

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

GREETING

Leader: There is good news of great joy for all!
People: **Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord!**
Leader: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to all people of goodwill!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Ron & Pat Smith

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
O come, Desire of nations,
bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRELUDE *“Christmas Reverie”*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE #133 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubts; renew our hope! Let us receive the fullness of your grace, O Lord, and live in the truth of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord:
See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God;
sought out and never forsaken.
Friends, believe the good news:
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING # 119 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 638—OT) Isaiah 9:2-7

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 145 *“What Child Is This”*

SECOND LESSON (p. 58—NT) Luke 2:1-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *“Christmas Communion Song”*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...
...forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy, God of majesty...
...the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...
...almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(continued)

All: **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.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF BLESSING *“Silent Night”*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.**

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.



Special notes about tonight's service:

- As we celebrate the sacrament this evening, **all** are welcome to come to the table and partake in the meal.
- We are delighted to have your children in worship with us tonight. If it is helpful, there is a **Prayground** space at the back of the sanctuary for young disciples to wiggle, dance, and play as they participate in worship.
- Parents, please assist your children in lighting their candles. These can be extinguished after the Benediction and returned to boxes in the entryway.
- The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given in honor or memory of those listed on the insert. If you gave a poinsettia, please plan to take it home after tomorrow morning's Christmas Day service.

CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SING

You're welcome to join us again tomorrow morning to celebrate Christmas Day at 11 AM. We will have a special service of sharing stories and singing carols!



CPC STATEMENT OF OPENNESS AND WELCOME

We aspire to Christ's model of openness and love for all persons. As God has welcomed us, we also welcome everyone into the life, leadership, and community of Christ's church, regardless of abilities, age, economic status, education, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, social position or any identity or status that might be perceived as separating us from God or one another.

We pledge to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each of God's children, with membership, leadership, and employment open to whomever God calls.

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels. Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service. The Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Greeter: Betsy Moakler
Accompanists: Anne Smith & Van Potterton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust
Director of Music: Dr. Matthew Potterton
Office Administrator: Tina Simon
Financial Assistant: Anne Webb
AV Tech: Harvey Trueblood

PRAYER CONCERNS

*If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share feel free to complete a prayer card with your request. **Please contact the church office with any updates to this list.** Names will remain in the bulletin for three weeks unless we are notified about a change.*

Week of December 24—31, 2022

Howard Bowman; Cathy Eades, Jim Starr's cousin; Allen White, Maggie's uncle; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother; Estelle Armistead; Sharon Fuhrman; Vickie Koppel, friend of Don & Patti Coble; all those affected by gun violence; all those in our community affected by Covid-19; the people of Ukraine, its neighbors, and the innocent people of Russia.

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan
The Adams Maldonado Family: Frontera de Cristo

and these Covenant ministry partners:

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) † Holston Presbytery Camp
Good Samaritan Ministry † The River † BABMOC



In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

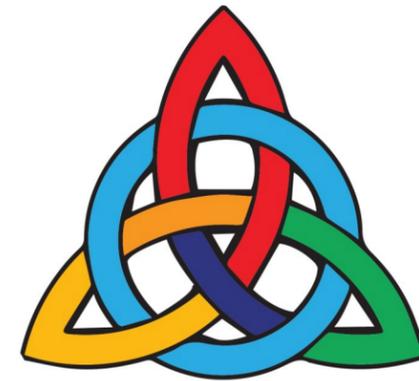


Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 24, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE

