

# The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CHRISTMASTIDE | DECEMBER 26, 2021 | 10:30 AM

"Circumcision was the sign of God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:11). On the eighth day, Hebrew males were to be circumcised and so demonstrate their consecration to God...The circumcision made with hands foreshadowed the circumcision made without hands (Col. 2:11). Christ was cut off for our sake. He was rejected so that we might be gathered in. An now 'neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation' (Gal. 6:15)."

—Mitchell Chase

"...'all things' are drawn into the mutiny of the human race and its enmity toward God, and their strained relations with the Creator must be 'patched up,' brought once more into harmony with him. The scope of redemption is as great as that of the fall; it embraces creation as a whole."

—Al Wolters

 **CALL TO WORSHIP** **RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 98:1-3

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

All: *The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.*

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All: *All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.*

 **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

 *Congregation stand as able.*

## ❏ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"Joy to the World"


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

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

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

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

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

 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo,

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo,

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem, and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo,

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo.

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo,

Glo...ria

In excelsis Deo.

Words: traditional French carol. Music: traditional French melody; arr. by  
Edward S. Barnes, 1937.

## READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 17:1-14

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 whole, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No 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. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>8</sup>And 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.”

<sup>9</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup>This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

<sup>11</sup>You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup>He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup>both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

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. Amen.*

## ❏ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

—Colossians 2:6-7, 11-15

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

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"  
*Congregational Hymn*

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;

Refrain:

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

From God our heav'nly Father,  
A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
(Refrain)

"Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright:  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might."  
(Refrain)

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding,  
In tempest, storm, and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straight-way,  
The Son of God to find.  
(Refrain)

Words and Music: traditional English carol.



## ☒ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

*And also with you.*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*See page 16 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 2:21

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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 Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**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 worshipers, 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.*

"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.

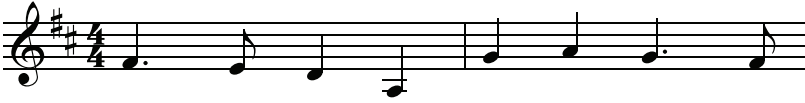
Rank on rank the host of heaven,  
Spreads its vanguard on the way;  
As the Light of light descendeth,  
From the realms of endless day;  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish,  
As the darkness clears away.

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!"

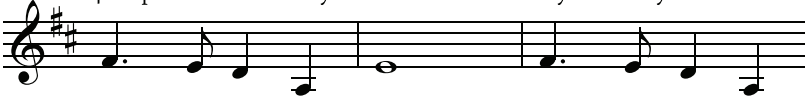
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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

## "Exult in the Saviour's Birth"



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



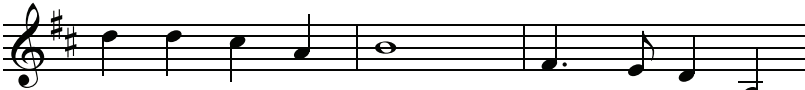
tend - ing low - ly sheep; now with - in a  
 out the in - fant King; track - less miles be -  
 us a Son is giv'n; He shall reign in  
 born that He might die; an - gel voic - es



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.

Words and Music: CCLI Song # 4408246. Keith Getty, Stuart Townend. © 2004 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI License # 147209.

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Financial Stewardship.** It is not too late to contribute to the 2021 General Fund. Our December goal is \$900,000. If you are considering a year-end gift, our church office will be open December 31. If you would like information about making a gift of stock or other securities, please contact Marty Crawford at 205-871-7002 or [mcrawford@covpres.com](mailto:mcrawford@covpres.com). Also, in November we asked our congregation to make 2022 financial commitments to Covenant's General Fund. If you have not yet made your pledge, please take a moment to consider how the Lord is leading you to give in the coming year. You may mail in your commitment card or bring it by the office.

**Sunday, January 2.** On Sunday, January 2, we will have one gathered worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School that day.

**Women's Retreat 2022.** Ladies, mark your calendars! February 4-5, 2022, we will gather at the Capitol Hill Marriott in Prattville, AL, for a women's retreat. Join us Friday night at 6:30 for dinner, fun, and sharing. Saturday morning we will start at 9:00 and end our retreat after dinner at 6:30. Registration is open now through January 4. The cost is \$130, plus hotel room (up to four women per room). Visit [covpres.com/womens-retreat](http://covpres.com/womens-retreat) for all of the details and to register.

**Women's Bible Studies.** Ladies, we have several Winter/Spring 2022 Bible studies to choose from! The studies begin mid-January, and registration is open now. You can choose from Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Sunday evenings for our "Remember Your Joy" study beginning January 11, 12, and 23 respectively. Divine Design Discipleship resumes the "In the Vault" study on January 25, and we will have one more women's study option on Wednesday evenings beginning January 12.

**Church-wide Memory Passage.** Our memory passage from Advent through Epiphany is Galatians 4:4-7:

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



## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mrcrawford@covpres.com
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Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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## 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.

## DECEMBER READING PLAN

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

**SERMON RESOURCES**

*Our pastors are using the following resources as they study and prepare for their sermons.*

*Luke*, R. T. France

*Luke*, Chapters 1-13, Dale Ralph Davis

*The Gospel of Luke*, Joel B. Green

*Luke*, Mark L. Strauss

*Luke, Exegetical/Commentary of the New Testament*, David E. Garland