

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.

—Jeremiah 31:16-17

"As Pharaoh endangered the infant Moses, so Herod seeks to slay the child Jesus. When Pharaoh later tried to kill Moses, he fled to a foreign land, Midian; and following the death of that Pharaoh, he returned to Egypt in obedience to Yahweh's commission. Similarly, Jesus escapes death by fleeing to a foreign country, Egypt; and once Herod dies, he returns to his own land to carry out his mission. As Israel was redeemed by the death of a Passover lamb, so Jesus will give his own life as 'a ransom for many' (Matt. 20:28)."

—Knox Chamblin

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 96

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

*ALL: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

Leader: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

*ALL: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."*

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

☒ Congregation stand as able.

☒ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.
(Refrain)

Frankencense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.
(Refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Refrain)

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857.

 "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found,
 He is my light my strength my song;
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm;
 What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
 My comforter, my all in all,
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
 Fullness of God in helpless Babe;
 This gift of love and righteousness,
 Scorned by the ones He came to save.
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
 The wrath of God was satisfied;
 For ev'ry sin on Him was laid,
 Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious day,
 Up from the grave He rose again;
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
 For I am His and He is mine,
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny;
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand;
 'Til He returns or calls me home,
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!
 'Til He returns or calls me home,
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Psalm 68:4-6

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
 lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;
 his name is the LORD;
 exult before him!

⁵Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
 is God in his holy habitation.

⁶God settles the solitary in a home;
 he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
 but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

from Exodus 4:22

"Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son,"

Hosea 11:1-2, 8-9

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
 and out of Egypt I called my son.

²The more they were called,
 the more they went away;
 they kept sacrificing to the Baals
 and burning offerings to idols.

⁸How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
 How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?
 How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me;
 my compassion grows warm and tender.

⁹I will not execute my burning anger;
 I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and not a man,
 the Holy One in your midst,
 and I will not come in wrath.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Gracious Father in Heaven,
We confess that we have sinned too many times
And in too many ways to count;
We have loved other things more than you;
We have sought peace and prosperity apart from you;
We have cared not for the least of these by humbling ourselves
and considering others as more important.
Forgive us, Lord,
and allow your compassion to grow warm and tender toward us,
That our compassion might grow toward our neighbor,
For the sake of Jesus our King, in whose name we pray, Amen.*

❏ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

—Hosea 14:4

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.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"



1. Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the tree!
2. Tell me, ye who hear him groan-ing, was there ev-er grief like his?
3. Ye who think of sin but light-ly nor sup-pose the e-vil great,
4. Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, here the ref-uge of the lost;



'Tis the Christ by man re-ject-ed; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!
Friends thro' fear his cause dis-own-ing, foes in-sult-ing his dis-tress;
here may view its na-ture right-ly, here its guilt may es-ti-mate.
Christ, the Rock of our sal-va-tion, his the name of which we boast.



'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord;
man-y hands were raised to wound him, none would in-ter-pose to save;
Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-point-ed, see who bears the aw-ful load;
Lamb of God, for sin-ners wound-ed, sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt!



by his Son God now has spo-ken: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.
but the deep est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that Jus-tice gave.
'tis the Word, the Lord's A-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
None shall ev-er be con-found-ed who on him their hope have built.

Words: Thomas Kelly, 1804, alt. 1961. Music: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN,
Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn, 1850, arr. by Fernando Ortega.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Coventry Carol"

Virtual Choir

Lullay, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay,
Lullay, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day;
This poor youngling, for whom we sing,
By, by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight,
All children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child for Thee!
Forever mourn and say,
For thy parting nor say nor sing,
By, by, lully, lullay.

Words: The "Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors", adapted by Robert Croo (1534)
and Thomas Sharp (1825). Music: Traditional English, arr. Hal H. Hopson.

☒ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 14 for all of our Ministry Announcements.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 2:13-23

Now when the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

 **HYMN OF GLORY**

"Jesus Paid It All"

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small!
Child of weakness watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe!
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow!

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots,
And melt the heart of stone.
(Refrain)

For nothing good have I,
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white,
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.
(Refrain)

And when before the throne,
I stand in Him complete;
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.
(Refrain)

Words: Elvina M. Hall (1820-1889). Music: John T. Grape (1835-1915).

 **BENEDICTION**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Plan. Beginning Sunday, January 10, we will be sharing recorded Sunday School lessons from Matthew. You will be able to access these recordings on our website at covpres.com/audio and through our iTunes podcast: Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Praying for Health Care Professionals. We are compiling a list of the health care professionals in our congregation so that we may pray for you by name. We have started this list, but we do not want to miss anyone working in health care during the pandemic. If you are in this group, please send your name, profession, and where you work to Kim Oliver at koliver@covpres.com so that we can pray for you and your family!

Women's Prayer Time. Ladies, our Monday morning prayer time resumes on January 4 from 8:15 - 9:15 a.m. via Zoom. You can find the link at covpres.com/womens-ministry. All women are welcome to join us as we pray for our church, leadership, staff, missionaries, and congregation. You do not have to pray aloud but can simply join us to pray along silently. We use the ACTS model of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication as we devote ourselves to prayer. If you are not able to join us but would like us to pray for a specific request, please email Ingram at ilink@covpres.com. These requests will be kept confidential.

Discover Covenant Class. Our next Discover Covenant class is Friday, January 22, through Sunday, January 24. This class is a great way to learn about our church and what it means to become a member and for us to get to know you! Discover Covenant is required for anyone who desires to become a member; however, you are not obligated to join after attending the class. If you would like to register, please visit covpres.com/new-members. Nursery childcare (ages 5 and under) is available for each session. If you have any questions, please contact Victoria Williams (vwilliams@covpres.com, 205-871-7002).

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (John Fountain, January 4-10).

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
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Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

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RULING ELDERS

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

2022

Ty Dedmon
John Hamilton
Mark Hogewood
John James
David O'Dell
Norman Pless
Kurt Senn

DEACONS

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

2022

Jim Bennett
William Edwards
Merrill Johnston
Randall Lancaster
Mark Midyette
Stephen Mince
Clyde Prather
John Shank
Matt Thomas
Greg Tomlinson

STEERING COMMITTEE

2020

Michael Latta, Clerk of the Session
Stephen Mince, Chair of the Diaconate
Lee Sheppard, Personnel Committee Chair
John Shank, Finance Committee Chair

Will Brooke, Member At-large
Daniel Murray, Family Ministry Chair
Steve Stigler, Missions Ministry Chair
Ty Dedmon, Shepherding Ministry Chair