



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

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah
Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

—Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 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

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”, Hymn 124
(verses 1 and 4 from our hymnbook)

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.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring 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, thy 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 ever-lasting 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 • verses 1 and 4: Charles Wesley, 1745; verses 2 and 3: Mark E. Hunt, 1978
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830).

 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 1” cycle.

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning	Psalm 148, 149, 150	Amos 6:1-14	Luke 1:57-68
Evening	Psalm 114, 115	II Thessalonians 1:5-12	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalm 25	Amos 7:1-9	Matthew 22:23-33
Evening	Psalm 9, 15	Revelation 1:1-8	

TUESDAY

Monday	Psalm 26, 28	Amos 7:10-17	Matthew 22:34-46
Evening	Psalm 36, 39	Revelation 1:9-16	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalm 38	Amos 8:1-14	Matthew 23:1-12
Evening	Psalm 119:25-48	Revelation 1:17-2:7	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalm 37:1-18	Amos 9:1-10	Matthew 23:13-26
Evening	Psalm 37:19-42	Revelation 2:8-17	

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalm 31	Haggai 1:1-15	Matthew 23:27-39
Evening	Psalm 35	Revelation 2:18-29	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalm 30, 32	Haggai 2:1-9	Matthew 24:1-14
Evening	Psalm 42, 43	Revelation 3:1-6	

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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

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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
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DEACONS

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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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Hear us O Lord, we call upon Your name today. Shine Your light upon us and give us Your grace!

People: *Give us life, O Lord, as we reach out to You. Let Your face shine upon us, O Lord, God of hosts!*

Pastor: Help us to never turn away from You,

People: *That we may rejoice in Your salvation! Amen!*

based on Psalm 80

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.

“The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son. And they shall call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

—from Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.
Thanks be to God!



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

Second Sunday of Advent DECEMBER 4	Morning Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent 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
Fourth Sunday of Advent DECEMBER 18	Morning Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Christmas Eve 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
Christmas Day DECEMBER 25	One Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School
New Year's Day JANUARY 1	One Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

SUNDAY • December 4

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
12:00 noon	Chancel Choir Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
12:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:00 p.m.	Junior High Small Groups Senior High Worship and Bible Study
6:30 p.m.	Parent Prayer Time (E204)

MONDAY • December 5

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Out and Covenant Day School
11:45 a.m.	First Monday Lunch Bunch (E206)

TUESDAY • December 6

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Covenant Day School
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WEDNESDAY • December 7

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Out and Covenant Day School
9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	WIC Study: Ephesians (E301)
10:30 a.m.	The Grands Bible Study and Fellowship (E202)
5:00 p.m.	Jubilate Rehearsal (S103)
6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	Wednesday Evening Activities return on January 18, 2012

THURSDAY • December 8

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

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Out and Covenant Day School
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SATURDAY • December 10

7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Churchwide Hour of Prayer (Tower Room)
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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,
*Merciful God, Always with us, always coming:
 We confess that we do not know how to prepare for Your Advent.
 We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
 We have ignored the promise of Your kingdom;
 We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
 Forgive us, God.
 Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
 The intelligent courage of the Magi,
 And the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
 That we may journey with them to Bethlehem
 And find the good news of a child born for us.
 Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
 We ask You to make us ready for His coming.
 Amen.*

from *The Worship Sourcebook*

(PAUSE FOR A TIME OF INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: “The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

Zephaniah 3:17

ALL: *Amen.*

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Majesty and Glory of Christmas—Our Music and Worship Ministry will present a concert of Christmas music next Sunday evening, December 11, at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Choir, JUBILATE and Faith Music Club, with orchestra, will present stirring arrangements and lead the congregation in singing many of the most beloved carols of the season. Dinner will be served prior to the program at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (no reservations required). Plan to invite family, friends, neighbors and business associates to be your guests for this evening of music and worship.

First Monday Lunch Bunch—Meets tomorrow (Monday, December 5) at 11:45 a.m. in E206. Ladies, join us as we “celebrate the season” with lunch and fellowship and hear from the heart of our own Anna Lu Hemphill. Lunch is \$6 and nursery childcare is available by calling 871-7004.

Christmas Poinsettias—Today is the deadline for placing poinsettia orders in honor or memory of someone special this Christmas season. Flowers are \$20 each and payment is requested with your order. Order envelopes available at the Welcome Center in the church foyer.

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 Center 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.

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.

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.

“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, 1865. Music: John T. Grape).

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

“ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS I STAND”

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus:

I am bound , I am bound
I am bound for promised land,
I am bound, I am bound
I am bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.
(Repeat chorus)

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?
(Repeat chorus)

(Words: Samuel Stennett. Music: Christopher Miner).

THE GIVING OF “FIRST FRUITS”

“REJOICE” by Frank Hernandez, arr. by Fettke

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

Rejoice, rejoice, a Savior is come! To God be glory!
 Good will t’ward men and peace on earth, for Christ the Lord is He.

Chorus:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, These shall be His name.
 Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, with justice shall He reign.

Rejoice, rejoice, a virgin has borne a Child most marvelous.
 The Scriptures tell “Emmanuel” means God is with us.

Chorus

And He shall be great, and there shall be no end to His kingdom;
 And He shall reign forevermore, Jesus Christ the Lord!

Rejoice, rejoice, for He will save His people from their sins.
 And He shall bless with righteousness the soul that trusts in Him.

Repeat *Chorus*

Rejoice!

“HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US”

How deep the Father’s love for us
 How vast beyond all measure
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure!
 How great the pain of searing loss,
 The Father turns His face away
 As wounds which mar the chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
 My sin upon His shoulders
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers.
 It was my sin that held Him there
 Until it was accomplished.
 His dying breath has brought me life,
 I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
 His death and resurrection.
 Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer
 But this I know with all my heart,
 His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer
 But this I know with all my heart,
 His wounds have paid my ransom.

(Words and Music by Stuart Townend, ©1995 CCLI #1558110)

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”, Hymn 2
(verses 1 and 3 from our hymnbook)

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in blood washed linen, How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, Take my ransomed soul away;
Send thine angels now to carry, Me to realms of endless day.

(Words: Robert Robinson, 1758. Music: American Folk Tune).

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

II PETER 3:8-15A

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation...

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:

Blessed Lord, which hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our savior Jesus Christ.

(from *The Collects of Thomas Cranmer*, compiled by C. Frederick Barbee and Paul F. M. Zahl, 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.



