

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti (1872)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Rejoice and Sing"

Rejoice and sing! Rejoice and sing!
Your gracious King as Man is born
And lays aside His glory.
He is adored as Christ and Lord,
And ev'ry tongue repeats the wondrous story.

Words and Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750).

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Crawford

Isaiah 42:1-4a

Pastor: Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

People: *He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;*

Pastor: a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

People: *He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth.*

Pastor: Or Savior has come to the world and will soon return.

ALL: *We will sing glory to the newborn King!*

 *Congregation stand as able.*

HYMN OF GLORY TO THE KING

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847);
adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Glory be to God the Father, Maker and Sustainer of all things;
Glory be to God the Son, the Savior of sinners and Lord of the Church;
Glory be to the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, Comforter and
Seal of the saints;
Glory be to the Majesty on high, ever three and ever one;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD 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 all the world.

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, bring forth justice to all the nations.*

The Advent candle is lit today by Bud, Mary T, Win, and Ella Kate Miller.

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Justin Richardson

Isaiah 11:1-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF HUMILITY

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

Bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

Words: Theodore Baker, 1894; Harriett R. Spaeth, 1875; John C. Mattes, 1914.
Music: German melody, 15th century / arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

☒ HYMN OF THE INCARNATION

“Joy Has Dawned”



1. Joy has danwed up - on the world, prom - ised from cre -
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the
4 4. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n, giv - en as a



a - tion: God's sal - va - tion now un - furled,
an - gels, as the might - y Prince of Life
glo - ry; gifts of men from dis - tant lands
7 ran - som; re - con - cil - ing God and man -



hope for ev - ery na - tion. Not with fan - fares
shel - ters in a sta - ble. Hands that set each
pro - phes - y a sto - ry. Gold, a King is
10 Christ our might - y Champ - ion! What a Sav - iour,



from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
star in ___ place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
born to - day; in - cense, God is with us;
what a ___ Friend, what a glo - rious mys - t'ry:

13



but a hum - ble gift of love: — Je - sus, born of Ma - ry.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, vul - n'ra - ble and help less.
myrrh, His death will make a way and by His blood He'll win us.
once a babe in Beth - le hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

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

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“Magnificat”

Chancel Choir

My soul will magnify the Lord;
I rejoice in God my Savior,
In the wonder of His favor.
For He has done great things for me;
He was mindful of His servant.
Every age shall call me blessed.
The Hope of Abraham come
In the giving of a Son;
For He who promised is mighty
In remembering His mercy.

My soul will magnify the Lord
For His grace to those who fear Him
Through every generation.
The proud He scatters to the wind
As the ruler's strength is broken,
And the rich are left with nothing.
The humble lifted high,
And the hungry satisfied;
Our Portion and our Treasure,
Our Hope and Help forever.

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend. Copyright © 2010
THANKYOU MUSIC / Adm. by worshiptogether.com songs excl. UK & Europe, Adm.
by Kingsway Music. tym@kingsway.co.uk.

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

Ginny Johnston

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

Lee Sheppard

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: *Almighty God, Who has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty,
we acknowledge that we who are poor and needy
have often acted as though we were rich and satisfied.
Please forgive our arrogant and foolish hearts;
instill in us the awareness of our desperate need of Your grace and mercy
and renew in us the fullness of Your love,
that we may evermore worship and serve You
with glad and grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our gracious Redeemer. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have
eternal life.

—John 3:16

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.*

Glory to the Triune God

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be,
Hence evermore
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

Words: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826. Music: John B. Dykes, 1861.

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.*

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 quest.*

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.

**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. Congregation sings the Hymns for the Eucharist during Communion.*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed, a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Shepherds praising, mother gazing
On her Son, the Prince of Peace.
Child of Mary, He shall carry
Our dear cross for sin's release.
Praise forever, loving purely,
Failing never, dwell securely;
Christ the Babe, our Savior Lord.

Words: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1921; additional text by Joe Strickland, 2017.
Music: The Psalter Hymnal, 1987.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 17-December 23, 2017

SUNDAY, December 17

- 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)

TUESDAY, December 19

- 11:30 a.m. Gospel Manhood
"The Man and His Gospel" Sandy Willson
(Fellowship Hall)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dave Driskill, December 18-24).

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)

Nursery Bonus Fund. Today is the final day to contribute to our Nursery Bonus Fund. This is a wonderful blessing to the women who care for our children each week! 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.

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.

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

| *The Campaign for Covenant* |

FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

Pledges (252 commitments):	<u>\$3,506,682</u>
Receipts:	\$2,852,599
Funds from sale of building:	<u>\$1,987,385</u>
Total funds provided:	\$4,839,984
Funds used for debt:	<u>(\$1,983,644)</u>
Funds available:	\$2,856,340
Costs to date:	<u>(\$2,665,490)</u>
Net funds available:	\$190,850



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*

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

10:30 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator	mcrawford@covpres.com
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Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com
Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor	swillson@covpres.com

MINISTRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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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 • 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	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalm 41, 52	Zechariah 1:7-17	Matthew 24:15-31
Evening	Psalm 44	Revelation 3:7-13	

TUESDAY

Morning	Psalm 45	Zechariah 2:1-13	Matthew 24:32-44
Evening	Psalm 47, 48	Revelation 3:14-22	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalm 119:49-72	Zechariah 3:1-10	Matthew 24:45-51
Evening	Psalm 49, 53	Revelation 4:1-8	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalm 50, 59	Zechariah 4:1-14	Matthew 25:1-13
Evening	Psalm 60, 33	Revelation 4:9-5:5	

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalm 40, 54	Zechariah 7:8-8:8	Matthew 25:14-30
Evening	Psalm 51	Revelation 5:6-14	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalm 55	Zechariah 8:9-17	Matthew 25:31-46
Evening	Psalm 138, 139	Revelation 6:1-17	

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

Morning	Psalm 24, 29	Genesis 3:8-15	John 3:16-21
Evening	Psalm 8, 84	Revelation 12:1-10	