

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



If I were but sure that I should live to see the coming of the Lord, it would be the joyfulest tidings in the world. O that I might see His kingdom come! It is the characteristic of His saints to love His appearing, and to look for that blessed hope.

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come."

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

—Richard Baxter

In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

—Frederick Beuchner

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:10 Wedge Family

10:25 Rutledge Family

Candle of Faith

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

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

8:15 Dan Edwards

10:30 David Driskill

from Isaiah 25

Leader: It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for him,
that he might save us.

ALL: *This is the LORD;
we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."*

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

☒ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven 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 and wonders of His love.

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

 "Joy Has Dawned"


1. Joy has dawned up - on the world,
 2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky
 3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb,
 4. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n,



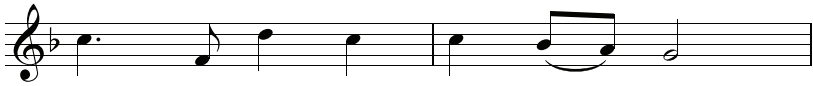
prom - ised from cre - a - tion:
 with the songs of an - gels,
 gaz - ing at the glo - ry;
 giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled,
 as the might - y Prince of Life
 gifts of men from dis - tant lands
 re - con - cil - ing God and man -



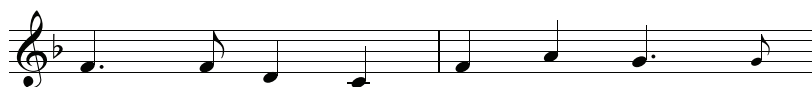
hope for ev - ery na - tion.
 shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 pro - phes - y a sto - ry.
 Christ our might - y Champ - ion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove,
 Hands that set each star in place,
 Gold, a King is born to - day;
 What a Sav - iour, what a Friend,



not with scenes of glo - ry,
 shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 in - cense, God is with us;
 what a glo - rious mys - t'ry:



but a hum - ble gift of love: _____
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, _____
 myrrh, His death will make a way and
 once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _____



Je - sus, born of Ma - ry.
 vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 by His blood He'll win us.
 now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. CCLI 4408246.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Most holy and merciful Father,
We acknowledge and confess that we are
prone to evil and slow in doing good.
You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your life.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, who are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done which displeases you.
Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults,
and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**☒ ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

—Psalm 30:5

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.*

 **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (*4th verse*)

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee;
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866).

Music: Plainsong, 13th century.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

8:15 *Hollye Stigler*

10:30 *Taylor Brown*

Hebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"By Faith"

Congregational Hymn



1. By faith we see the__ hand of God
2. By faith our fa - thers__ roamed the earth
3. By faith the pro - phets__ saw the day
4. By faith the church was__ called to go
5. By faith this moun - tain__ shall be moved



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,
with the pow'r of His pro mise in their hearts,
when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear
in the pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost
and the pow'r of the gos - pel shall pre - vail,



in the lives of those who prove His faith - ful - ness,
of a ho - ly ci - ty built by God's own hand,
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
to de - liv - er cap - tives and to preach good news
for we know in Christ all things are pos - si - ble



who walk by faith and__ not by sight. (v. 2)
a place where peace and__ jus - tice reign. (chorus)
and rise tri - um phant from the grave. (v. 4)
in ev - 'ry cor - ner__ of the earth. (chorus)
for all who call up - on His name. (chorus)

Chorus:

We will stand as chil- dren of the pro - mise;



we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's re - ward.



'Til the race is fin- ished and the work is done,



we'll walk by faith and_ not by sight.

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend. CCLI 5469291.

 **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 Mark Taylor

10:30 Warren Norville

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 12:1-20

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. ¹⁶And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

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

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.

🎵 HYMN OF GLORY

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
to the tune of "Doxology"

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve Him with joy, His praises tell,
Come now before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
He formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock He comes to feed,
The sheep who by His hand were made.

O enter then His gates with joy,
Within His courts His praise proclaim.
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,
O bless and magnify His name.

Because the Lord, our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host,
Be praise and glory evermore.

Be praise and glory evermore.

Words: William Kethe, 1561. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, OLD HUNDREDTH.

🎵 BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 6 - 12, 2020**SUNDAY, December 6**

- 8:15 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
- 9:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary and livestream)

MONDAY, December 7

- 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 7-12).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting, December 6. This morning we will hold a congregational meeting immediately following both services to elect our slate of officers (class of 2023) and the members of our 2021 Nominating Committee. Ballots for each are at the back of this worship guide.

Lessons & Carols. Join us tonight, in person or via livestream, for Lessons & Carols at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary. This will be a special night of worship with seasonal music, both live and virtual, from our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and musicians.

Christmas Eve Services. In order to welcome as many people as possible to our Christmas Eve Services, while remaining safe and socially distant, we are having three services on December 24 at 12:00, 4:00, and 6:00 p.m. Nursery childcare will be available for children ages 5 and under at both the 12:00 and 4:00 services. We will be taking RSVPs for each service; please visit covpres.com/advent beginning December 21 at 9:00 a.m. to RSVP.

2021 Sunday School. We are excited to announce that Sunday School is returning to Sunday mornings (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!

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
Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Shepherding, Middle Adults)	ddriskill@covpres.com
John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families)	jfountain@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music	rbarnes@covpres.com
Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries	jbennett@covpres.com
Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries	shields.rachel.c@gmail.com
Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)	dedwards@covpres.com
Katie Flores, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries, Director of Enfold Disability Ministry	kflores@covpres.com
Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus	bhay@covpres.com
Josh Johnson, Assistant Pastor (Young Adults, Adult Discipleship)	jjohnson@covpres.com
Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries	slitten@covpres.com
Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries	dsluis@covpres.com
Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production	kcaldwell@covpres.com
Meg Cotney, Director of Finance	mcotney@covpres.com
Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services	tyler.cuidon@gmail.com
Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)	phamm@covpres.com
Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities	jherbert@covpres.com
Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media	sloyless@covpres.com
Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)	caseys.odell@gmail.com
Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Senior Pastor	koliver@covpres.com
Traci Parker, Director of Food Services	tparker@covpres.com
Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator	jrichardson@covpres.com
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



CLASS OF 2023 OFFICERS
NOMINEE BALLOT

I am voting "YES" for the slate of officers as a whole:

OFFICE OF ELDER

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Will Brooke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie Logan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Collums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Schaffeld	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Dyess	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Smith T	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Latta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Stigler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OFFICE OF DEACON

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Tripp Alexander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Gorham	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joseph Cascio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Shults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Strickland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bryan Flores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Darrell Tucker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OFFICE OF TRUSTEE

	YES	NO
Perry Given	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merrill Johnston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
NOMINEE BALLOT

REPRESENTATIVES FROM CORNERSTONE, CROSSPOINTE, & THRESHOLD

(choose 3 nominees)

Cameron Daniel Leah Fitts Lauren Ledbetter
Paul Litten Molly Stone

Nominations made from the floor:

1. _____
2. _____

REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOUNDATIONS, LIGHTHOUSE, & LIVING STONES

(choose 2 nominees)

Taylor Brown Collins Clegg Julie Tapscott

Nominations made from the floor:

1. _____
2. _____

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY, KINGDOM BUILDERS,
OPEN DOORS, & UPPER ROOM** (choose 2 nominees)

Darlene Shults Bill Stegall Mary Williamson

Nominations made from the floor:

1. _____
2. _____

ELDER REPRESENTATIVES (choose 3 nominees)

Will Brooke John Hamilton John James
Charlie Logan David O'Dell

Nominations made from the floor:

1. _____
2. _____

DEACON REPRESENTATIVES (choose 3 nominees)

Tripp Alexander Merrill Johnston Clyde Prather
Patrick Strong Darrell Tucker

Nominations made from the floor:

1. _____
2. _____