

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We do not go into liturgy in order to escape the world, we go there to learn how to do it the correct way.

—David Fagerberg, *Consecrating the World*

"Kings shall come from you."

—God to Abram (Genesis 17:6)

"God underwent three great humiliations...to rescue the human race. The first incarnation...The second was the Cross, when he suffered the ignominy of public execution. The third humiliation is *the church*. In an awesome act of self-denial, God entrusted his reputation to ordinary people."

—Dorothy Sayers

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:10 *The Demyans*

10:25 *The Wards*

Candle of Joy

Luke recounted the story, "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

—Luke 2:20

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

8:15 *Marty Crawford*

10:30 *David Driskill*

from Isaiah 40

Leader: A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

ALL: *make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

ALL: *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

❏ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"O Father, You Are Sovereign"
to the tune of "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

O Father, You are sovereign
In all the worlds You made;
Your mighty Word was spoken,
And light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons
And bounds the ocean's shore,
Set stars within their courses
And stills the tempests' roar

O Father, You are sovereign
In all affairs of man;
No powers of death or darkness
Can thwart Your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending,
Supreme in time and space,
You hold Your trusting children
Secure in Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign
The Lord of human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows
To gold of heav'nly gain,
All evil overruling,
As none but conq'ror could
Your love pursues its purpose—
Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign!
We see You dimly now,
But soon before Your triumph
Earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us
Our faith springs up anew:
Our Sovereign Lord and Savior,
We trust and worship You!

Words: Margaret Clarkson. Music: Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615 (ST THEODULPH).

☒ "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
 Born to set thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
 Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee,
 Dayspring from on high, appear.
 Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
 Of thy birth we long to hear;
 O'er the hills the angels singing
 News, glad tidings of a birth;
 "Go to him, your praises bringing
 Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
 He whose glories knew no end;
 By His life He brings us gladness,
 Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
 Leaving riches without number,
 Born within a cattle stall;
 This the everlasting wonder,
 Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a king;
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all sufficient merit,
 Raise us to thy glorious throne.

By thine all sufficient merit,
 Raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*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.
You alone know how often we have sinned:
In wandering from Your ways,
In wasting Your gifts,
In forgetting Your love.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, who are ashamed and sorry
For how we have displeased You,
And forgive our sins, for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus,
In whose name we pray, Amen.*

—from The Book of Common Worship

❏ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.
—Isaiah 40:1-2

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.*

 **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.

Words: 2nd century. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851.

READING FROM THE WISDOM BOOKS

8:15 *Dawson Cooper*

10:30 *Kim Killgore*

Ruth 4:13-22

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²²Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Advent Hymn"

Emilie Alonso, soloist

Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the Everlasting Light,
Son of Righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er these shades of night.

Come Thou long awaited one,
In the fullness of Your Love;
Loose this heat bound up by shame,
And I will never be the same.

So here I wait in hope of You,
My soul's longing through and through;
Dayspring from on high be near,
Daystar in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
'Till Your love in me is born;
Joyless is the evening sun
'till Emmanuel has come.

So here I wait in hope of You,
My soul's longing through and through;
Dayspring from on high be near,
Daystar in my heart appear.

Words and Music: Christy Nockels. CCLI 7071465.

☒ PASSING 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. Children 3 year olds (by 9/1/2020) through Kindergarteners sitting in the Fellowship Hall 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 Fellowship Hall prior to the benediction 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

8:15 John James

10:30 Charlie Logan

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

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.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

13

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.

SEASON OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 13, 2020 | 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

 **HYMN OF GLORY**

"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.

 **BENEDICTION**

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 13-19, 2020

SUNDAY, December 13

- 8:15 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, December 14

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

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (David Driskill, December 7-13).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Services. In order to welcome as many people as possible to worship with us on Christmas Eve, while remaining safe and socially distant, we are having three services on December 24 at 12:00, 4:00, and 6:00 p.m. RSVPs are required for the services and for nursery childcare, which is available for ages 3 and under at the 12:00 and 4:00 services. Please visit covpres.com/advent to RSVP for your choice of service, seating (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and E201), and for nursery care. We ask that you RSVP as early as possible as we will be maxing out RSVPs and seating in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and E201 (as needed).

Nursery Bonus Fund. Thank you to everyone who so generously gave to our Nursery Bonus Fund this year! You can still give if you would like to by mailing in a donation or by visiting covpres.com/give.

2021 Sunday School. We are excited to announce that it is our hopeful plan to return to Sunday morning Sunday School from 9:15-10:15 a.m. beginning January 10. Once again, we will be meeting in two groups, alternating weeks for each group. Group A (Crosspointe (100), Living Stones (201), Lighthouse (301), Upper Room (101)) will meet in their respective classrooms on January 10, 24; February 7, 28; March 14; April 18; and May 2, 16. Group B (Community (305), Cornerstone (100), Foundations (301), Kingdom Builders (201), Threshold (304)) will meet in their respective classrooms on January 17, 31; February 14; March 7; April 11, 25; and May 9, 23. We all will be studying the Fruit of the Spirit. Children's and Youth Sunday School classes also will meet at this time. Mark your calendars for January!

Service Change. In order to accommodate our Sunday School hour returning to Sunday mornings, our 8:15 a.m. service will move to 8:00 a.m. on January 3. This will allow time for those in our early service to transition to their classrooms.

Discover Covenant Class. Our next Discover Covenant class is Friday, January 22, through Sunday, January 24. This class is a great way to learn about our church and what it means to become a member and for us to get to know you! Discover Covenant is required for anyone who desires to become a member; however, you are not obligated to join after attending the class. If you would like to register, please visit covpres.com/new-members. Nursery childcare (ages 5 and under) is available for each session. If you have any questions, please contact Victoria Williams (vwilliams@covpres.com, 205-871-7002).

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
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Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)	dedwards@covpres.com
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Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Karan Stuart, Receptionist	kstuart@covpres.com
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)	vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

2020

Bill Bennett
Will Brooke
Michael Latta
Charlie Logan
Paul Loyless
Bob Schaffeld
Lee Sheppard
Steve Stigler
Mark Taylor
John Wood

2021

Eric Getty
Russell Martin
Daniel Murray
Warren Norville
Sandy Stradtman
Clay Wheeler

2022

Ty Dedmon
John Hamilton
Mark Hogewood
John James
David O'Dell
Norman Pless
Kurt Senn

DEACONS

2020

Tripp Alexander
Paul Darden
Jay Evans
Bryan Flores
John Gant
John David Gray
Marty Martin
Bud Miller
Tyler O'Connor
John Shults
Danny Smith
Robert Stephens
Clark Worrell

2021

Nick Baggett
Ward Bailey
Samuel Bragg
Trey Clegg
Will Graham
Jeff Hicks
Jim Jenkins
Alan Spooner
Patrick Strong

2022

Jim Bennett
William Edwards
Merrill Johnston
Randall Lancaster
Mark Midyette
Stephen Mince
Clyde Prather
John Shank
Matt Thomas
Greg Tomlinson

STEERING COMMITTEE

2020

Michael Latta, Clerk of the Session
Stephen Mince, Chair of the Diaconate
Lee Sheppard, Personnel Committee Chair
John Shank, Finance Committee Chair

Will Brooke, Member At-large
Daniel Murray, Family Ministry Chair
Steve Stigler, Missions Ministry Chair
Ty Dedmon, Shepherding Ministry Chair

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 2020.

DECEMBER READING PLAN

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

