

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ the Word Sunday
December 2, 2018

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near" we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
You are children of the day."

Lo, the lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
Once and all to be forgiven.

That when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run!

—Latin Hymn, 6th Century

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Paul, Stacey, Evie, and Addie Loyless

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness
but have the light of light."

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.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus; come to comfort Your people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Edwards

FIRST READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Hollye Stigler

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE

“The Heavens Declare Thy Glory”

The heavens declare Thy glory, The firmament, Thy power;
Day unto day the story Repeats from hour to hour;
Night unto night, replying, Proclaims in every land,
Oh Lord, with voice undying, The wonders of Thy hand.

The sun with royal splendor Goes forth to chant Thy praise,
And moon-beams soft and tender Their gentler anthems raise;
O'er every tribe and nation The music, strange, is poured,
The song of all creation, To Thee, creation's Lord.

How perfect, just, and holy The precepts Thou hast giv'n,
Still making wise the lowly They lift the thoughts to heav'n;
How pure, how soul-restoring Thy gospel's heav'nly ray,
A brighter radiance pouring Than noon of brightest day.

All heaven on high rejoices To do its Maker's will;
The stars, with solemn voices Resound Thy praises still;
So let my whole behavior, Thoughts, words, and actions be,
Oh Lord, my strength, my Savior, One ceaseless song to Thee.

Words: Psalm 19:1-6; 14; Thomas R. Birks, 1874. Music: Rick Barnes, 2011.

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;
And, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

SECOND READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 3:1-19

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

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

☒ HYMN OF ADVENT

"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, 1830y.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF JOY

"Joy Has Dawned"



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



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



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



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

13



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

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come"

Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him,
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood,
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord;
The Lord, Almighty God;
Who was and is and is to come,
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below;
For Christ is coming, is coming soon;
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

Words: Revelation 22; adapted by Ruth Manz. Music: Paul Manz, 1954.

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.

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

Mark Taylor

☒ READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 1:1, 2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.

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.

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

Josh Johnson

*Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Word, Son of God, Savior of Sinners,
You are preeminent above all things,
yet we have often treated you with apathy and distrust.
Please forgive our irreverence and ingratitude
and so transform our hearts
that we may worship and serve You faithfully now and forever.*

Amen

☒ Assurance of Pardon

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

—John 1:11-13

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,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

☒ 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,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

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 it 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.

“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.

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming”

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

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

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

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

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

☒ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus, what a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior makes me whole.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

☒ BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: December 2 - 8, 2018

SUNDAY, December 2

- 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. Samford University Acappella Choir (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, December 3

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

TUESDAY, December 4

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Study: The Book of Joshua (E201)

WEDNESDAY, December 5

- 6:00-7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, December 7

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas in Fairfield (Hope Health Clinic, Fairfield, AL)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (David Driskill, December 3-9).

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)

Samford Acappella Choir. Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for a concert with Samford University's Acappella Choir. You do not want to miss this internationally acclaimed choir as we begin the season of Advent!

Congregational Meeting. On Sunday, December 9 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 for this meeting.

Nursery Bonus Fund. Each year the Covenant family provides a Christmas bonus for the women who care for our children in the Nursery. Please consider giving to this fund that blesses the women who are such a blessing to us. You may drop your gift in the offering plate, at the Nursery Welcome Desk, in the Church Office, or in the donation envelope in your Sunday School class. Please submit your gifts by December 9, and thank you in advance for your generosity!

Christmas in Fairfield. Please consider donating funds to the Christmas in Fairfield Toy Shop. Christmas in Fairfield provides clothing for children in need and parents the opportunity to shop for toys and gifts at highly reduced prices. In order to fill the shop, we need monetary donations. Donations may be given at one of our two information tables or dropped by the church office. Please make checks payable to Covenant, marked for Christmas in Fairfield. Thank you!

Lessons & Carols. On December 9 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 for a dessert fellowship immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.

Lovelady Dinner & Concert. Our annual Lovelady Dinner & Concert is 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! 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.



"Gloria
in excelsis
Deo!"

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

December 2, 9, 16, & 23

Gathered Worship ▪ 10:30 a.m.

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY'S ACAPPELLA CHOIR

December 2 ▪ 6:00 p.m.

A special performance by this award-winning choir

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

**The college class meets at 12:00 p.m. and includes lunch.*

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor	swillson@covpres.com

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RULING ELDERS

2018

AC Frese

Eric Getty

John Hamilton

Daniel Murray

Warren Norville

Jason Peevy

Ben Walker

Clay Wheeler

Charles White

2019

Ty Dedmon

Jeff Dyess

Rick Flynn

Heath Henderson

Tom McKnight

John Smith T

Richard Thompson

2020

Bill Bennett

Will Brooke

Michael Latta

Charlie Logan

Paul Loyless

Bob Schaffeld

Lee Sheppard

Steve Stigler

Mark Taylor

John Wood

DEACONS

2018

Brandon Bishop

Nathan Collums

John Harrelson

Randall Lancaster

Matt Searson

Patrick Strong

Darrell Tucker

2019

Jim Bennett

Gary Gorham

Keith Harrelson

Jeff Hayes

Steve Killgore

Steve Pfitzer

Brent Powell

John Shank

Todd Sitton

William Slappey

Billy Tapscott

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

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

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