



CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

SERVICE OF WORSHIP ~ ONLINE EDITION THE LORD'S DAY ~ December 7, 2025

that in everything he might be preeminent. —Colossians 1:18

WELCOME TO CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH IN PREPARATION

During the four weeks of Advent, we walk through several traditional passages that point us toward the incarnation of Christ. Though the church calendar can be a distraction if given too much emphasis, it can also be a helpful aid as we think through the gospel story through the year. This cyclical look at the gospel finds its first landmark in the advent of Christ (Christmas and Epiphany), its second in the death of Christ (Good Friday), its third in the resurrection of Christ (Easter), its fourth in the ascension of Christ (Ascension Sunday), and its fifth in gift of the Spirit of Christ (Pentecost). These are the five evangelical feasts. The four weeks of Advent represent the beginning of, or the preparation for, that Gospel cycle. We start week one by remembering the prophets of old. On week two, we remember that fulfillment came in Bethlehem. On week three, we celebrate the message to the shepherds. And finally, on week four, we wonder at the hope and peace announced by the angels. May this Advent season bring repentance, joy, hope, and peace in our midst as we read familiar passages and sing beloved songs. Merry Christmas!

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

Announcements and Greeting

Advent Scripture Meditation—Matthew 2:1–6

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Introit

Call to Worship—Psalm 98:4

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol—Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98; Music: ANTIOCH, George Frederick Handel, 1742

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Daniel 7:13–14

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

New Testament Scripture Reading—Hebrews 1:7–8

Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession of Sin

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—Cradle Hymn

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

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Carol—O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on Earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift was giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868; Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Luke 1:26–38

THE ANNUNCIATION

Kevin DeYoung

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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—Gloria

Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Text: Traditional French carol; Music: GLORIA, Traditional French melody, arr. Edward Barnes, 1937

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

Congregational Carol—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture - in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Text: *Liturgy of St. James*, 5th century; Music: PICARDY, French melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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—Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say. Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody, 14th century

Benediction

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

PASTORAL 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 Coordinator, at calebjohnson@christcovenant.org.

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