

Covenant Presbyterian Church, PCA

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Monday-Thursday:
8:00 AM-4:00 PM
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COVENANT
PCA

For the glory of God, Covenant Presbyterian Church
exists to worship God and equip His people for service.

Sunday, December 22, 2024

May you be still as we trust in our Heavenly Father and rest in the peace Christ has purchased for us and given to us in the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please prepare yourself for worship by prayerfully reading and meditating on the Scriptures and quotes below.

Preparation for Worship

Pre Prelude *Away in a Manger* arr. Heather Sorenson
Collette Levi, piano

Prelude *Joy to the World* arr. Dan Forrest
Sarah Barfield and Ben Macdonald, piano

'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.' Isaiah 55:8-9

'But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One Who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.' Micah 5:2

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will. Proverbs 21:1

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. John 1:11

'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?' John 14:1-2

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. Galatians 4:4-5

"God's providence is His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory and the good of His people." Jerry Bridges

"The longer I live, the more faith I have in providence, and the less faith in my interpretation of providence." Jeremiah Day

"Simply to say that we are trusting in God instead of acting responsibly is sheer laziness and is a distortion of the doctrine of providence." Wayne Grudem

"He who complains of the weather, complains of the God who ordained the weather!" William Law

"Those who seek to control their own lives will inevitably be frustrated. A confident trust in God's providence is foundational to contentment." John MacArthur

"Waiting confronts us at the deepest level that we are not in charge." Paul David Tripp

"Interruptions [can become] divine appointments." Robert Lewis

Order of Worship – December 22, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Love Ben and Caitlyn Stuckey

Adoration of God

***Call to Worship** Psalm 95:1-3
Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

***Carol of Praise** No. 207 *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Invocation Elder Tony Bloemsma

Affirmation of Our Faith Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. "Christ's humiliation consisted in His being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time."

***Carol of Adoration** No. 205 *Away in a Manger*

Confession of Sin and Means of Grace

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Reflection *Baby in the Hay* by Heather Sorenson
The Covenant Choir with Rachel Macdonald, mezzo-soprano

***The Reading of God's Word** Luke 2:1-7

The Message from God's Word "A Place Prepared"
Pastor Steve Mirich

***Hymn of Response** *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Offertory Prayer

Offertory *Mary, Did You Know?* arr. Jack Schrader
Greg Hostetler, trumpet and Katie Stuckey, piano

Response and Blessing

***Closing Carol** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

***Benediction** Ephesians 3:17-19
So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*** Advent Doxology** VENI, EMMANUEL

Postlude *He Is Born! The Divine Christ Child* arr. Ovid Young
Brett Levi, organ

*Indicates when the congregation stands (if able)