

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



There is a light
Bright star shining
In the dark night
Old tales come true

All of our fears
Hopes and prayers
He has heard
And answered us

The light came down
Cast the darkness away
He appeared
A helpless child
The light of God came down
...

The light came down
Cast the darkness away
He appeared
A helpless child
The light of God came to save us
To the world that He made us
O' Lord and savior
Alleluia

— Josh Garrels, "The Light Came Down"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:10 Hogewood Family

10:25 Casey Family

Candle of Hope

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

8:15 David Driskill

10:30 Josh Johnson

from Psalm 62

Leader: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God;
sing praises to the Lord,
to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

*ALL: Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel,
and whose power is in the skies.*

Leader: Awesome is God from his sanctuary;
the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power
and strength to his people.

ALL: Blessed be God!

☒ PRAYER OF ADORATION

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

❏ HYMNS OF ADORATION

"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.

 "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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful Father in Heaven,
We your covenant people confess before you
That we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength,
And we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We have worshiped you with our lips,
Though our hearts have been far from you.
Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us,
And accept our contrite and broken hearts for Jesus' sake,
In whose name we pray, Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (*1st verse*)

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.

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

❏ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

—Jeremiah 31:34

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**

*We 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 men and for our salvation,
Came down from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost 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 both the quick and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And we 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 we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

 **DOXOLOGY**

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

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: Old Hundredth; attr. to Louis Bourgeois, pub. 1551.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES*8:15 Laura Tucker**10:30 Tracy Stephens*

Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Christ the sure and steady anchor, In the fury of the storm;
When the winds of doubt blow through me, And my sails have all been torn.
In the suffering, in the sorrow, When my sinking hopes are few;
I will hold fast to the anchor, It will never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor, While the tempest rages on;
When temptation claims the battle, And it seems the night has won.
Deeper still then goes the anchor, Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor, It shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor, Through the floods of unbelief;
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now, Lift your eyes to Calvary.
This my ballast of assurance, See his love forever proved.
I will hold fast to the anchor, It will never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor, As we face the wave of death;
When these trials give way to glory, As we draw our final breath.
We will cross that great horizon, Clouds behind and life secure;
And the calm will be the better, For the storms that we endure.

Christ the sure of our salvation, Ever faithful, ever true!
We will hold fast to the anchor, It shall never be removed.

Words and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa. CCLI: 7045331.

 **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. Children 3 year olds (by 9/1/2020) through Kindergarteners sitting in the Fellowship Hall 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 Fellowship Hall prior to the benediction 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

8:15 Bill Bennett

10:30 Daniel Murray

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 11:27-12:3

Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

²⁹And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah.

³⁰Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³²The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

^{12:1}Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

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.

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 LOVE

"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.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: November 29 - December 5, 2020

SUNDAY, November 29

- 8:15 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, November 30

- 8:15 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Parlor)

SATURDAY, December 5 Christmas in Fairfield (Hope Health Center)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Josh Johnson, November 30 - December 6).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 Financial Stewardship. If you have not yet completed and returned your 2021 commitment card, you can drop it in an offering plate or mail it to the church office any time. In 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us about the grace of God that was given among the churches of Macedonia. Those churches, though in a severe test of affliction, "gave according to their means...and beyond their means" in what Paul calls "a wealth of generosity" (8:2-3). May the Lord inspire us and give our church an abundance of His grace that we might cultivate a wealth of generosity in the area of stewardship.

Nursery Bonus Fund. The ladies working in our Nursery are such a blessing to our church body. Giving to the Nursery Bonus Fund is a wonderful opportunity for US to bless THEM! Please prayerfully consider giving to the fund this season. Please make checks payable to Covenant, marked for Nursery Bonus Fund, or you may give online at covpres.com/give (type "Nursery Bonus Fund" in the "Other Designated Contribution" field). Please submit your gifts by December 4 so that the funds may be distributed to the Nursery staff in time for Christmas.

Advent Journal. Our pastors and ministry staff have created an Advent Journal for this season of hope and waiting. In this year's journal, we see how God fulfills all of his promises, from Genesis through Revelation, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. Please pick up an Advent Journal today. It is our prayer that the daily devotions will help you to focus your heart on our Savior and Lord this season!

Congregational Meeting, December 6. On Sunday, December 6, we will hold a congregational meeting immediately following both services to elect our slate of officers (class of 2023) and the members of our 2021 Nominating Committee.

Lessons & Carols. Join us Sunday, December 6, in person or via livestream for Lessons & Carols at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary. This will be a special night of worship with seasonal music, both live and virtual, from our Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and musicians.

Christmas Eve Services. In order to welcome as many people as possible to our Christmas Eve Services, while remaining safe and socially distant, we are having three services on December 24 at 12:00, 4:00, and 6:00 p.m. Nursery childcare will be available for children ages 5 and under at both the 12:00 and 4:00 services.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Shepherding, Middle Adults)	ddriskill@covpres.com
John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families)	jfountain@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music	rbarnes@covpres.com
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Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries	shields.rachel.c@gmail.com
Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)	dedwards@covpres.com
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Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus	bhay@covpres.com
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Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries	slitten@covpres.com
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Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production	kcaldwell@covpres.com
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Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services	tyler.cuidon@gmail.com
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Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)	caseys.odell@gmail.com
Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Senior Pastor	koliver@covpres.com
Traci Parker, Director of Food Services	tparker@covpres.com
Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator	jrichardson@covpres.com
Karan Stuart, Receptionist	kstuart@covpres.com
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)	vwilliams@covpres.com

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

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 2020.

NOVEMBER READING PLAN

	EZEKIEL	2 PETER
28/29	□ 41-44	□ 2-3
		1 JOHN
30	□ 45-46	□ 1

DECEMBER READING PLAN

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

