



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY

December 17, 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 2:8–14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Introit

Call to Worship—Psalm 89:5–7

Leader: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol—

#223 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks v. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Prayer of Adoration

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Isaiah 31:4–5

For thus the LORD said to me, “As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill. Like birds hovering, so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it.”

New Testament Scripture Reading—

From the Song of Zechariah in Luke 1:68–69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

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)

Congregational Carol—See Amid the Winter's Snow



See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low;
Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies;
Say, ye ho - ly shep-herds, say What your joy - ful news to - day;
'As we watch'd at dead of night, Lo, we saw a won - drous light;
Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was thine,
Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,



See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, Pro - mis'd from e - ter - nal years:
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the che - ru - bim:
Where-fore have ye left your sheep On the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
An - gels sing - ing "Peace on earth" Told us of the Sa - viour's birth:
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this:
Teach us to re - sem - ble thee, In thy sweet hu - mi - li - ty:

Chorus:



Hail, thou e - ver - bles - sed morn; Hail, re-demp-tion's hap - py dawn;



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

Text :Edward Caswall; Music: John Goss, arr. Willcocks

Sacrament of Baptism

Covenant Baptism

Barrett Brady Brastow
Son of Tennant and Candi Brastow

Oliver Duran Harris
Junabelle North Harris
Children of Quinten and Laurien Harris

Sage Christina Hill
Daughter of Michae and KC Hill

Amelia Rae Schmideler
Daughter of Reid and Mariel Schmideler

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—#211 God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Revelation 12:1–6

A PREGNANT WOMAN, A RED DRAGON, AND A MALE CHILD

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Hymn—#347 The Church's One Foundation

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. Zach Fulginiti;
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon;
Pianist: Ian Stewart; Organist: Janice Barnett

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SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 6:00 p.m.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 2:7, 11–12

Leader: Come and worship Christ the King! For the LORD
has said, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

ALL: Serve the LORD, rejoice with trembling, kiss the Son!
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Congregational Carol—#197 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Prayer of Adoration

New Testament Scripture Reading

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

Colossians 1:15–20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—#231 Lovely Child, Holy Child

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

Preaching of the Word

THE NICENE CREED: THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Hymn—#181 We Come, O Christ, to You

Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Dave Baxter;

Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George

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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

Kevin DeYoung, Senior Pastor
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Blair Smith, Adult Education Coordinator
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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).