



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY

December 31, 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

Today we will continue to celebrate the Christmas season by singing a few more carols. We also will meditate on what is most foundational, namely, the Word of God. Do we love his law? Are we careful to know it? This year will we rest upon the word of Christ? During our service, we will be reminded that "the soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose" is the soul that has leaned upon his Word.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

Announcements and Greeting

Scripture Meditation—Isaiah 51:16

I have put my words in your mouth and covered you in the shadow of my hand, establishing the heavens and laying the foundations of the earth, and saying to Zion, 'You are my people.'

Introit

Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 119:47–48

Leader: Come and find your delight in the Lord's commandments.
Set your love upon his word.

ALL: Lift up your hands toward his commandments.
Set your love upon them, and meditate on his statutes.

Congregational Carol—

#215 While by the Sheep We Watched at Night

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Carol—#226 As with Gladness Men of Old

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Deuteronomy 26:16–19

“This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. You have declared today that the LORD is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. And the LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments, and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.”

New Testament Scripture Reading—1 John 2:1–6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Confession of Sin and The Lord’s Prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Assurance of Grace—1 John 3:19–22

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

Congregational Song—His Mercy Is More



What love could re - mem - ber, no wrongs we have done?
What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?
What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us.

Om - nis - cient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum.
What Fa - ther so ten - der, is call - ing us home?
His blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.

Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore;
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;

our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mer-cy is more. Strong-er than dark-ness,
new eve - ry morn'; our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Text and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa ©2016 Getty Music Songs

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—O Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus)

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

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Psalm—

#148 How Shall the Young Direct Their Way? (Psalm 119)

How shall the young di - rect their way? What light shall be their per-fect guide?
O bless-ed Lord, teach me Your law, Your righ-teous judge-ments I de - clare;

Your Word, O Lord, will safe - ly lead, if in its wis - dom they con - fide.
Your test - ti - mo - nies make me glad, for they are wealth be - yond com - pare.

Sin-cere - ly I have sought You, Lord O let me not from You de - part;
Up - on Your pre - cepts and Your way my heart will med - i - tate with awe;

To know Your will and keep from sin Your Word I hide with - in my heart.
Your Word shall be my chief de - light, and I will not for - get Your law.

Text: Psalm 119:9-16, *The Psalter*, 1912; Music: DUANE STREET, George Coles, 1835

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Psalm 119:9-16

AN ANCIENT WORD FOR THE NEW YEAR

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Response—How Firm a Foundation



How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed;
 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 "The — soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,
 is — laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!
 for — I am your God, and will still give you aid;
 the — riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 I — will not, I will not de - sert to his foes;
 What more can he say than to you he has said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 for that soul, though all hell should en - dea - vor to bless,
 shake,
 to — you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake."

Text: Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody

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. Joel May;

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.

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

Kevin DeYoung, Senior Pastor
kdeyoung@christcovenant.org

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

Tom Groelsema, Executive Pastor
tgroelsema@christcovenant.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rick Ely, Director of Operations
rely@christcovenant.org

Nathan George, Pastor of Worship
ngeorge@christcovenant.org

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

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

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

Mike Miller, Pastor of Outreach and Missions
mmiller@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).