



CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent

Standing on truth. Walking in grace.

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.
800 Fullwood Lane, Matthews, NC 28105
christcovenant.org | 704-847-3505

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

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 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 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 right-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, 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

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 lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift was giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines.



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on Earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

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



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, 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 mor - tal flesh keep — si - lence, and with fear and
King of kings, yet born of — Mar - y, as of old on
Rank on rank the host of — heav - en spreads its van - guard
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He — stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the — way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less — eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in His — hand, Christ our Lord to
in the bod - y and the — blood, He will give to
from the realms of end - less — day, that the pow'rs of
as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly — food.
hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, 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 Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say. Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
 Now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save!

Earth and heav'n be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He hath o-pened hea-ven's door, and man is bles-sed e-ver-more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his e-ver-las-ting hall.

Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 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 Foucahon;
 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 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.

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).