorham Todd Sitton
Merrill Johnston Darrell Tucker
Mark Miller John Wood

Pledges (252 commitments):

The Campaign for Covenant

FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

\$3,506,682

Receipts:	\$2,852,599
Funds from sale of building:	\$1,987,385
Total funds provided:	\$4,839,984
Funds used for debt:	(\$1,983,644)
Funds available:	\$2,856,340
Costs to date:	(\$2,665,490)
Net funds available:	\$190,850

WEDNESDAYS@COVENANT

Winter Session: January 10 - February 7

Join your Covenant family each week for a time of food, fellowship, and study. Like any family, we need to spend time together, check in with each other, and break bread together. As we study God's word and pray with each other, this midweek time plays an important role in our growth as a church family. We have something for everyone!

SCHEDULE

5:30-6:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

serving lines remain open until 6:00; \$6/adult, \$4/child with a \$25 family max

5:30-7:15 p.m. Nursery Activities

(infants through 2 year olds; Nursery Level)

kidConnection*

(3 year olds through 6th grade; 3rd Floor)

6:15-7:15 p.m. Youth Activities (7th-12th grades; Youth Rooms)

Chancel Choir** (S103)
Adult Bible Studies

Biblical Parenting (E201)

"God Owns It All," Ron Blue (Dining Room)

Praying Together (E305) A Heart for the World (E301)

Ministry and Committee Meetings (as needed)

*dinner included
**rehearsal begins at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

10:30 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COMMUNITY E305	All ages and life stages
CORNERSTONE S104	30s and 40s
CROSSPOINTE S100	20s and 30s
FOUNDATIONS E304	30s and 40s
LIGHTHOUSE E301	30s and 40s
LIVING STONES E303	40s and 50s
KINGDOM BUILDERS E201	40s, 50s, and 60s
OPEN DOORS S105	70s and above
UPPER ROOM S101	50s, 60s, and 70s
THRESHOLD DINING ROOM	Singles and newly married; 20s and 30s
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	Students grades 7-12

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator mcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Director of Ministries ddriskill@covpres.com
Dan Edwards, Pastor to Children and Families dedwards@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries ilink@covpres.com
Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor swillson@covpres.com

MINISTRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rick Barnes. Director of Musical Arts rbarnes@covpres.com Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries jbennett@covpres.com Austin Braasch, Student Ministries Intern jabraasch129@gmail.com Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production kcaldwell@covpres.com Meg Cotney, Financial Secretary mcotney@covpres.com Tyler Cuidon, Technical Director tyler.cuidon@gmail.com Rachel Davis. Assistant Director of Girls Ministries shields.rachel.c@gmail.com Katie Flores. Director of Pre-School Ministries kflores@covpres.com Phyllis Hamm, Assistant to Director of Ministries phamm@covpres.com Bill Hav. Pastor Emeritus bhay@covpres.com Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor koliver@covpres.com Sara Litten, Director of Girls Ministries slitten@covpres.com Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media sloyless@covpres.com Traci Parker. Director of Food Services tparker@covpres.com Tyrone Perry, Facilities Manager tperry@covpres.com Brooke Stewart, Covenant Day School Director bstewart@covpres.com Karan Stuart, Receptionist kstuart@covpres.com Laura Tucker, Ministry Assistant, Children & Families ltucker@covpres.com Victoria Williams, Pastoral Assistant vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

2017 2018 2019

Paul LoylessAC FreseTy DedmonRussell MartinEric GettyJeff DyessMark MillerJohn HamiltonRick Flynn

Norman Pless Daniel Murray Heath Henderson
Charlie Regan Warren Norville Tom McKnight
Lee Sheppard Jason Peevy John Smith T
Mark Taylor Ben Walker Richard Thompson

Clay Wheeler Charles White

DEACONS

2017 2018 2019

Jim Bennett Lee Baker Brandon Bishop Aaron Coffey Nathan Collums Gary Gorham Keith Harrelson Paul Darden John Harrelson John Gant Randall Lancaster Jeff Hayes Steve Killgore Jonathan Gidley Matt Searson Steve Pfitzer **Grant Haines** Patrick Strong John James Brent Powell Darrell Tucker John Shank Stephen Mince

Carey Rome Todd Sitton
Steve Stigler William Slappey
Billy Tapscott

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 2018.

JANUARY READING PLAN

DAY	GENESIS	MATTHEW
1	□1-2	□1
2	□ 3-5	□ 2
3	□ 6-7	□ 3-4
4	□ 8-11	□ 5
5	□ 12-14	□ 6
6/7	□ 15-19	□ 7
8	□ 20-22	□8
9	□ 23-24	□ 9
10	□ 25-26	□ 10:1-25
11	□ 27-28	□ 10:26-42
12	□ 29-30	□ 11
13/14	□ 31–35	□ 12
15	□ 36-37	□ 13:1-23
16	□ 38-40	□ 13:24-58
17	□ 41	□ 14:1-21
18	□ 42-43	□ 14:22-36
19	□ 44-45	□ 15:1-20
20/21	□ 46-Exodus 1	□ 15:21-16:4
	EXODUS	
22	□ 2-4	□ 16:5-28
23	□ 5-6	□ 17
24	□ 7–10	□ 18:1-20
25	□ 11-12	□ 18:21-35
26	□ 13–15	□ 19:1–15
27/28	□ 16-19	□ 19:16-30
29	□ 20-22	□ 20:1-16
30	□ 23-25	□ 20:17-34
31	□ 26-28	□ 21