

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

Today is the first Sunday of the season of Advent, during which time the Christian Church has traditionally remembered the First Coming of the Lord and eagerly anticipated His Second Coming. The season ends with Christmas Day, when we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

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 labored 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

Candle of Faith

Nick, Julie, Graham, Ellen, and Harris Baggett

Isaiah prophesied, “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,’ declares the LORD.”

And Paul said that we now are “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Josh Johnson

 *Congregation stand as able.*

☒ HYMN OF ADVENT

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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

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

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

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

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

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Kristi Gidley

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.

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“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 cent. / arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609.

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, Who, looking upon our weakness and our woe,
sent Your Son to be born of the virgin Mary
that we may be delivered from darkness into the glorious light
of Your Kingdom,
we worship and adore You
and pray that You enable us to glorify You with joyful hearts
and voices
that Your great Name may be forever exalted,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Chancel Choir

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; He comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen; adapted by Charles P. Price. Music: BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN, arranged by Kenneth Dake.

☒ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

Children's Worship Information:

Children ages 3 to 4 may attend Children's Worship for the entire worship service, while kindergarteners through 2nd graders are dismissed during the Passing of the Peace. Following the worship service, parents will find their children attending Children's Worship in the following rooms:

3K ▪ C224/C225 (*available for the entire worship hour*)

4K ▪ C221 (*available for the entire worship hour*)

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

1st & 2nd Grades ▪ C316 (*dismissed during the Passing of the Peace*)*

**Children on the main level will dismiss through the door leading into the Fellowship Hall, and children in the balcony will dismiss through the door closest to the elevator.*

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors and members, please take a moment to fill out the pew pad with your full name and names of any family members attending with you. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 19.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Steve Stigler

☒ READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF FAITH

"He Will Hold Me Fast"



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those he saves are his de - light,
3. For my life he bled and died,



5 when the tempt-er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
pre-cious in his ho - ly sight,
just - ice has been sa - tis - fied,



9 I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path,
He'll not let my soul be lost, his pro - mis - es shall last,
Raised with him to end-less life, He will hold me fast



13 for my love is oft - en cold, He must hold me fast.
bought by him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
"Till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last.



17 He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast,



22 for my Sav - ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

MESSAGE

"GOD'S FOREVER"

Sandy Willson

Horizontal lines for writing.

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 communing but would like to participate, please come forward and 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.

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

Prayer of Confession

Marty Crawford

*Sovereign God,
Who faithfully loves us and keeps us to the end,
we confess that we have at times failed to trust Your steadfast love
and to live in the assurance of Your promises;
wherefore we earnestly beg Your forgiveness
and plead for renewal of our hearts,
that, with deep affection and high thanksgiving,
we may confidently walk with You and serve You forever,
in the blessed Name of our faithful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

☒ Assurance of Pardon

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
—Psalm 107:1

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.

☒ Profession of Our Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XVII, i

*They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved,
effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit,
can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace,
but shall certainly persevere therein to the end,
and be eternally saved.*

☒ Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, attr. to Louis Bourgeois (1551).

Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Mark 14:22-25

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.

“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.

"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.

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

 **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

 **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

 **BENEDICTION**

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 1 - 7, 2019

SUNDAY, December 1

- 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages
(see page 21)
- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)
Children's Worship | Rising 3k through 2nd grades
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Small Group Christmas Parties

MONDAY, December 2

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

TUESDAY, December 3

- 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Lovelady Dinner & Concert

WEDNESDAY, December 4

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. PCA Jr. High Skating Party (Skates 280)

FRIDAY, December 6

- 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Christmas in Fairfield (Hope Health Center)

SATURDAY, December 7

- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Marty Crawford, December 2 - 8).

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Please see our full calendar of Covenant events at covpres.com/calendar.

Lovelady Dinner & Concert. The Lovelady Dinner & Concert is Tuesday night, and it is one of the highlights of the Advent season at Covenant! Please pray for the women and children who will be with us from the Lovelady Center, that they will know God's love as we await Jesus' second Advent!

Christmas in Fairfield. Wondering how you can help with Christmas in Fairfield? Please consider donating funds to help us fill the toy shop; make checks payable to Covenant marked for Christmas in Fairfield and drop them in offering plate or in the church office. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting. We will have a brief congregational meeting on December 8, immediately following worship, to elect our class of 2022 Church Officers and our 2020 Nominating Committee members. Please remain in the Sanctuary.

Lessons & Carols. Our annual Lessons & Carols service is Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. This service will be presented by our Chancel Choir and Children's Choir, with a full orchestra. There will be a dessert fellowship immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery childcare will be provided.

Nursery Bonus Fund. Every year Covenant collects money to provide a year-end bonus for the wonderful women who care for our children in the Nursery. Please prayerfully consider giving to these women who give so much to Covenant. You can place your donation in the envelopes circulated in Sunday School, drop it in the offering plate, or drop it off at the Nursery desk by December 8. Thank you!

Family Promise. Covenant is hosting the families of Family Promise the week of December 8. There are several different ways to help, from making dinner for the families to spending the night at Covenant during the week. Please sign up in your Sunday School classes. Contact Barbara Thompson with any questions, babsfthompson@gmail.com.

Act of Congress at Covenant. Join us for a Christmas concert with Act of Congress on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Act of Congress, one of Alabama's best-known acoustic bands, will be performing traditional and contemporary Christmas songs. You do not want to miss this opportunity to hear them live! (Nursery childcare available by reservation; nursery@covpres.com)



"Gloria
in excelsis
Deo!"

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

December 1, 8, 15, & 22

Gathered Worship ▪ 10:30 a.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 8 ▪ 6:00 p.m.

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

ACT OF CONGRESS

December 15 ▪ 6:00 p.m.

A concert of traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 29

Gathered Worship ▪ 10:30 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE COMMONS	<i>College students*</i>
COMMUNITY E305	<i>All ages and life stages</i>
CORNERSTONE S104	<i>30s and 40s</i>
CROSSPOINTE S100	<i>Young families; 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>50s and 60s</i>
OPEN DOORS S105	<i>70s and above</i>
THRESHOLD DINING ROOM	<i>Singles and young marrieds; 20s and 30s</i>
UPPER ROOM S101	<i>60s and 70s</i>
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	<i>Students grades 7-12</i>

**College students gather in Commons Area at 12:00 for class and lunch.*

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults, Shepherding)	ddriskill@covpres.com
Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Children)	dedwards@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com
Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor	swillson@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music	rbarnes@covpres.com
Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries	jbennett@covpres.com
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Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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RULING ELDERS

2019

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

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

DEACONS

2019

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

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

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 2019.

DECEMBER READING PLAN

	EZEKIEL	2 PETER
1	<input type="checkbox"/> 43-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-3
		1 JOHN
2	<input type="checkbox"/> 47-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
	DANIEL	
3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
4	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
7/8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 John - 3 John
	HOSEA	JUDE
9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude
		REVELATION
10	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
11	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
13	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
	AMOS	
14/15	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
16	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
17	<input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
18	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
	MICAH	
19	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
20	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
21/22	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-Nahum 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-13
23	<input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
24	<input type="checkbox"/> Zephaniah	<input type="checkbox"/> 15
25	<input type="checkbox"/> Haggai	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
	ZECHARIAH	
26	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 17
27	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 18
28/29	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-20
30	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 21
31	<input type="checkbox"/> Malachi	<input type="checkbox"/> 22