

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



...to all who are waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem...

—from Luke 2

"Elizabeth is barren. Nor is there much hope; they are both up in years. The positive and the negative are side-by-side: they were both righteous before God...and they had no child...Isn't this sort of combination frequently 'normal'? That is, there are those who are true servants of the Lord and yet some trial, some disappointment, that may be life-long, hangs over their lives. 'Righteous before God' yet 'they had no child'. A very huge fact and a very deep sadness are pressed together."

—Dale Ralph Davis

"Then, for those with ears to hear, Luke provides echoes of earlier stories in Israel's past so that we understand that contained within the framework of this tragedy are the seeds of its resolution. *The narration of barrenness itself becomes grounds for anticipating the gift of a child.*"

—Joel Green

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

8:00 The Loylesses

10:30 The Harrelsons

Lamentations 3:24

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

Christ, himself, is our hope!

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 141:1-2

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!

Give ear to my voice when I call to you!

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

❏ PRAYER OF ADORATION

❏ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"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.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.

 "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, 9th century, Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710; translated by John M. Neale and Music: adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore.

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

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."

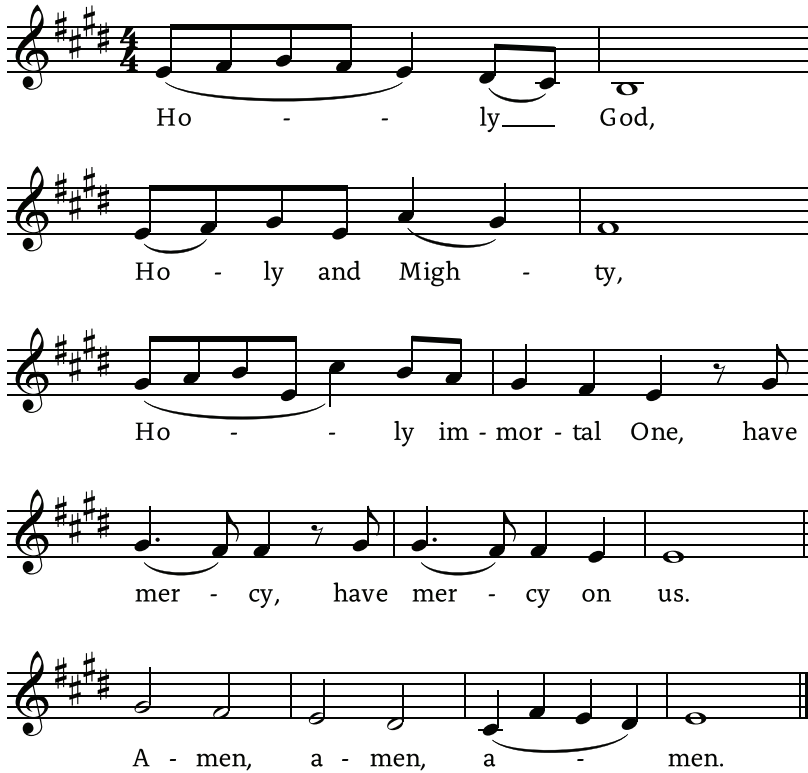
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Maker of all things,
Judge of all men;
We acknowledge with grief our many sins and our wickedness,
We have sinned by thought, word, and deed,
And we have done so against your divine majesty,
Justly provoking your anger and indignation against us.
We earnestly repent as we heartily grieve our many misdoings.
Have mercy upon us most merciful Father;
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may hereafter serve and please you
in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

☒ TRISAGION



Ho - - - ly God,

Ho - ly and Migh - ty,

Ho - - - ly im - mor - tal One, have

mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

Words and Music: CCLI Song #6513081. (c) 2004 Cerdo Verde Music | Curb Songs.
Fernando Ortega. CCLI License #147209. Three-Fold Amen: DANISH, Anonymous.

☒ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

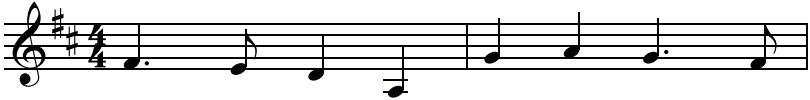
—Galatians 4:4-5

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

"Exult in the Savior's Birth"

Congregational Hymn



1. Shep - herds watched their flocks at night, at -
 2. Pa - gan wise men from the East seek
 3. For to us a child is born, to
 4. Scrip - tures say that Mar - y's boy was



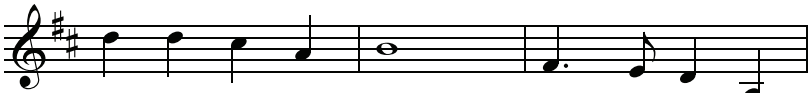
tend - ing low - ly sheep; now with - in a
 out the in - fant King; track - less miles be -
 us a Son is giv'n; He shall reign in
 born that He might die; an - gel voic - es



cat - tle shed, a much strang - er watch they
 hind them lie and now all their rev - 'rence
 right - eous - ness, this Coun - se - lor King from
 burst in praise, their har - mon - y fills the



keep. To - day, a Sav - ior has been born and
 bring. They have come to wor - ship Him with
 heav'n. The go - vern - ment will rest on Him, He
 sky. Sing, "Glo - ry in the high - est heav'n!" Sing,



He is Christ, the Lord; placed with - in a
 spic - es and with gold; count - less mil - lions
 is the might - y God; Prince of Peace, this
 "Gra - cious peace on earth!" those on whom His



hum - ble trough, this ba - by must be a - dored.
 seek Him still, Who's ad - vent was long fore - told.
 gen - tle King yet rules with a might - y rod.
 fa - vor rests, ex - ult in the Sav - ior's birth.

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 | 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

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

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.

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Congregation, please read aloud the portions that are *italicized*.

Words of Institution

from Luke 22:14-23; 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 worshippers, 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.

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed,
 3. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore Him;
 4. Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther,



ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 when the Vir - gin, blest of grace,
 an - gel hosts, His prais - es sing;
 and, O Ho - ly Ghost to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 pow'rs do - min - ions bow be - fore Him;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He, the Source, the End - ing He,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 and ex - tol our God and King;
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see,
 first re - vealed His sa - cred face,
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring,
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th century; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866). Music: Plainsong, 13th century.

"In My Place"



In my place, He stood con - demned,___



He who knew no sin___ be - came sin for us___



that we might be - come___ His right - eous - ness___



Bear - ing all my sin and shame,___



the pun - ish-ment and blame;___ He con quered the grave,___



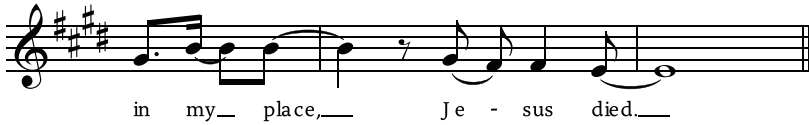
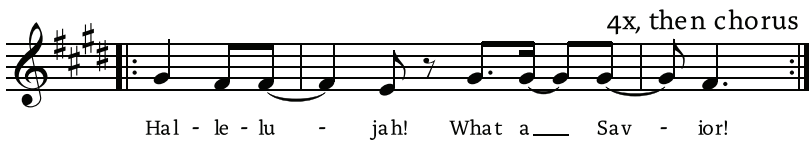
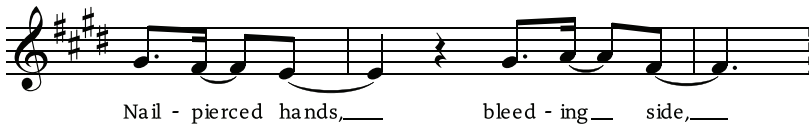
that we might be - come___ the heirs of___ grace___

Chorus:

In my___ place___ Je - sus___ died,___



the spot - less___ Lamb___ laid down His life;___

**Bridge:**

Words and Music: CCLI Song # 5433629. Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker. Adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:21. © 2008 Bleecker Publishing (Admin. by Michael Bleecker) Curb Dayspring Music (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.). CCLI License # 147209.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: November 28 - December 4, 2021**SUNDAY, November 28**

8:00 a.m.	Gathered Worship
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages (see page 20)
10:30 a.m.	Gathered Worship
4:30 p.m.	6th Grade Small Groups (Youth Area)
5:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High "Friendsgiving"

MONDAY, November 29

8:15 a.m.	Women's Prayer Time (Parlor)
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WEDNESDAY, December 1

6:00 p.m.	Jr. High Christmas Party (Skates 280)
6:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, December 4

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Christmas in Fairfield (Hope Health Center)
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Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, November 29 - December 5).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lesson & Carols. Our annual Lessons & Carols service is Sunday, December 5, 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!

Advent & Christmas Journals. Our pastors and ministry staff have written an Advent & Christmas Journal for this season. Please pick up your copy in the Sanctuary foyer!

Nursery Bonus Fund. Please consider giving to our Nursery Bonus Fund. This fund goes to our wonderful nursery staff who create a nurturing environment for our youngest to participate in the life of the church. You may donate online at covpres.com or drop your donation by the Nursery Desk through December 1.

Church-wide Memory Passage. Our new memory passage for Advent and Christmas is Galatians 4:4-7:

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Congregational Meeting, December 5. On Sunday, December 5, 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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Directional signs are located around the church.

CROSSPOINTE Fellowship Hall	<i>mid 30s to early 40s</i>
THRESHOLD E301	<i>Singles, college students, and young marrieds; 20s and 30s</i> (Pastor: Josh Johnson)
COMMUNITY E305	<i>All ages and life stages</i>
OPEN DOORS & UPPER ROOM S101	<i>late 60s and above</i> (Pastor: Marty Crawford)
CORNERSTONE S100	<i>late 30s to late 40s</i>
FOUNDATIONS DINING ROOM	<i>early 40s to early 50s</i>
LIGHTHOUSE E304	<i>late 30s to early 50s</i> (Pastor: David Driskill)
LIVING STONES E303	<i>late 40s to late 50s</i>
KINGDOM BUILDERS E201	<i>late 40s to late 60s</i> (Pastor: Dan Edwards)
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	<i>Students grades 7-12</i> (Pastor: John Fountain)

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mrcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Shepherding, Middle Adults)	ddriskill@covpres.com
John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families)	jfountain@covpres.com
Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@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, Missions)	jjohnson@covpres.com
Scott Leveille, Teacher in Residence (Curriculum)	scottleveille@gmail.com
Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries	slitten@covpres.com
Andrew Luchenbill, Assistant Director of Guys' Ministries	aluchenbill@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	tcuidon@covpres.com
Anne Hall, Assistant Director of Nursery Ministries	nursery@covpres.com
Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)	phamm@covpres.com
Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities	jherbert@covpres.com
Deidre Lackey, Ministry Assistant (Students and Families)	dlackey@covpres.com
Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media	sloyless@covpres.com
Jocelyn Martin, Ministry Assistant (Children's)	jmartin@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

2021

Eric Getty

Daniel Murray

Warren Norville

Sandy Stradtman

Clay Wheeler

2022

Ty Dedmon

John Hamilton

Mark Hogewood

John James

David O'Dell

Norman Pless

Kurt Senn

2023

Will Brooke

Nathan Collums

Jeff Dyess

Michael Latta

Charlie Logan

Bob Schaffeld

John Smith T

Steve Stigler

DEACONS

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

2023

Tripp Alexander

Joseph Cascio

Richard Cox

Jay Evans

Bryan Flores

Gary Gorham

Jeff Hayes

John Shults

Joe Strickland

Darrell Tucker

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

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.

NOVEMBER READING PLAN

28	EZEKIEL □ 39-42	2 PETER □ 2-3
29	□ 43-44	1 JOHN □ 1
30	□ 45-46	□ 2

DECEMBER READING PLAN

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

