



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 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—Luke 2:1–7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Introit

Call to Worship—Psalm 146:1–4, 10

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**ALL: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Leader: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man,
in whom there is no salvation.

**ALL: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

Leader: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
to all generations.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

Congregational Carol—#208 O Come, All Ye Faithful v. 1, 2, 4

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Carol—#207 Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Micah 5:1–5a

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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 our 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

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

New Member Recognition/Baptism

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—#201 O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 1, 3, 4

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Revelation 11:15–19

AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER

Kevin DeYoung

Choral Response—Hallelujah *from The Messiah*

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. Derek Wells;
Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon; Assistant Music Director: Mary Ann Foltz; Organist: Pam Eash;
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SERMON NOTES

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 6:00 p.m.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship— Psalm 27:13–14

Leader: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol—#218 Angels from the Realms of Glory

Ministry in Music—God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

New Testament Scripture Reading

During this short series on the Nicene Creed, our readings will be examples of creedal language found in the Scriptures.

1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was
manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in
glory.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—#224 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Parents, you may escort your pre-school aged children to Building Little Pillars (B-106).

Preaching of the Word

THE NICENE CREED: WE BELIEVE

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Hymn—#705 I Know Whom I Have Believed

Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Joel May;
Worship Leader: Joseph Foucachon; Organist: Pam Eash; Men's Ensemble

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SERMON NOTES

In humble reliance upon the word of God and prayer, Christ Covenant Church
is committed to worshipping 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).