# The Lord's Day in Worship

#### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ the Creator Sunday December 9, 2018

Earth was waiting, spent and restless, with a mingled hope and fear, faithful men and women praying, 'Surely, Lord, the day is near: the Desire of all the nations—it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest to a virgin meek came down, and he burdened her with blessing, and he pained her with renown; for she bore the Lord's anointed for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him since the ages first began, for in him was hid the secret which through all the ages ran—Son of Mary, Son of David, Son of God, and Son of Man.

—W.C. Smith, 1867

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Will, Dawson, Wiley, Parr, and Wells Cooper

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."

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

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

O Come, Emmanuel, to ransom Your people.

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marty Crawford

#### **READING FROM THE PROPHETS**

Dawson Cooper

Malachi 4:1-6

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.* 

#### M HYMN OF LONGING

"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, Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710; translated by John M. Neale; Thomas R. Birks, 1874. Music: Adapted rom Plainsong by Thomas Helmore.

# M PRAYER OF ADORATION



#### FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup>And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup>and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

- $^{\rm 67} \rm And$  his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
- 68"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
- <sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
- <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
- <sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;
- <sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
- 73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
- 74that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
- 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
- <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

- <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
- <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
- <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."
- <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.* 

#### **MHYMN OF ADVENT**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand; Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood; Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, Spreads its vanguard on the way; As the Light of light descendeth, From the realms of endless day; That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim, with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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

#### **® READING FROM THE EPISTLES**

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus:

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
 7 but emptied himself,
 by taking the form of a servant,
 being born in the likeness of men.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and 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.* 

#### **M HYMN OF INCARNATION**

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor"



Words: Frank Houghton, 1894-1972. Music: French carol melody.

#### **GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS**

"Joy to the World" Chancel Choir

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

Joy! Joy! Joy to the earth! Joy! Joy! Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ. While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the sounding joy!

No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He come to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found. Far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! Joy! Joy! Joy to the world! He rules with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove. The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, Wonders of His love!

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: Thomas Keesecker.

#### **MASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

#### **MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Visitors and members, please take a moment to fill out the pew pad. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 20.

Kindergarteners - 2nd graders are dismissed at this time (see page 20 for details).

#### THE MORNING PRAYERS

Lee Sheppard

# **SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

John 1:3

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

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.

# **MESSAGE**

"the greatness of Jesus" Sandy Willson

#### 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.

The congregation will read aloud the portions that are *italicized*.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

John Fountain

Lord Jesus Christ,
Through whom and for Whom all things were made,
We bow before Your Divine Majesty
To confess our many failures and sins:
We have violated all of your commandments
In thought, word, and deed,
Both in what we have done
And in what we have left undone.
Please forgive us,
And restore us to Yourself
That we may joyfully submit to Your will
And worthily magnify Your Name,
Now and forever.

# **Assurance of Pardon**

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

-Isaiah 1:18

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.

# **⋈** Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead,

# **⊠ Congregational Response**

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
C come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **Words of Institution**

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

#### **Prayer of Humble Access**

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 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.
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**

Congregation, please sing the Hymns for the Eucharist during Communion.

"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.

#### "The First Noel"

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel! Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel! Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three, Full rev'rently upon their knee, And offered there, in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense; Noel, Noel! Noel! Noel! Born is the King of Israel

Then let us all with one accord,
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought;
Noel, Noel! Noel! Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!
Born is the King of Israel!

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

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

# **© CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day, To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray;

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

#### **BENEDICTION**

# THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 9 - 15, 2018

**SUNDAY, December 9** 

8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages (see page 22)

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

Children's Worship | 3K through 2nd grade

6:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols, Chancel and Children's Choirs

(Sanctuary; dessert fellowship immediately following)

**MONDAY, December 10** 

8:15 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Ingram Link's office)

**TUESDAY, December 11** 

5:30 p.m. Lovelady Dinner & Concert

FRIDAY, December 14

5:00-9:00 p.m. Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop

(6th-8th grade girls)

**SATURDAY, December 15** 

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Created for a Purpose Christmas Workshop

(3rd-5th grade girls)

#### 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 & 4K • C221** (available for the entire worship hour)

**Kindergarten - C221** (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)

**1st - 2nd Grade - C316** (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)

**Congregational Meeting.** This morning we will have a congregational meeting to elect our class of 2021 officers and also to elect our 2019 Nominating Committee members. Please remain in the sanctuary following gathered worship.

**Lessons & Carols.** TONIGHT our own Chancel Choir and Children's Choir will present "Jesus Is...," a lessons and carols service at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for the service and stay for a dessert fellowship immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery childcare is available.

**Lovelady Dinner & Concert.** Our annual Lovelady Dinner & Concert is this Tuesday, December 11 from 5:30-9:00 p.m. with Act of Congress. This special evening is the most rocking night Covenant has all year and is fun for the whole family! Visit one of our information tables or go to covpres.com/lovelady to volunteer.

**Ordination Service.** Josh Johnson, Director of Young Adult Ministries, will be ordained at Covenant on Sunday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend this service as Josh is ordained into the PCA.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.** Join us at either 4:30 or 6:00 p.m on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service. This special service is a perfect time to reflect on the meaning of Advent and prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior. Nursery childcare is available.

Children's Ministry Events. We have lots of events coming up in our Children's Ministry. First, if you would like to help with our Christmas VBS during the Lovelady Dinner & Concert, please sign up at covpres.com/lovelady. Second, all K-6th graders are invited to Pancakes & PJs on Friday, December 21 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We will enjoy pancakes and a movie in our coziest pajamas! Contact Laura Tucker to register (Itucker@covpres.com). Finally, the Established Conference is coming to Birmingham January 25-26, 2019. This conference is for parents, grandparents, volunteers, and anyone who has a desire to love, teach, and disciple children. You can find out about the available workshops and register at pcacdm.org/established-birmingham.



# CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

# SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT December 9, 16, & 23 Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 9 • 6:00 p.m.

An evening of worship presented by our Chancel and Children's Choirs

CHRISTMAS EVE AT COVENANT Candlelight Service • 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 30

Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

#### 9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

**COLLEGE** | DINING ROOM\* College students

**COMMUNITY** | E305 All ages and life stages

**CORNERSTONE** | S104 30s and 40s

**CROSSPOINTE** | S100 20s and 30s

**FOUNDATIONS** | E304 30s and 40s

**LIGHTHOUSE** | E301 3os and 4os

**LIVING STONES** | E303 40s and 50s

**KINGDOM BUILDERS** | E201 50s and 60s

**OPEN DOORS** | S105 *70s and above* 

**UPPER ROOM** | S101 *60s and 70s* 

**THRESHOLD** | DINING ROOM Singles and young marrieds;

20s and 30s

**YOUTH** | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12

<sup>\*</sup>The college class meets at 12:00 p.m. and includes lunch.

#### STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator mcrawford@covpres.com

David Driskill, Assistant Pastor 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 John Fountain, Director of Student Ministries ifountain@covpres.com Phyllis Hamm. Ministry Assistant phamm@covpres.com Bill Hav. Pastor Emeritus bhav@covpres.com Josh Johnson, Director of Young Adults ijohnson@covpres.com Sara Litten. Director of Girls Ministries slitten@covpres.com Stacev Loyless, Director of Communications and Media slovless@covpres.com Casey O'Dell, Children's Music Director/Worship Assistant caseys.odell@gmail.com Kim Oliver. Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor koliver@covpres.com Traci Parker. Director of Food Services tparker@covpres.com Tyrone Perry, Facilities Manager tperry@covpres.com Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Financial Administrator irichardson@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, Administrative Assistant vwilliams@covpres.com

#### **RULING ELDERS**

2018 2019 2020 AC Frese Ty Dedmon Bill Bennett Eric Getty Jeff Dyess Will Brooke John Hamilton Rick Flynn Michael Latta Daniel Murray Heath Henderson Charlie Logan Warren Norville Tom McKnight Paul Loyless Jason Peevy John Smith T Bob Schaffeld Ben Walker Richard Thompson Lee Sheppard Clay Wheeler Steve Stigler Charles White Mark Taylor John Wood

#### **DEACONS**

Darrell Tucker

2020 2018 2019 Brandon Bishop Jim Bennett Tripp Alexander Nathan Collums Gary Gorham Paul Darden John Harrelson Keith Harrelson Jay Evans Randall Lancaster Bryan Flores Jeff Hayes Matt Searson John Gant Steve Killgore Patrick Strong John David Gray Steve Pfitzer

Brent Powell Marty Martin

John Shank Bud Miller

Todd Sitton Tyler O'Connor

William Slappey John Shults

Billy Tapscott Danny Smith

Robert Stephens

Clark Worrell

# **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 2018.

#### **DECEMBER READING PLAN**

	EZEKIEL	1 PETER
1/2	□ 45-48	□ 3-1 John 1
	DANIEL	1 JOHN
3	□ 1-2	□ 2
4	□ 3-4	□ 3
5	□ 5-6	□ 4
6	□ 7-8	□ 5
7	□ 9-10	□ 2 John
8/9	□ 11-Hosea 4	□ 3 John-Jude
	HOSEA	REVELATION
10	□ 5-6	□1
11	□ 7-10	□ 2
12	□ 11-14	□ 3
13	□ Joel	□ 4
	AMOS	
14	□ 1-3	□ 5
15/16	□ 4-9	□ 6-7
17	□ Obadiah-Jonah 3	□8
18	□ Jonah 4-Micah 2	□ 9
	MICAH	
19	□ 3	□ 10
20	□ 4-5	□ 11
21	□ 6-7	□ 12
22/23	□ Nahum 1-Habakkuk 2	□ 13-14
24	□ Habakkuk 3-Zephaniah 2	□ 15
25	□ Zephaniah 3-Haggai 2	□ 16
	ZECHARIAH	
26	□ 1-3	□ 17
27	□ 4-6	□ 18
28	□ 7-9	□ 19
29/30	□ 10-Malachi 1	□ 20-21
	MALACHI	
31	□ 2-4	□ 22