



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 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 40:9–11

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.

#### Introit

#### Call to Worship—Psalm 96:1–6

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD,  
all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**ALL: Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

Leader: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods  
of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD  
made the heavens.

ALL: Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

## Prayer of Invocation

### Congregational Carol—#203 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing,— “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,— God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’in - car - nate de - i - ty,—  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that man no more may die, —

with th’an - gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!”  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to — give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry — to the new-born King.”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840

## Prayer of Adoration

### Congregational Carol—#218 Angels from the Realms of Glory

The image shows a musical score for the carol 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'. It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of five systems of music. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The first system of lyrics is: 'An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth; Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night, Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far; Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear; All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it Son;'. The second system of lyrics is: 'ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth. God with man is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light: seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star. sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear. ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:'. The third system of lyrics is: 'Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new-born King.' The piano accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with chords and moving lines.

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear;  
All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
God with man is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star.  
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new-born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867

### Old Testament Scripture Reading—Isaiah 27:1–6

In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea. In that day, “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day; I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together. Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me.” In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## Prayer of Confession of Sin

### Assurance of Grace—Isaiah 52:7–9

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

## Giving of Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory—For Unto Us a Child Is Born

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

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,  
And the government shall be upon his shoulder;  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God,  
The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

Text: Isaiah 9:6; Music: Georg Frideric Handel

## Pastoral Prayer

## Congregational Hymn—#214 Angels We Have Heard on High

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final line of the hymn, with the word 'Gloria' written below the first staff. The fourth system is a repeat of the third system, also with 'Gloria' written below the first staff. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

An - gels, we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: Traditional French Carol; Music: GLORIA, Traditional French Melody

## Prayer of Illumination

## Preaching of the Word—Revelation 12:7–17

CHRISTMAS MAKES THE DEVIL FURIOUS

Kevin DeYoung

# Congregational Hymn—#195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let Earth re-ceive her King;  
 Joy to the Earth! The Sav-ior reigns: let men their songs em-ploy;  
 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the ground;  
 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions prove

let while ev-ry heart pre-pare Him room,  
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 He comes to make his bless-ings flow  
 the glo-ries of His righ-teous-ness

and Heav'n and na-ture sing, and Heav'n and na-ture sing,  
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing joy,  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
 and won-ders of His love, and won-ders of His love,

and Heav'n and nature sing, and Heav'n and na-

and Heav'n, and Heav'n, and na-ture sing.  
 re-peat, and re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 far as, far as the curse is found.  
 and won-ders, won-ders of His love.

-ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98; Music: ANTIOCH, Georg Frideric Handel, 1742

## 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;  
 Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon;  
 Organist: Pam Eash; Pianist: Pamela Mullins

© All music UBP CCLI # 260344. All Scripture quotes from ESV. Used by permission.

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

Kevin DeYoung, Senior Pastor  
kdeyoung@christcovenant.org

Tom Groelsema, Executive Pastor  
tgroelsema@christcovenant.org

Dave Baxter, Pastor of Congregational Life  
dbaxter@christcovenant.org

Bruce Creswell, Pastor of Senior Adults and  
Visitation  
bcreswell@christcovenant.org

Zach Fulginiti, Pastor of Campus Ministry  
zachary.fulginiti@campusoutreach.org

Nathan George, Pastor of Worship  
ngeorge@christcovenant.org

Joel May, Pastor of Youth Ministry  
jmay@christcovenant.org

Mike Miller, Pastor of Outreach and Missions  
mmiller@christcovenant.org

Eric Russ, Pastor of Evangelism and Mobilization  
eruss@christcovenant.org

Derek Wells, Pastor of Shepherding and  
Discipleship  
dwells@christcovenant.org

Teresa Caldwell, Director of Women's Ministry  
tcaldwell@christcovenant.org

Mark Helmer, Head of Covenant Day School  
mhelmer@covenantday.org

Rick Ely, Director of Operations  
rely@christcovenant.org

Sandy Spitz, Senior Director of Church  
Administration  
sspitz@christcovenant.org

Amy Wallace, Director of Children's Ministry  
awallace@christcovenant.org

Blair Smith, Adult Education Coordinator  
bsmith@christcovenant.org

## 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).