

CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 29, 2026
1st 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

Over the next four weeks we will use the ten commandments to lead us in confession of sin. This is a fitting way to prepare our hearts during Advent, and it dovetails nicely with what we have been studying in Romans. We are not saved by keeping the law, but the law reveals sin, points us to Christ, and teaches us to live. Our assurance of grace, which is a portion of the preaching text from last week, speaks to the freedom we have to live as God's children. Also, for these four weeks we will respond to the assurance of grace with a refrain from a favorite carol.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

Announcements and Greeting

Advent Scripture Meditation—Isaiah 11:1–5

> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Introit

Call to Worship—Psalm 107:1–2, 31–32

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

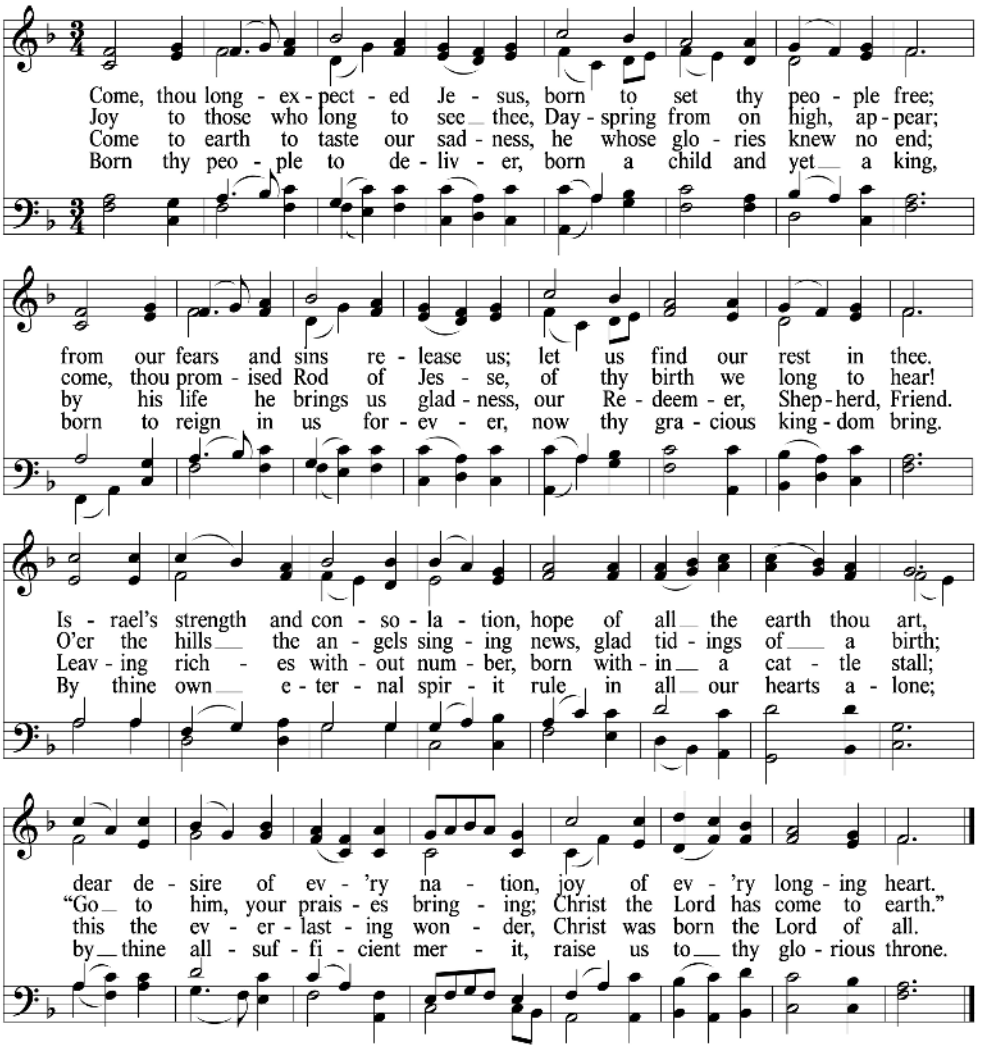
**ALL: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble.**

Leader: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

**ALL: Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.**

Prayer of Invocation

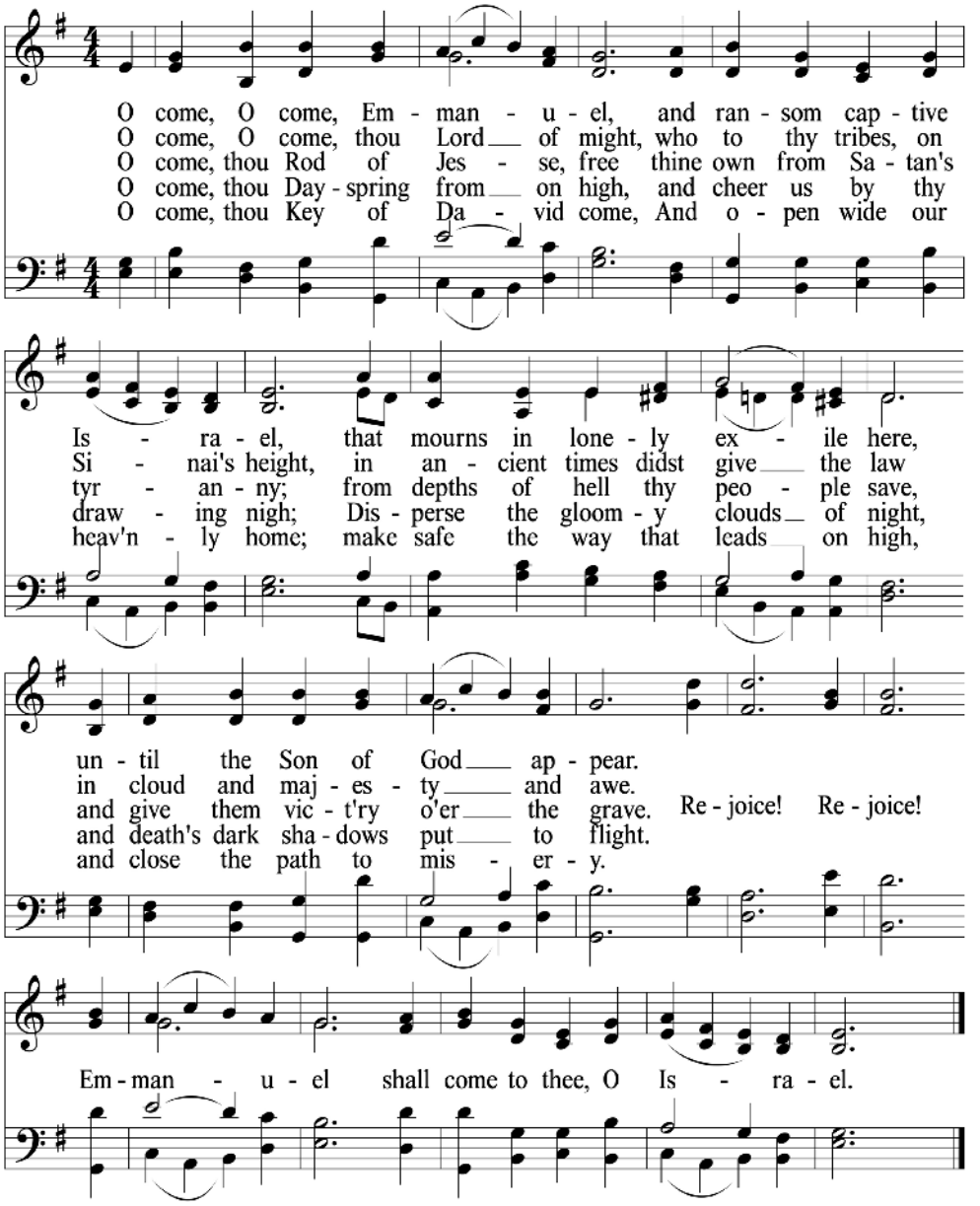
Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



Text: Charles Wesley, 1744; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Latin antiphons, 12th century, Latin hymn, 1710; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, 13th century

Old Testament Scripture Reading— Isaiah 51:7–8

"Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading of the Law—Exodus 20:1–7

Leader: And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

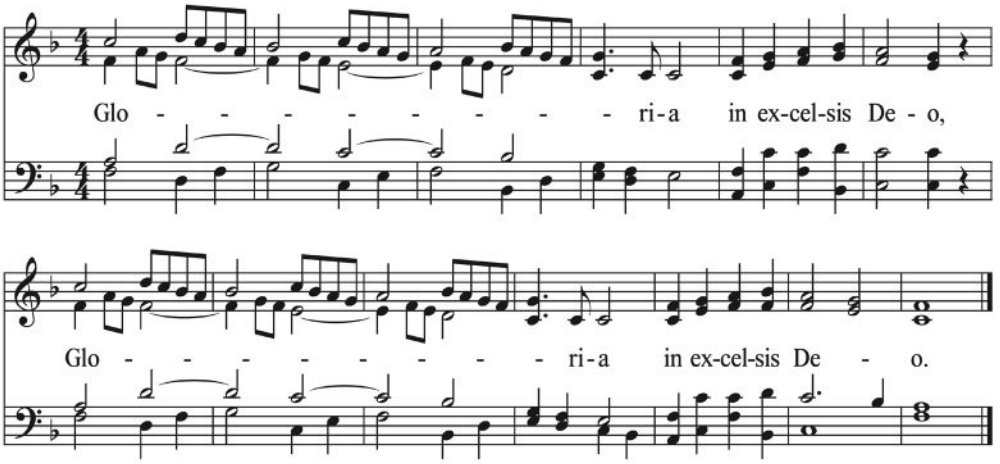
ALL: "You shall have no other gods before me.
"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
"You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

Prayer of Confession of Sin

Corporate Assurance of Grace—Galatians 4:4–6

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Sung Response—Gloria



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

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—Lo, How A Rose

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah was foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

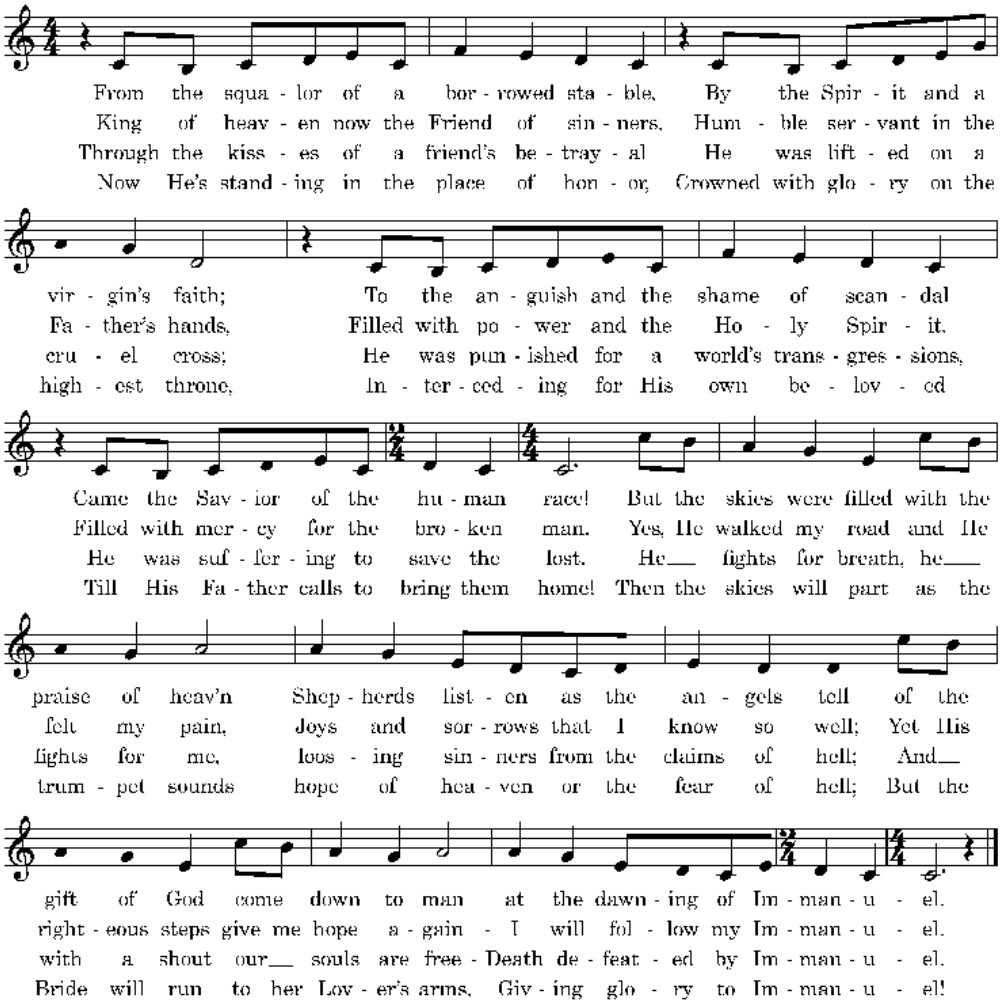
O Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air.
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Text and Music: M. Praetorious/H. Distler

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Song—Immanuel

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



Text and Music: Stuart Townend ©1999 Thankyou Music

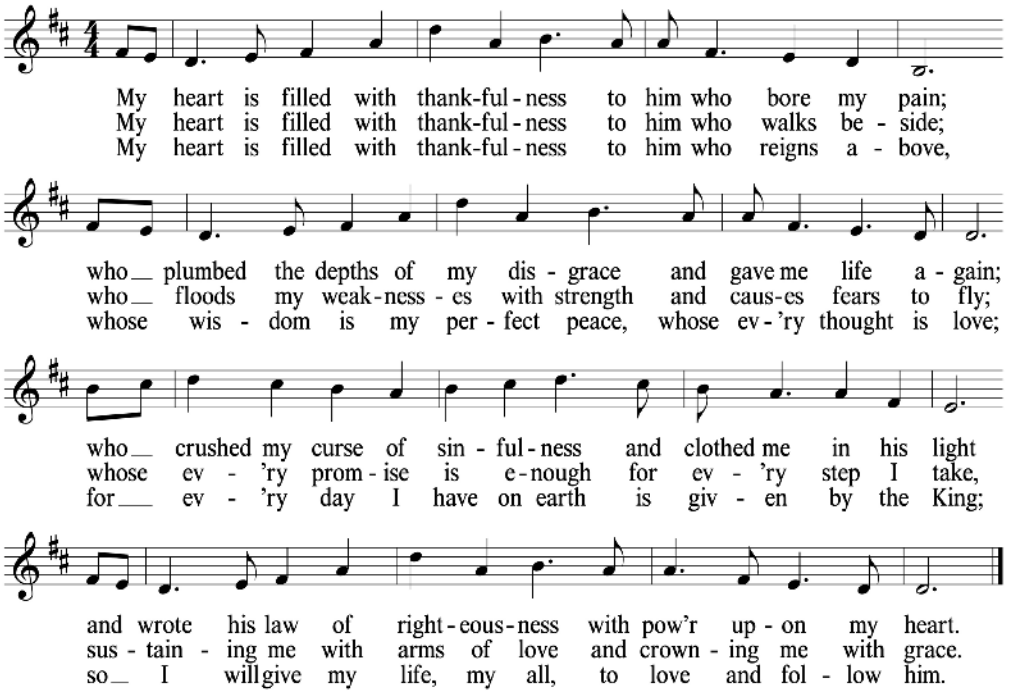
Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Romans 4:13–17

IT DEPENDS ON FAITH

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Psalm—My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness



Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend ©2003 Thankyou Music

Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Derek Wells;
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Organist: Pam Eash; Pianist: Pamela Mullins
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SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 6:00 PM

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—Psalm 47:5–7

Leader: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises!

ALL: Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

Congregational Psalm—#441 Jesus Shall Reign

Text: Based on Psalm 72, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Hymn—#197 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; Music: THIRSTING, Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Responsive Psalter Reading—Psalm 72, T.H. p. 810

Old Testament Scripture Reading—2 Samuel 7:12–17

"When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

New Testament Scripture Reading—Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Song—Jesus, with Thy Church Abide **(words on next page)**
Parents, you may escort your pre-school aged children to Children's Bible Time (B-102)

Preaching of the Word—Heidelberg Catechism—Lord's Day 48

COME, LORD JESUS

Tom Groelsema

Congregational Hymn—#585 Take My Life, and Let It Be

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; Music: HENDON, Henri A. César Malan, 1827

Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Rev. Tom Groelsema; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Eric Russ;
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Pianist: Ben Sincock
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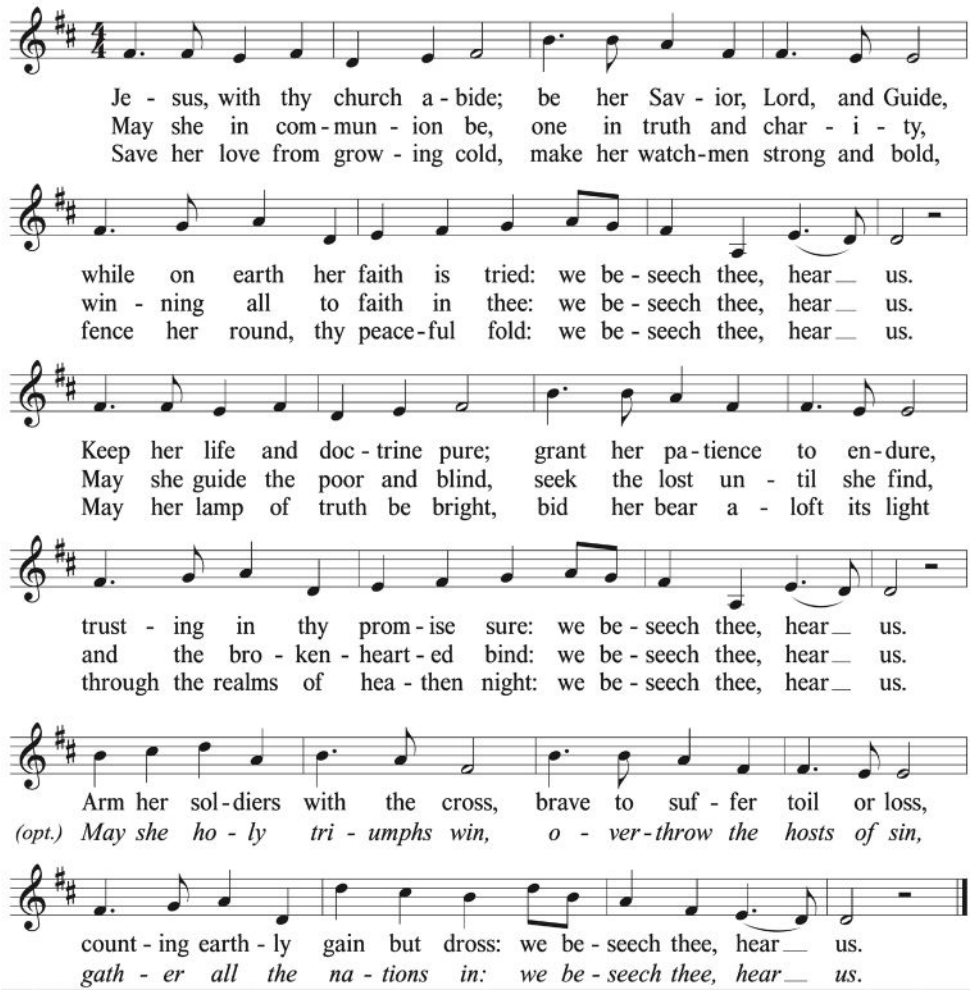
Heidelberg Catechism—Lord's Day 48

122. What does the second petition mean?

"Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Preserve and increase your church. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy Word.

Do all this until your kingdom fully comes, when you will be all in all.

Jesus, with Thy Church Abide



Text: Thomas Benson Pollock, 1871; Music: and alt. v. 2: Nathan Clark George, 2023

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 Dave Lapp, Director of Men's Ministry and Small Groups,
at dlapp@christcovenant.org.

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