



# The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN exists to glorify God  
by proclaiming the gospel of JESUS CHRIST  
to our community *and* the world.



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

—*from Psalm 96 NRSV*

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to You, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

—based on Psalm 19:14, *The Worship Sourcebook*.

{ **GATHERED WORSHIP:** The Triune God Renews His People }



## OPENING HYMN

“JOY TO THE WORLD!”, Hymn 125

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 world! the Saviour 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, wonders, of His love.

(Words: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason).

## DAILY WORSHIP RESOURCES

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. These scripture readings are set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible reading in accord with the Church year. They are designed around a two-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently. We are currently in the “Year 2” cycle.

### SUNDAY, THE LORD’S DAY • CHRISTMAS DAY

|         |                    |                    |              |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Morning | Psalm 2, 85        | Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4 | John 3:31-36 |
| Evening | Psalm 110:1-7; 132 | I John 4:7-16      |              |

### MONDAY

|         |                 |                       |            |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Morning | Psalm 28, 30, 2 | 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 | Acts 6:1-7 |
| Evening | Psalm 118       | Acts 7:59-8:8         |            |

### TUESDAY

|         |              |               |               |
|---------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday  | Psalm 97, 98 | Isaiah 44:1-8 | John 13:20-35 |
| Evening | Psalm 145    | I John 5:1-12 |               |

### WEDNESDAY

|         |               |                 |                 |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Morning | Psalm 2, 26   | Isaiah 49:13-23 | Matthew 18:1-14 |
| Evening | Psalm 19, 126 | Mark 10:13-16   |                 |

### THURSDAY

|         |                |                    |             |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Morning | Psalm 18:1-20  | 2 Samuel 23:13-17b | John 2:1-11 |
| Evening | Psalm 18:21-50 | 2 John 1-13        |             |

### FRIDAY

|         |                   |                  |              |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Morning | Psalm 20, 21:1-14 | I Kings 17:17-24 | John 4:46-54 |
| Evening | Psalm 23, 27      | 3 John 1-15      |              |

### SATURDAY

|         |              |                                       |              |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Morning | Psalm 46, 48 | I Kings 3:5-14; James 4:13-17; 5:7-11 | John 3:31-36 |
| Evening | Psalm 90     | Isaiah 65:15b-25; Revelation 21:1-6   |              |

### SUNDAY, THE LORD’S DAY • NEW YEAR’S DAY

|         |           |                      |                 |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Morning | Psalm 103 | Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12 | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Evening | Psalm 148 | Revelation 19:11-16  |                 |

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Bill Boyd, Senior Pastor-Elect  
 Rev. Marty Crawford, Church Administrator  
 Rev. Dan Edwards, Pastor to Children and Families  
 Rev. Stephen Folmar, Pastor of Music and Worship  
 Rev. Craig Boden, Pastoral Care/Senior Adults  
 Rev. Danny Giffen, Pastor of Discipleship  
 Rev. T. J. Wolters, Pastor of Community  
 Mr. Brian Oaks, Director of College Ministry  
 Mr. John Steakley, Director of Student Ministries  
 Miss Lucy Anderson, Director of Young Adults  
 Dr. Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus

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## RULING ELDERS

Sandy Stradtman, Clerk of Session

ewstradtman@aol.com

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Steve Ankenbrandt | Mark Lee        |
| Bill Bennett      | Charlie Logan   |
| Will Brooke       | Robert Luttrell |
| William Dow       | Russell Martin  |
| A. C. Frese       | Bruce McLeod    |
| George Jones      | Warren Norville |
| Win Jones         | John Oliver     |
| Michael Latta     | Bill Ratliff    |

Bob Schaffeld  
 Richard Thompson  
 Sam Tortorici  
 Lex Williamson  
 John Wood

## DEACONS

Lee Sheppard, Chairman of the Diaconate

lsheppard@maynardcooper.com

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Eddy Alonso    | Jonathon Gidley |
| Ward Bailey    | Heath Henderson |
| Mike Barnett   | Jeff Hicks      |
| Chris Butler   | John James      |
| Trey Clegg     | Rich Laws       |
| Dave Condon    | David Malone    |
| Charles Crabbe | Stephen Mince   |
| Ty Dedmon      | Jason Peevy     |

Charlie Regan  
 Todd Sitton  
 Alan Spooner  
 Mark Taylor  
 Dave Traylor  
 Joe Welsh

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**People:** *For he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.*  
*from Luke 1:46-49*

**Pastor:** The LORD be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The lighting of the Christ candle dramatically depicts the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For the darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

—Isaiah 60:1-3

{ **GATHERED WORSHIP:** The Triune God Renews His People }

 **CAROL**

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”, Hymn 132

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

*Refrain:*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

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

*Refrain*

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

*Refrain*

See within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Savior's birth.

*Refrain*

(Words: James Chadwick; Music: GLORIA, French carol melody; arranged by Edwin S. Barnes).



**Thank you for your service and ministry  
to the Lord and to our church**

The beautiful greenery and Christmas decorations  
in and around our Sanctuary and church foyer  
are due to the tireless efforts of these wonderful volunteers.  
We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation  
for their love for the Lord and this church,  
and for their willingness to volunteer their time and talents  
in service and ministry.

Martha Bailey

Anna Cooper

Carole and Charles Crabbe

Ida Dunbar

Lauren Hayes

Brenda Marlar

C. J. Meador

Linda Sue and Jack Neill

Olivia Riddle

Michele Smith

Mandy SmithT

Ruth Spencer

Jana Walker

Lori Welsh

Jeannie Winford

Laura Dee Wood

▪

Chappell Miller, Volunteer Coordinator



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY • December 25

10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)  
Children's Worship • 4 Years through 3rd Grade  
**No afternoon nor evening activities tonight**

### MONDAY • December 26

Church Office Closed  
Christmas Holiday

### WEDNESDAY • December 28

6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S103)  
**Wednesday Evening Activities return on January 18, 2012**

### SATURDAY • December 31

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

Churchwide Hour of Prayer (Tower Room)

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Financial Office Open for Year-End Giving

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

*Thanks be to God!*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins:

**Pastor:** Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and weep over our many sins and 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 do earnestly repent as we heartily grieve our many misdoings. The remembrance of each is distressing to us; the collective burden intolerable.

**People:** *Have mercy on us, have mercy on 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 ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honour and glory of Your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PAUSE FOR A TIME OF INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**ALL:** *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

 Congregation stand, as able

## MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**Year-End Giving**—A reminder that all 2011 charitable contributions must be received in the Church Office or postmarked on or before December 31. Our Financial Office will be open on Saturday, December 31, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon for the convenience of those making year-end contributions.

**Love In Action Christmas Meal**—A gift today of \$25 to Love In Action will help with the expenses of providing Christmas meals to individuals and families in need. Please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and note your gift is designated for “Love In Action.” You may place your donation in the offering plate.

**Midweek at Covenant**—There will be no midweek activities during the month of December. Our full Wednesday evening schedule resumes January 18, 2012.

**Mother’s Day Out and Covenant Day School Registration**—Our Mother’s Day Out and Covenant Day School ministries will hold registration in early January for the 2012-2013 school year. If you would like to place your child on the enrollment list, please download the wait list forms from the church website at [www.covpres.com/dayschool](http://www.covpres.com/dayschool) (then choose Day School or Mother’s Day Out link). If you have questions, please contact Jami Bennett, MDO Director, at 871-7004 or Brooke Stewart, CDS Director, at 871-8470.

**Luncheon in Honor of Bill and Cyndie Hay**—Fixed Point Foundation will host a luncheon in honor of Bill and Cyndie Hay (Pastor Emeritus) on Sunday, January 22, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service at Latimer House in Mountain Brook Village. Fixed Point Executive Director, Larry Taunton, will interview Dr. Hay on his 33 years of ministry in Birmingham. Seating is limited and reservations are requested. Cost is \$25 per person. For reservations, please contact Rebekah Page at 960-5257 or [rpage@fixed-point.org](mailto:rpage@fixed-point.org).

**Congregational Meeting**—A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2012, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, for the purpose of electing church officers.

**Church Office Holiday Schedule**—The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 2, for the New Year’s holiday.

“GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”, Carol 138

*Refrain:*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shine a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed the Savior’s birth.

*Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

(Words: John W. Work, Jr., 1907. Music: African-American Spiritual).

**BENEDICTION**

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

 **CAROL**

“THE FIRST NOEL”, Carol 136  
(Verses 1, 2, 3 and 6)

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far:  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

(Words: Traditional English Carol. Music: W. Sandys’ Christmas Carols, arr. by John Stainer).

## THE GIVING OF “FIRST FRUITS”

“AWAY IN A MANGER”, Hymn 157

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

(Words: Source unknown, stanzas 1 and 2; John Thomas McFarland, stanza 3  
Music: William J. Kirkpatrick).

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”, Hymn 145

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore Him*

*O come, let us adore Him*

*O come, let us adore Him*

*Christ, the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

*Refrain*

(Words: Latin Hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade; translated by Frederick Oakeley  
Music: John Francis Wade).

## HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE”, Hymn 151

Good Christian men, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Give ye heed to what we say:  
 News! News!  
 Jesus Christ is born today:  
 Ox and ass before him bow  
 And He is in the manger now.  
 Christ is born today!  
 Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Now ye hear of endless bliss;  
 Joy! Joy!  
 Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 He has opened heaven's door  
 And man is blessed evermore.  
 Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice;  
 Now ye need not fear the grave;  
 Peace! Peace!  
 Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one and calls you all  
 To gain his everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save!  
 Christ was born to save!

(Words: Latin carol, 14th century; trans. by John M. Neale.  
 Music: German melody, harmonized by John Stainer).

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children first through third grades will remain in the worship service today.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Three Years Old         | Meet in Room C222 (available for the entire worship hour) |
| Four and Five Years Old | Meet in Room C221 (available for the entire worship hour) |

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

**The Peace of God** · *from Isaiah 9*

**Pastor:** The peace of the LORD be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you!*

Greet one another with a sign of friendship such as: “The peace of Christ be with you” and “And also with you.”

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to fill out the attendance notepad located in the pew racks.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

*Thanks be to God!*

Celebrant: 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, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

Amen.

—The Book of Common Prayer

## GOD WELCOMES US TO HIS 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 baptized but would like to participate, come forward, cross your hands, and you will receive a blessing from an Elder. The Ushers will guide you to the proper receiving aisle. During communion the congregation will sing the printed hymns.

**Celebrant:** For in the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us pray:

**ALL:** *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 eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND MORNING PRAYER

*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 Ghost, 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 Ghost, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

\* universal

**ALL:**

**INTERCESSOR:** (HERE THE INTERCESSOR WILL PRAY FOR THE CHURCH LOCAL, UNIVERSAL, AND FOR THE WORLD)

And so, Lord, we pray as Christ taught:

*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.*

**ALL:**

