The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Christianity tells a true story about humanity, which makes sense of all the stories that humanity tells about itself."

—Alister McGrath

"When the Truth had come, what further need was there of the shadow?"

—Athanasius

"If Christmas really happened, it means the whole human race has amnesia, but the tales we love most aren't really just entertaining escapism. The Gospel, because it is a true story, means all the best stories will be proved, in the ultimate sense, true."

—Timothy Keller

2 LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: FAITH

8:00 a.m. | The Kanters 10:30 a.m. | The Eaveses

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."

-Galatians 3:22

EXECUTE CALL TO WORSHIP

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 89:1-4, 52

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

All: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant
'I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

All: Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

M DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, attr. to Louis Bourgeois (1551).

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"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,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest:
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,
Christ the Lord!

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



Words: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972. Music: French carol melody.

Genesis 17:15-19; 18:1-15

And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" ¹⁹God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

^{18:1}And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth 3 and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 6And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. 8Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and

Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

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 hearts.

We have rebelled 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;

Therefore we lack integrity.

Now, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare those, O God, who confess their sins.

Restore those who are penitent;

According to your promises declared unto us

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;

That we may live godly, righteous, and sober lives

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Hear us now as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

-Romans 5:8-9

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.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

8:00 a.m.

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" Congregational Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them,
Tell her that her sins I cover,
And her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserved His anger, He no more will see or heed; She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance,
Since the kingdom now is here;
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him,
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble
As befits His holy reign;
For the glory of the Lord,
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His word is never broken.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

10:30 a.m.

"The Lord Did Send the Angel Gabriel" Chancel Choir

The Lord did send the angel Gabriel
To a town in Galilee.
To Nazareth the angel came to tell
News of what was soon to be.
Alleluia, alleluia!
"The Lord is with you."

He greeted Mary, called her favored one, Saying, "The Lord is with you." But Mary did not understand his words, Thinking this could not be true. Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is with you.

Forget your fears for God has chosen you, And soon you shall bear a son. You'll name him Jesus, Son of the Most High. He will sit on David's throne. Alleluia, alleluia! Now the Lord is with you.

For nothing is impossible with God; Mary said then, "Here am I. And in accordance with Your word I'll be The Lord's servant all my life." Alleluia, alleluia! Now the Lord is with you.

Words: from Luke 1:26-38, paraphrased by Fred Gramann. Music: Fred Gramann.

MASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 19 for all of our Ministry Announcements. Please fill out the attendance sheet provided with your worship guide and leave it in your pew or at your table.

Children's Worship | 10:30 a.m. Children ages 3 years old (by 9/1/2021) through Kindergarten are invited to Children's Worship during the Passing of the Peace. Children will walk with staff to C222, C223, or C224, and staff will then walk children back to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, prior to communion, to join their parents.

Enfold Disability Ministry. Our church seeks to embrace and enfold people affected by disability. Please let an usher know how we can support and accommodate your needs during worship.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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			
Robby Holt			

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Congregation, please read aloud the portions that are italicized.

Words of Institution

from Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Confession of Faith: Our Confident Access

In Jesus, the Son of God, we have a sympathetic, great high priest who lives for us. He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Let us, therefore, with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Prayer of Humble Access

We come to your Table, Lord Jesus,
not trusting in our own righteousness, but in your rich mercies.
We are not worthy, O Great King, to gather up the crumbs under your Table,
yet you are the King of mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
in this breaking of bread, a rich participation in your body,
and in this cup, a stronger grasp of your grace,
that by your Spirit, we may commune with you
and you with 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

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 partaking of these elements but would like to come forward with your fellow worshipers, please 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.

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

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

"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!"

"Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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



Words and Music: CCLI Song #4408246. Keith Getty, Stuart Townend. ©2004 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI License #147209.

SUNDAY, December 5

8:00 a.m. Gathered Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages (see page 20)

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship

5:00 p.m. Church-wide Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols Service (Sanctuary)
 dessert fellowship immediately following

MONDAY, December 6

8:15 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Parlor)

WEDNESDAY, December 8

10:00 a.m. Church-wide Prayer Time (S100)

11:00 a.m. Olive Branch Lunch

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lesson & Carols. Our annual Lessons & Carols service is tonight with a church-wide dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. and the service in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. We also will enjoy desserts in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. Join us for this special night of worship and fellowship!

Congregational Meeting, December 5. Today we will hold a congregational meeting in the Sanctuary to elect our slate of officers (class of 2024) and the members of our 2022 Nominating Committee.

Lovelady Christmas Concert. The Lovelady Christmas Concert is December 14! That evening, we host the women and children from The Lovelady Center for a dinner, a Christmas concert, and a Christmas Vacation Bible School. We serve around 300 women and 75 children, and there are many ways to get involved: help set up, help in the kitchen, volunteer with VBS, greet and host women throughout the event, serve dinner, and clean up. Visit covpres.com/lovelady to sign up. You may also make donations to help fund the event. You can mail in your donation or place it in the offering plate (marked for Lovelady), or you can give online at covpres.com/give (type "Lovelady" in the "Other" field).

Christmas Eve Services. We will have three Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 12:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Nursery childcare will be available for the 12:00 and 4:30 services by reservation; please email nursery@covpres.com with the names and ages of your children to make your reservations.

December 26 & January 2. On December 26 and January 2, we will have one gathered worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on those days.

Financial Stewardship 2022. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider a financial commitment to Covenant for 2022. Commitment cards are available in the Sanctuary foyer and the church office.

Church-wide Memory Passage. Our memory passage from Advent through Epiphany is Galatians 4:4-7.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Directional signs are located around the church.

CROSSPOINTE | Fellowship Hall mid 30s to early 40s

THRESHOLD | E301 Singles, college students, and

young marrieds; 20s and 30s

(Pastor: Josh Johnson)

COMMUNITY | E305 All ages and life stages

OPEN DOORS &

UPPER ROOM | S101 late 60s and above

(Pastor: Marty Crawford)

CORNERSTONE | S100 late 30s to late 40s

FOUNDATIONS | DINING ROOM early 40s to early 50s

LIGHTHOUSE | E304 late 30s to early 50s

(Pastor: David Driskill)

LIVING STONES | E303 late 40s to late 50s

KINGDOM BUILDERS | E201 late 40s to late 60s

(Pastor: Dan Edwards)

YOUTH | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12

(Pastor: John Fountain)

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)

David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Shepherding, Middle Adults) John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families) Robby Holt, Senior Pastor

Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries

mcrawford@covpres.com

ddriskill@covpres.com jfountain@covpres.com rholt@covpres.com ilink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music
Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries
Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries
Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)
Katie Flores, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries,
Director of Enfold Disability Ministry
Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus
Josh Johnson, Assistant Pastor

(Young Adults, Adult Discipleship, Missions)
Scott Leveille, Teacher in Residence (Curriculum)
Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries
Andrew Luchenbill, Assistant Director of Guys' Ministries
Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries
Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School

Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries

rbarnes@covpres.com jbennett@covpres.com shields.rachel.c@gmail.com dedwards@covpres.com

kflores@covpres.com bhay@covpres.com jjohnson@covpres.com

scottleveille@gmail.com slitten@covpres.com aluchenbill@covpres.com dsluis@covpres.com bstewart@covpres.com ltucker@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production
Meg Cotney, Director of Finance
Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services
Anne Hall, Assistant Director of Nursery Ministries
Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)
Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities
Deidre Lackey, Ministry Assistant (Students and Families)
Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media
Jocelyn Martin, Ministry Assistant (Children's)
Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)
Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Senior Pastor
Traci Parker, Director of Food Services
Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator
Karan Stuart, Receptionist
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)

kcaldwell@covpres.com
mcotney@covpres.com
tcuidon@covpres.com
nursery@covpres.com
phamm@covpres.com
jherbert@covpres.com
dlackey@covpres.com
sloyless@covpres.com
jmartin@covpres.com
caseys.odell@gmail.com
koliver@covpres.com
tparker@covpres.com
jrichardson@covpres.com
kstuart@covpres.com
vwilliams@covpres.com

22 RULING ELDERS

2021 2022 2023

Eric Getty Ty Dedmon Will Brooke

Daniel Murray John Hamilton Nathan Collums

Warren Norville Mark Hogewood Jeff Dyess
Sandy Stradtman John James Michael Latta
Clay Wheeler David O'Dell Charlie Logan

Norman Pless Bob Schaffeld Kurt Senn John Smith T

Steve Stigler

DEACONS

2021 2022 2023

Jim Bennett Nick Baggett Tripp Alexander William Edwards Ward Bailey Joseph Cascio Richard Cox Samuel Bragg Merrill Johnston Randall Lancaster Trey Clegg Jav Evans Will Graham Mark Midvette Bryan Flores Jeff Hicks Stephen Mince Gary Gorham Jim Jenkins Clyde Prather Jeff Haves John Shank John Shults Alan Spooner Joe Strickland Matt Thomas Patrick Strong

Greg Tomlinson

STEERING COMMITTEE

Will Brooke, Member At-large
Nathan Collums, Family Ministry Chair
Marty Crawford, Pastoral Liaison (Missions)
Ty Dedmon, Shepherding Ministry Chair
David Driskill, Pastoral Liaison (Shepherding)
Robby Holt, Moderator of the Session
John Fountain, Pastoral Liaison (Family)

Michael Latta, Clerk of the Session
Ingram Link, Ministry Liaison (Women)
Stephen Mince, Chair of the Diaconate
Bob Schaffeld, Missions Ministry Chair
John Shank, Finance Committee Chair
Lee Sheppard, Personnel Committee Chair
John Smith T, Assistant Clerk of the Session

Darrell Tucker

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. You can use them along with the readings, prayers, and hymns from your worship guide each week. 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 2021.

DECEMBER READING PLAN

DECEMBER READING PLAN					
	EZEKIEL	1 JOHN			
1	□ 47-48	□ 3			
	DANIEL				
2	□ 1-2	□ 4			
3	□ 3-4	□ 5			
4/5	□ 5-10	□ 2 John-3 John			
6	□ 11-12	□ Jude			
	HOSEA	REVELATION			
7	□ 1-2	□1			
8	□ 3-4	□ 2			
9	□ 5-6	□ 3			
10	□ 7-10	□ 4			
11/12	□ 11-Joel 2	□ 5			
13	□ 3-Amos 3	□ 6			
	AMOS				
14	□ 4-6	□ 7			
15	□ 7-9	□8			
16	□ Obadiah-Jonah 3	□ 9			
17	□ 4-Micah 2	□ 10			
18/19	□ 3-7	□ 11			
	NAHUM				
20	□1	□ 12			
21	□ 2-3	□ 13			
	HABAKKUK				
22	□ 1-2	□ 14			
23	□ 3-Zephaniah 2	□ 15			
24	□ 3-Haggai 2	□ 16			
	ZECHARIAH				
25/26	□ 1-6	□ 17			
27	□ 7-9	□ 18			
28	□ 10-12	□ 19			
29	□ 13-14	□ 20			
	MALACHI				
30	□ 1-2	□ 21			
31	□ 3-4	□ 22			

