



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY

December 3, 2023

WELCOME TO CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

We are glad you are here to worship the living God! This worship folder is intended to guide you through the service, as well as provide you with devotional material to take home.

IN PREPARATION

The four weeks leading up to December 25th are traditionally called Advent, which is a season of confession and longing for the coming Messiah, while Christmas Day marks the beginning of the Christmas season in which we celebrate his birth. We no longer make this a very sharp distinction, nor do we need to be too tied to the church calendar. Yet each year we plan four services that follow a basic progression toward the birth of Christ (including both Advent and Christmas carols!). The candles we light each week represent parts of the birth narrative. On week one, we look at the prophets' foretelling of the Christ child. Week two is focused on Bethlehem as the site of Christ's birth. Week three reminds us of the shepherd's role in the birth narrative. Week four brings us to the Angel's announcement, which of course prepares us for Christmas Eve. Perhaps this year you can ask yourself if you would have longed to see the coming Messiah. Do we long to see Jesus? Allow this subtle progression during Advent to prepare your heart to truly give thanks for the wonder of the incarnation.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

Announcements and Greeting

Advent Scripture Meditation—Isaiah 11:1–5

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Introit

Call to Worship—Based on Isaiah 11:10–12; 12:1

Leader: Come and worship, for the root of Jesse stands as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

ALL: Worship him who has extended his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people.

Leader: For he has raised a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

ALL: Give thanks the LORD, for though he was angry with you, his anger has turned away, that he might comfort you.

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol—#196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Carol—#194 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Isaiah 46:3–4

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Corporate Prayer of Confession of Sin

O God our Father, hear us now as we confess our sins before you. We have thought too lightly of our transgressions. We have been too easily satisfied with the things of this world. We are too often content with your gifts, rather than delighting in you, the giver of life. We have broken your law and strayed from your path. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, grant that we might recognize our sin, grieve over sin, and die to our sin. Forgive us, O Lord, and graciously give us a desire to walk in your ways. Have mercy upon us according to the promises of old, fulfilled in the advent of your Son. Let our wonder increase in the incarnation of our King. Comfort us, for we long to see Jesus, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Grace— Isaiah 40:1–2

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.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—The Wexford Carol

Text and Music: Traditional carol, arr. Phillip Lawson

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—#221 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Parents, you may escort your pre-school aged children to Children's Bible Time (B-102).

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Revelation 11:1–14

STANDING UP ON THEIR FEET

Kevin DeYoung

Sursum Corda

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Sung Response—Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Women
Ho - ly, — ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, — ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,

Men
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

Bless - ed — is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

Bless - ed is He — who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -

high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est. A - men.

san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est. — A - men.

Text: Traditional; Music: Greg Wilbur

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation, Fencing of the Table, and the Words of Institution
Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Congregational Carol—#162 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Prayer for our Special Offering

Please place all special /monthly communion offering gifts in an envelope (found in pews) and label it 'Special Communion Offering'.

Congregational Carol—#195 Joy to the World

Benediction

If you have a prayer need or need to speak with an elder, they will be available at the front of the Worship Center following the morning service.

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Dave Baxter;
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Organist: Pam Eash; Pianist: Pamela Mullins;
Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon; Ladies' Ensemble

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SERMON NOTES

In humble reliance upon the word of God and prayer, Christ Covenant Church
is committed to worshiping God, making disciples, loving one another,
and serving the body of Christ.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Services at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

SENIOR STAFF

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NEW TO CHRIST COVENANT?

We hope you will visit the Guest Center in the main lobby so we can meet you!
Interested in knowing more about Christ Covenant Church? Please contact Michelle Gustavson,
Engagement and Connections Ministry Manager, at mgustavson@christcovenant.org.
Interested in a small group? Please contact Caleb Johnson,
Small Groups and Young Adults Ministries Coordinator, at calebjohnson@christcovenant.org.

Christ Covenant Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).