



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

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

—Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14 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 }



FIRST HYMN

“ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”, Hymn 131 (verses 1-4)

Choir Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Congregation Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the infant Light:

Refrain

Congregation Sages leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star:

Refrain

Congregation Saints before the alter bending, Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear:

Refrain

Congregation Sinners wrung with true repentance, Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you; break your chains:

Refrain

Choir Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to Him; Every knee shall then bow down:

Refrain

Congregation All creation, join in praising, God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, To th'eternal Three in One.

Refrain

(Words: James Montgomey. Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart).

 Congregation stand, as able

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 • NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

MONDAY

Morning	Psalm 34	I Kings 19:1-8	John 6:1-14
Evening	Psalm 33	Ephesians 4:1-16	

TUESDAY

Monday	Psalm 68	I Kings 19:9-18	John 6:15-27
Evening	Psalm 72	Ephesians 4:17-32	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalm 85, 87	Joshua 3:14-4:7	John 9:1-12, 35-38
Evening	Psalm 89:1-29	Ephesians 5:1-20	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalm 2, 110:1-7	Jonah 2:2-9	John 11:17-27, 38-44
Evening	Psalm 29, 98	Ephesians 6:10-20	

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalm 46, 97	Isaiah 49:1-7	Matthew 12:14-21
Evening	Psalm 96, 100	Revelation 21:22-27	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalm 103	Deuteronomy 8:1-3	John 6:30-33, 48-51
Evening	Psalm 114, 115	Colossians 1:1-14	

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Morning	Psalm 146, 147	Genesis 1:1-2:3	John 1:29-34
Evening	Psalm 111, 112, 113	Ephesians 1:3-14	





2 0 1 2 B A P T I S M S U N D A Y S

To schedule a baptism at the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. worship service, please contact Rhonda Kimbrough in the Pastor's Office at 871-7002. A Baptism Training Fellowship for parents is scheduled the week prior to Baptism Sunday. Details regarding our training session will be shared when you call to schedule your baptism.

Baptism Sundays February through June 2012

February 12

March 11

April 15

May 20

June 10

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

People: *To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.*

Psalm 92:1-2

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



 **SECOND HYMN**

“WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS”, Hymn 135

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he; for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind, To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town this day,
Is born of David’s line, The Savior who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign, And this shall be the sign.

“The heav’nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid; And in a manger laid.

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace:
Good will henceforth from heav’n to men,
Begin and never cease, Begin and never cease.”

(Words: Nahum Tate. Music: CHRISTMAS, George F. Handel).

**Next Sunday at Covenant
The Lord’s Day, January 8**

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Children’s Worship (3 years through 3rd Grade)
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:45 a.m.

Nursery childcare available for birth through age 2
in SonShine Valley (First Floor/Children’s Building).



OFFERINGS OF PRAYER, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING
Sunday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join us as we gather to offer prayers of praise,
thanksgiving, confession, repentance and supplication
as we reflect on the One who led us faithfully through 2011
and will lead us faithfully in the new year ahead.
Bring your favorite Psalm or verse that focuses on the Lord
and His amazing love for us as we join our
hearts and minds in worship through our spoken prayers.
Nursery childcare (age 5 and under) available.

*“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...
always giving thanks to God the Father for everything...”*
*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the
fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

EPHESIANS 5:19-20 • ACTS 2:42



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • January 1

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)
 Children's Worship • 4 Years through 3rd Grade
No afternoon nor evening activities tonight

MONDAY • January 2

Church Office Closed
New Year's Holiday

WEDNESDAY • January 4

10:30 a.m. The Grands Bible Study and Fellowship (E202)
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S103)
Wednesday Evening Activities return on January 18, 2012

FRIDAY • January 6

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Covenant Day School and Mother's Day Out Resumes

SATURDAY • January 7

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Churchwide Hour of Prayer (Tower Room)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

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

New Members Class—Interested in making Covenant your church home? Please join us for our New Members Class on Friday/Saturday, February 3-4. Class begins with dinner on Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. Saturday's session meets from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon (full breakfast served). Reservations are requested by calling Victoria Williams at 871-7002. Nursery childcare (age 5 and under) available by request.

Midweek at Covenant—Our full Wednesday evening schedule resumes January 18. Our midweek events provide a great opportunity for building community as we enjoy a meal together at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall followed by Wednesday Worship (youth-adults), Kidz Clubs (3 years-6th grade) and Chancel Choir rehearsal. Children's Music Clubs meet at 5:00 p.m.

Short Term Missions—We have several incredible missions opportunities in the new year and invite anyone interested in learning more to join us for an Informational Meeting on Sunday, January 8, in E201 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Opportunities include: Spring Break Trip to Honduras (March 17-23); Zambia (Summer 2012—a great family trip) and Sydney, Australia where we will partner with MTW missionaries Jim and Claudia Jung.

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, at Latimer House (Mountain Brook Village) immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. 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.

Congregational Meeting—A Congregational Meeting will be held next 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 tomorrow (January 2) for the New Year's holiday.

A Time to "Take Down"—Our beautiful Christmas decorations must be taken down and packed away for another year. All helping hands will be appreciated this Wednesday, January 4, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Meet in the Sanctuary foyer.

“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”, Hymn 133

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

(Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Felix Mendelssohn).

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.”

THE GIVING OF “FIRST FRUITS”

Peace Came to Earth

JAROSLAV J. VAJDA Huffstetler
Tune and setting by K. LEE SCOTT



Choir 1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night When
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held The
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, In
All 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How



an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt The
flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

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Sacrament of Baptism

MORNING WORSHIP • 10:00 A.M.

Carly Adair Rust

Virginia Elaine Rust

DAUGHTERS OF JOHN AND MIVVI RUST

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Baptism

Prayer of Blessing



“THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE”, Hymn 127

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.

Refrain:

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee!

Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.

Refrain

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.

Refrain

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word,
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.

Refrain

When the heav’ns shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying “Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee.”
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me!

(Words: Emily E. Elliott, 1864. Music: Timothy R. Matthews, 1876).



HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?”, Hymn 137

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” —Luke 2:7

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

(Words: William C. Dix, The Manger Throne, 1865.
Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English melody).

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.

{ GATHERED WORSHIP: The Triune God Renews His People }

NEW TESTAMENT READING

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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.*

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL:

Almighty and everlasting God, who is always more ready to hear than we to pray, and is wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down on us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

INTERCESSOR:

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

And so, Lord, we pray as Christ taught:

ALL:

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.

THE GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He 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.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Thanks be to God!



MORNING MESSAGE

REV. BILL BOYD

Series of horizontal lines for writing a morning message.

