

## 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 1” cycle.

### SUNDAY, THE LORD’S DAY • THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning	Psalms 63:1-8, 98	Amos 9:11-15	John 5:30-47
Evening	Psalms 103	II Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17	

### MONDAY

Morning	Psalms 41, 52	Zechariah 1:7-17	Matthew 24:15-31
Evening	Psalms 44	Revelation 3:7-13	

### TUESDAY

Monday	Psalms 45	Zechariah 2:1-13	Matthew 24:32-44
Evening	Psalms 47, 48	Revelation 3:14-22	

### WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalms 119:49-72	Zechariah 3:1-10	Matthew 24:45-51
Evening	Psalms 49	Revelation 4:1-8	

### THURSDAY

Morning	Psalms 50	Zechariah 4:1-14	Matthew 25:1-13
Evening	Psalms 33	Revelation 4:9-5:5	

### FRIDAY

Morning	Psalms 40, 54	Zechariah 7:8-8:8	Matthew 25:14-30
Evening	Psalms 51	Revelation 5:6-14	

### SATURDAY

Morning	Psalms 55	Zechariah 8:9-17	Matthew 25:31-46
Evening	Psalms 138, 139:1-17	Revelation 6:1-17	

### SUNDAY, THE LORD’S DAY • THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning	Psalms 24, 29	Genesis 3:8-15	John 3:16-21
Evening	Psalms 8, 84	Revelation 12:1-10	

# 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

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

—Psalm 126 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 OF PRAISE

### “THE ADVENT OF OUR GOD”

The advent of our God  
Our prayers must now employ.  
And we must meet Him on His road  
With hymns of holy joy.

The everlasting Son  
Incarnate reigns to be;  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His people free.

Daughter of Zion, rise  
To meet thy lowly King,  
Nor let thy faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again,  
And all His scattered saints unite  
With Him in Heaven to reign.

Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone;  
The old man all be put away,  
The new man all put on.

All glory to the Son  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One,  
Through all eternity.

(Words: Charles Coffin, 1745. Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1770).

 Congregation stand, as able

## 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  
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## RULING ELDERS

Sandy Stradtman, Clerk of Session

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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

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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



T H E S E A S O N O F A D V E N T

<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> DECEMBER 11	Morning Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
	Advent Dinner at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall “The Majesty and Glory of Christmas” at 6:00 p.m. The Sanctuary
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> DECEMBER 18	Morning Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
<b>Christmas Eve</b> DECEMBER 24	A Service of Lessons and Carols 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. (both services identical) Nursery childcare will be available for both services
<b>Christmas Day</b> DECEMBER 25	One Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School
<b>New Year’s Day</b> JANUARY 1	One Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.

**People:** My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

**Pastor:** *There is no darkness with you, Lord.*

**People:** O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

**Pastor:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*from Psalm 130:5-7*

### THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*The lighting of the Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.*

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

—Isaiah 40:4

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

*Thanks be to God!*

EVENING WORSHIP TONIGHT AT 6:00 P.M.

# *The* MAJESTY *and* GLORY *of* CHRISTMAS

Presented by our Music and Worship Ministry  
featuring The Chancel Choir and Orchestra  
JUBILATE (Youth Choir) and Faith Music Club (Grades 2-6)

Join us this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
as our Music and Worship Ministry presents a  
concert of Christmas music with stirring arrangements  
and congregational singing of some of the  
most beloved carols of the season.

Dinner will be served just prior to the concert  
at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone welcome—no reservations required.

Please invite friends and family to be your guests  
as we celebrate the season in worship and song.

Nursery childcare (age 5 and under) will be  
available in SonShine Valley.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY • December 11

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)  
 Children's Worship • 4 Years through 3rd Grade
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Every Age
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)  
 Children's Worship • 4 Years through 3rd Grade
- 5:00 p.m. Advent Churchwide Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 p.m. The Majesty and Glory of Christmas (Sanctuary)

### MONDAY • December 12

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

### TUESDAY • December 13

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Covenant Day School

### WEDNESDAY • December 14

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mother's Day Out and Covenant Day School
- 10:30 a.m. The Grands Bible Study and Fellowship (E202)
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday Evening Activities return on January 18, 2012**

### THURSDAY • December 15

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Covenant Day School

### FRIDAY • December 16

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

### SATURDAY • December 17

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

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**Pastor:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:8-9

### People:

LORD CHRIST,

*We confess our willingness to be loved*

*But also our reluctance to love.*

*We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love*

*But also our refusal to forgive.*

*We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love*

*But also our resistance to follow you without question.*

*In this Advent time, forgive us our failure*

*To respond as we should.*

*Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you*

*With joy, as the shepherds;*

*With gratitude, as Simeon;*

*With obedience, as Mary;*

*With love, as you have loved us.*

*Even so: come, Lord, Jesus.*

*Amen.*

from *The Worship Sourcebook*

(PAUSE FOR A TIME OF INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION)

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Pastor:** “Comfort, comfort, my people,” says your God. “Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.”

Isaiah 40:1-2

**ALL:** *Amen.*

## MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—Worship with us on Christmas Eve, December 24, as we anticipate the birth of the Christ Child with a “Service of Lessons and Carols” at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Both services will be identical. Nursery childcare for children age 5 provided in SonShine Valley for both services.

**Worship on Christmas Day**—Celebrate the birth of our Savior as we worship together on Christmas Day at one morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on December 25. Nursery childcare and Children’s Worship will be available on Christmas Day.

**Love In Action Christmas Meal**—A gift of \$25 to Love In Action will provide a complete meal for individuals and families in need this Christmas season. Please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and note your gift is designated for “Love In Action.” Donations may be placed in the offering plate today.

**Christmas in SonShine Valley**—Infants through 5K are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus on four fun-filled days (December 19, December 21, December 28 and December 30). Registration is limited and based on first come, first served. Pick up a brochure with registration form at the Welcome Station in SonShine Valley (1st floor/Children’s Building).

**Nursery Staff Bonus Fund**—Annually at Christmastime we have the privilege as a church family of making donations to our Nursery Staff Bonus Fund. The ladies that serve on our Nursery Staff provide loving childcare for ministry events and activities during the week and on Sundays. Please give generously to this fund. Your gift may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office.

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

**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.

**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.

“HALLELUJAH, WHAT A SAVIOR!”, Hymn 175

Man of sorrows! what a name  
For the Son of God, who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim,  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned He stood;  
Sealed my pardon with His blood.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was He;  
“Full atonement!” can it be?  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;  
“It is finished!” was His cry;  
Now in Heav’n exalted high.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,  
All His ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew His song we’ll sing:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

(Words and Music: Phillip P. Bliss in *International Lessons Monthly*, 1875).

### 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.”

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

“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 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, wonders, of His love.

(Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Music: ANTIOCH, arranged by Lowell Mason, 1836).

## THE GIVING OF “FIRST FRUITS”

### “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

*(Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring)* by J. S. Bach, arr. by Fettke

The Chancel Choir  
 Anna Lu Hemphill, *piano*  
 Donald Given, *organ*

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 saints Thou art;  
 Dear desire of every nation,  
 Joy of every longing heart.

### “AMAZING GRACE”, Hymn 202

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
 That saved a wretch like me.  
 I once was lost but now am found,  
 Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.  
 And grace, my fears relieved.  
 How precious did that grace appear  
 The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
 I have already come;  
 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far  
 and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
 His word my hope secures.  
 He will my shield and portion be,  
 As long as life endures.

(Words: John Newton, 1779. Music: Traditional American Medley from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831)

## HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN”, Hymn 201

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

### Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.  
*Refrain*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
Whiter than snow you may be today.  
*Refrain*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?  
*Refrain*

(Words: Julia Johnston, 1911. Music: Daniel Towner, 1910).

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Our Children's Ministry provides Children's Worship for children, three years through 3rd Grade, during both morning worship services.

**Children will be escorted from the Sanctuary to Children's Worship during the Passing of the Peace.**

Three Years Old	Meet in Room C222 ( <i>available for the entire worship hour</i> )
Four and Five Years Old	Meet in Room C221 ( <i>available for the entire worship hour</i> )
First through Third Grades	Dismissed during the service • Meet in Room C316

## ☒ PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

**Pastor:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People:** *Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.*

**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.

☒ Congregation stand, as able

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

## I THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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:**

*Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers, and by Thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our heart, by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*(from The Collects of Thomas Cranmer, 1999).*

**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.*



