

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2017

They all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high:
Thou cam'st a little baby thing
That made a woman cry.

—George MacDonald (1824-1905)

The Son of God, the Eternal King,
That did us all salvation bring,
And freed the soul from danger;
He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was laid now in a manger.

—Ben Jonson (1573-1637)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Driskill

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

People: *Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.*

Pastor: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

People: *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

Pastor: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

People: *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!*

 Congregation stand as able.

Pastor: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.

People: *He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

Pastor: Let us worship God.

People: *Yes, let all the earth rejoice!*

–Psalm 96

HYMN OF ADVENT

“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, wonders, of His love.

And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy Father, Who has brought joy to the world
through the Gift of Your One and Only Son,
We laud and magnify Your glorious Name,
praying that the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in Your sight,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness
but have the light of life."

People: *We light this candle in gratitude for His first coming
and in anticipation of His glorious return.*

Reader: He will come to bring light and life to His people.

ALL: *O Come, Emmanuel, to ransom Your people.*

*The Advent candle is lit today by Alan, Melanie, Ben, Emily, and
Claire Spooner.*

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Stephanie Alonso

Isaiah 7:14

Reader: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

People: *and shall call his name Immanuel.*

HYMN OF COMFORT

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words: Latin Hymn, Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710; translated by John M. Neale. Music: adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE INCARNATION

“Joy Has Dawned”

Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation—
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophesy the story.
Gold—a King is born today,
Incense—God is with us,
Myrrh—His death will make a way,
And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
Given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man,
Christ, our mighty Champion!
What a Saviour! What a Friend!
What a glorious mystery!
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of history.

Words: Luke 2:7, John 1:1-3). Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“The Yearning”

Chancel Choir

There is a yearning
In hearts weighed down by ancient grief
And centuries of sorrow,
There is a yearning
In hearts that in the darkness hide
And in the shades of death abide,
A yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning,
A yearning for the promised One,
The Firstborn of creation.
There is a yearning
For the Lord who visited His own,
And by His death for sin atoned,
To bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
Within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning
That fills the hearts of those who wait
The day of His appearing.
There is a yearning
When all our sorrows are erased,
And we shall see the One who placed
Within our hearts the yearning.

Words: Susan Bentall Boersma. Music: Craig Courtney, 2011.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

April and Jeremy Brown
Molly, Lauren, and Charlotte

Tyler Cuidon

Holly and Jonathan Ford
Mary Frances, Rosalie, and Ivy

Susan Keeling

Liz and Justin Richardson
Liam, Rhys, and Brennan

Laura and David Sanders

Holleigh and Kevin Taylor
Libby

Shay and Skip Warren
Sam

Susan and Todd Weston
Isabel, Harry, and Stewart

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

Molly Stone

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 23.

Children are dismissed at this time.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Tom McKnight

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

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.

Pastor: All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

People: *The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God stands forever.*

Isaiah 40:6b, 8

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 Spirit, Who conceived in Mary's womb our blessed Savior,
and Who has taken up residence in every believer's heart,
by Your grace we readily confess that we have failed to trust You as we ought,
but have stubbornly sought our own way
and have often grieved You by our thoughts, words, and deeds.
Please forgive us,
and renew within us the same devotion as that of young Mary,
that we might truly say,
"I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."
This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

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

Apostle's 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.*

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: Anonymous, 2nd century. Music: GLORIA PATRI (Charles Meineke, 1844).

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.*

**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.*

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“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 descending,
Comes our 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 descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes 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!”

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th century; adapt. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: French melody, 17th century, PICARDY, arr. Craig Courtney, 2012.

“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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

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, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 10-December 16, 2017

SUNDAY, December 10

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Sr. and Jr. High Small Group Christmas Party

MONDAY, December 11

- 8:15 a.m. Women in Prayer (Ingram Link's office, 3rd floor)

TUESDAY, December 12

- 5:30 p.m. Lovelady Dinner & Concert (2nd floor & Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, December 15

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. CDS & MDO Final Day of the Semester
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop
6th-8th grade girls

SATURDAY, December 16

- 10:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop
3rd-5th grade girls

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, December 11-17).

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)

Lovelady Dinner & Concert. Join us December 12 at 6:00 p.m. as we host the women of the Lovelady Center. This annual event is a great time of food, fun, and music! Our musical guests this year will be Act of Congress. To find out more about how you can be involved in this special night, please visit covpres.com/lovelady.

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." **Early-bird registration ends today**, which is good for a \$25 per person discount! (covpres.com/womens-ministry)

Nursery Bonus Fund. Please consider donating to our Nursery Bonus Fund this year. This is a wonderful blessing to the women who care for our children each week! Please submit donations by December 17. You can drop your donations in the offering plate, at the nursery desk, or in the Sunday School envelopes (please mark checks for the Nursery Bonus Fund). You may also give online at covpres.com/give.

Gospel Manhood. Men, join us Tuesday, December 19 at 11:30 for Gospel Manhood. Sandy Willson will be continuing his series "The Man and..." with "The Man and His God." We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, and lunch will be served.

Family Promise. Covenant is hosting Family Promise from Christmas Eve through the morning of New Year's Eve. This a great way to serve others as a family, and there are lots of ways to help. You can deliver breakfast or dinner to the church, stay during dinner and host the families, or stay overnight at Covenant. Please check for sign-up sheets through your Sunday School class or contact Barbara Thompson at babsfthompson@gmail.com.

PCA Ministerial Relief Fund. During our Christmas Eve services we will be collecting an offering for the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund. In accordance with James 1:27, the PCA began the fund to aid in the financial stress of the widows of our pastors and missionaries. Your gift to this fund acknowledges their life of service and provides for them in their time of need.

FINANCIAL UPDATE *through* November 20, 2017

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$3,006,630	\$2,764,526	\$2,955,313

2017 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$190,787)

2017 Operating Reserve: \$143,944

2017 Line of Credit: \$0

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Funds Disbursed</u>
\$172,381	\$229,696	\$172,381

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

| *The Campaign for Covenant* |

FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

Pledges (252 commitments):	<u>\$3,506,682</u>
Receipts:	\$2,848,724
Funds from sale of building:	<u>\$1,987,385</u>
Total funds provided:	\$4,836,109
Funds used for debt:	<u>(\$1,983,644)</u>
Funds available:	\$2,852,465
Costs to date:	<u>(\$2,665,490)</u>
Net funds available:	\$186,975



CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

December 3, 10, 17, & 24*

Gathered Worship ▪ 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT COVENANT

Candlelight Services ▪ 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

(nursery childcare available during the 4:30 service)

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 31*

Gathered Worship ▪ 9:00 a.m.

**No Sunday School*

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 Hay, 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

Paul Loyless
Russell Martin
Mark Miller
Norman Pless
Charlie Regan
Lee Sheppard
Mark Taylor

2018

AC Frese
Eric Getty
John Hamilton
Daniel Murray
Warren Norville
Jason Peevy
Ben Walker
Clay Wheeler
Charles White

2019

Ty Dedmon
Jeff Dyess
Rick Flynn
Heath Henderson
Tom McKnight
John Smith T
Richard Thompson

DEACONS

2017

Lee Baker
Aaron Coffey
Paul Darden
John Gant
Jonathan Gidley
Grant Haines
John James
Stephen Mince
Carey Rome
Steve Stigler

2018

Brandon Bishop
Nathan Collums
John Harrelson
Randall Lancaster
Matt Searson
Patrick Strong
Darrell Tucker

2019

Jim Bennett
Gary Gorham
Keith Harrelson
Jeff Hayes
Steve Killgore
Steve Pfitzer
Brent Powell
John Shank
Todd Sitton
William Slappey
Billy Tapscott

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 • SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Morning	Psalm 148-150	Amos 6:1-14	Luke 1:57-68
Evening	Psalm 114, 115	2 Thessalonians 1:5-12	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalm 25	Amos 7:1-9	Matthew 22:23-33
Evening	Psalm 9, 15	Revelation 1:1-8	

TUESDAY

Morning	Psalm 26, 28	Amos 7:10-17	Matthew 22:34-46
Evening	Psalm 36, 39	Revelation 1:9-16	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalm 38	Amos 8:1-14	Matthew 23:1-12
Evening	Psalm 119:25-48	Revelation 1:17-2:7	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalm 37:1-18	Amos 9:1-10	Matthew 23:13-26
Evening	Psalm 37:19-42	Revelation 2:8-17	

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalm 31	Haggai 1:1-15	Matthew 23:27-39
Evening	Psalm 35	Revelation 2:18-29	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalm 30, 32	Haggai 2:1-19	Matthew 24:1-14
Evening	Psalm 42, 43	Revelation 3:1-6	

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Morning	Psalm 63, 98	Amos 9:11-15	John 5:30-47
Evening	Psalm 103	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17	