

The Lord's Service

December 25, 2022

**Standing together is our ordinary practice,
but you are welcome to remain seated.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle - The Zach Southard Family

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th Century French Carol

Chancel Choir

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

God Calls Us

*Call to Worship

Revelation 5.11-13

LEADER: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne
and the living creatures and the elders the voice
of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads
and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud
voice,

PEOPLE: **“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to
receive power and wealth and wisdom and
might and honor and glory and blessing!”**

Call to Worship

Only God Himself can call
us into worship. He sets
the terms for worship
because, through His Son,
He makes worship possible.

LEADER: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

PEOPLE: **“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**

*Hymn of Adoration

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: John Francis Wade (1751)

Music: ADESTE FIDELES, from John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi (1751)

Hymnal No. 208

*Invocation

by Elder Ken Henry

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession

Deuteronomy 6.4-6

LEADER: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

PEOPLE: **And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.**

Private Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

written by Henry Smith, London, 16th century

O Lord, let not your law be a cursing to our consciences. Give us grace under this extreme and heavy burden of sin, to be fully persuaded that you by your death have taken away all our sins, and fulfilled the law for us, and by this means have delivered us from the curse of the law and paid our ransom. And then, being thus fully persuaded, may we have quiet and settled hearts, and a free conscience, and glad desiring wills to forsake this wicked world. Amen.

Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

Call to Confession

As we see God in His invitation and our praise, we cannot help but see how we have fallen short. God's Holy Scripture has the authority to reveal us to ourselves and transition our hearts to confession.

Corporate Confession of Sin

We sin in thought, word, and deed every week. This prayer begins with silent confession, followed by corporate confession as people equally in need of God's grace.

Assurance of Pardon

Holy Scripture assures Christians, sinners saved by grace, that they are united to Jesus in His death and resurrection.

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8.31-33

LEADER: Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”

The peace of the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: **And also with you!**

*Hymn of Assurance

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Words: John Mason Neale (1853)

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody (14th century)

Hymnal No. 207

God Consecrates Us

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 4.1-7 (p. 974)

read by Elder Ernie Brown

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Tithes and Offerings

Scripture Lesson

We hear and read Holy Scripture throughout the service. Listen to this reading (lesson) to prepare for the sermon.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

We set aside a tithe and additional offering of our resources for the purposes of God, for His glory. Both are a display of our joyful dependence upon God rather than ourselves.

Offertory

What Sweeter Music

Words: Robert Herrick

Music: John Rutter

Sanctuary Choir

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav’nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn’d to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,
Turns the patient ground to flow'rs.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him, to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

*Doxology

REGENT SQUARE

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Prayer of the Church

by Pastor Jake Bennett

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 45.6-9 (p. 471)

- ⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of
uprightness;
- ⁷ you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- ⁸ your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and
cassia.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

Doxology

A doxology is a hymn or
word of praise to God for
His goodness and glory.
The *Gloria Patri* is another
example of a doxology.

Prayer of the Church

We share in our health and
sickness, happiness and
sorrow, assurance and
doubt, as we bring our
prayers to God, together.
Holy Scripture commands
elders to pray with and for
God's people, not just
publicly, but privately.

Scripture Lesson

We hear and read Holy
Scripture throughout the
service. Follow along with
this text (lesson) that
directs the sermon.

⁹ daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Sermon

A preacher is commanded
to faithfully steward
God's Word by submitting
to it, studying it, and
expositing it (holding it
forth), bearing witness to
Jesus, by the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Sermon

by Pastor John Jones

WONDERFUL GLADNESS

*Hymn of Response

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley (1739, 1753)

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840)

Hymnal No. 203

The Lord's Table

*Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed
(215)

Confession of Faith

By confessing our faith
together using statements
believed by Christians
over the ages, we join
in the sweep of Christian
history even as we await
the return of Jesus.

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe?

PEOPLE: **I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord,**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified,**

died, and was buried;

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of

God the Father Almighty.

**From there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic[†] church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

[†] "catholic" -- universal

*Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Words: Traditional French Carol

Music: GLORIA, Traditional French melody

Hymnal No. 214

Instruction

Please approach using the outer aisles and return using the center aisle. Juice is served in clear cups. Wine is served in tinted cups. Allergy-sensitive bread is available next to the tray (see page 9 for ingredients). An elder will offer to bring the meal to those who prefer to remain seated.

Sursum Corda

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

PEOPLE: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Sursum Corda

We don't fixate on the table, bread, and wine, but lift our hearts to Jesus in the glory of His Father.

The Institution and Prayer

Hymn for Distribution

What Child Is This

Words: Traditional English Carol

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English melody, 16th century

Hymnal No. 213

Ministry in Music

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Brass and Organ

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Words: Traditional Spiritual
Music: GO TELL IT , Spiritual*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *[Refrain]*

The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *[Refrain]*

Down in a lowly manger
our humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *[Refrain]*

God Commissions Us

Benediction

Just as God calls us to
worship at the beginning of
the service, He graciously
sends us into our week
with a blessing (good
word) founded on the
redeeming work of Jesus.

*Benediction

by Pastor John Jones

Postlude

SERMON NOTES

Mission Statement of CPC

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to love God and our neighbors by making Christ known in all of life.

Vision Statement of CPC

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to love God and our neighbors by reverently and winsomely proclaiming the salvation we have received from Christ, the union we enjoy with Him, and the restoration He brings to all things.

WELCOME

We are glad you joined us this morning! If this is your first visit with us, please take a moment to fill out one of the Connection Cards located in each pew.

Join us in the lobby for coffee and fellowship before Sunday school. If you are visiting or are newer to Covenant, consider visiting the Essentials class designed for you that meets in the Sanctuary.

We invite you to join us next week, as Pastor Render Caines preaches from Joshua 21.41-22.34

For those with children:

Here at Covenant your children are welcome and wanted in worship! Understandably, little ones sometimes have a hard time sitting quietly through a service. We have a special bulletin designed for these Little Theologians. They are available in the narthex (don't forget the crayons!). A window-enclosed Family Worship Room (on the right side of the sanctuary) is also available for you to use. It is a place for children to be a little louder and more active. A family restroom and a nursing mothers' room are located in the back of this room. A nursery is available to children who were born after September 1, 2019. Any deacon can direct you there.

ALLERGY-SENSITIVE BREAD FOR LORD'S SUPPER

Allergy-sensitive bread ingredients:
tapioca starch, water, potato starch, potato flakes, palm oil, honey, egg yolks, natural vinegar, salt

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 25 - *Christmas*

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am
Lord's Supper Celebrated

Monday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

Sunday, January 1 - *New Year's Day*

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am
Lord's Supper Celebrated

Monday, January 2

Church Offices Closed

MORE INFORMATION

Our church website and calendar are updated daily. Visit cpcchatt.org for resources, activities, and information about the life of our church.

Contact the church office to request access to our online directory.

All music is printed under CCLI No. 447727.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the office at office@cpcchatt.org to make an appointment.

COVENANT LIFE

NO NURSERY ON CHRISTMAS

Please note that there will be no nursery for the Sunday morning service on Christmas Day. We would love for our families to be together that morning. We look forward to worshipping with our littlest Covenant Children.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

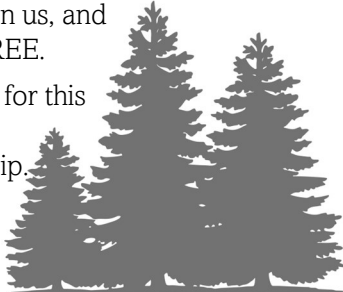
The church offices will be closed Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas. They will also be closed on Monday, January 2 for New Year's.

MEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION

The Men's Ministry is hosting a Winter Retreat at Johnston Woods on January 20-21. We will focus on *Who We Are in Christ*. Dr. Herb Ward will be our special guest speaker.

Sign up online at cpcchatt.org. The cost is \$50 to attend. Scholarships are available. High school boys are invited to join us, and their attendance is FREE.

Make plans to join us for this rich weekend of teaching and fellowship.



CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS

Please remember to save your Christmas Card stamps. Bring them to the church office. Used stamps are trimmed and sent to be processed and re-sold with proceeds going to finance Spanish language Sunday School curriculum in Latin America.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the offering or locked offering box in the Lobby by noon on Friday, December 30 (or postmarked by December 31) to be counted as tax-deductible for 2022 contributions.

Like last year, all giving statements will be sent digitally to the e-mail address we have on record in ShelbyNext. If you would like your giving statement to be mailed or have any questions, please contact Becky Pearce at bpearce@cpcchatt.org.

BUDGET REPORT

Through December 18:

Giving To Date:	\$1,302,426
Annual Budget Need:	\$1,984,930
Needed By Year-end:	\$ 682,504

CHILDREN & YOUTH

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Consider volunteering for nursery duty. Contact Bekah Gernhard at nursery@cpcchatt.org and let her know when you are available to serve.

CPC YOUTH FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

All Youth homeschool students are invited to join us for a time of fellowship. We will plan to meet the first Friday of each month and get lunch. Parents are welcome! We will meet at Panda Express (2260 Gunbarrel Road) on Friday, January 6 from 11:30 am - 1 pm.

JANUARY GET TOGETHERS

Before students head back to school in the New Year, we want you to be able to fellowship and laugh together. On Tuesday, January 3 at 11 am, Youth girls will get an opportunity to meet together for lunch and games. The Youth guys are invited to come for lunch and games on Wednesday, January 4 at 11 am.

NURSERY - TODAY	NURSERY - JANUARY 1
-----	Front Desk: Bekah Gernhard
Worship Volunteers / 9:15 - 10:45 am	
<i>No Nursery for Christmas Day Worship Service</i>	Mindy Haywood (Infant Room) Stephen Haywood (Infant Room) Debby Gardner (Toddler Room) Iris Haywood (Toddler Room)
Sunday School Volunteers / 10:45 - 12:15 pm	
-----	---- No Sunday School ----

MIDWEEK

MIDWEEK IN THE NEW YEAR

All regular Midweek activities and classes will pause until mid-January.

Choir rehearsal will resume Wednesday, January 11 at 6:45 pm.

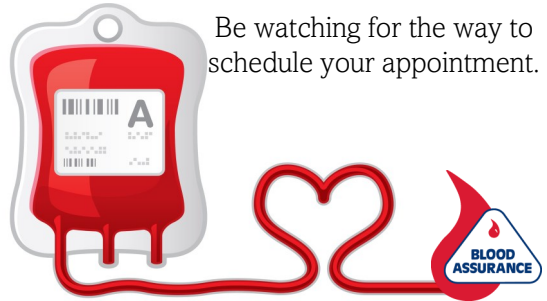
Midweek will begin again on Wednesday, January 18 at 5:30 pm with our regular meal.

Be watching for details about the upcoming activities and classes that will be offered in 2023.

CPC BLOOD DRIVE

CPC is partnering again with Blood Assurance to host the Bloodmobile in our parking lot on Wednesday, January 18 from 4:30-8:30 pm.

Be watching for the way to schedule your appointment.



OUTREACH

MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW)



MTW is the global missions-sending agency of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). MTW sends nearly 700 Christian workers to 102 countries all over the world who are committed to the establishment, growth, and maturity of the church. All that

they do flows into, rests within, or flow out of the local church.

For example, establishing a new church might require people who can teach local leaders, or evangelize through sports ministry, or provide a medical clinic. These ways of serving can reach and equip future leaders and build connections in the community. They work with 802 national partners to help strengthen this endeavor.

Serving within the church would be church planters, assistant pastors, disciplers, teachers, and others who directly support the growth and maturity of the church.

Flowing out of a healthy, growing church will be ministries that transform the community and continue to draw others to the gospel message, such as teaching English, caring for orphans, art and music outreach, or serving refugees.

For more information about this mission agency of the PCA, visit www.mtw.org/about.

MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA (MNA)



MNA is an agency of the PCA whose calling and vision is to strengthen the church in North America to serve, grow, and multiply. MNA purposely stives to implement these Kingdom values: Kingdom Diversity (advancing the gospel among all people groups), Kingdom Prayer (building a house of prayer for all the nations), Kingdom Evangelism (growing through people coming to Christ), Kingdom Engagement (acting justly, seeking mercy, and walking humbly with God), and Kingdom

Mobilization (advancing the gospel through the ministry of lay people).

MNA is composed by a wide variety of ministry umbrellas that are actively engaged in serving and equipping the church and those in need. The Chaplain Ministries, Church Planting Resources, Engaging Disability With The Gospel, ESL Ministries, Disaster Response, and Metanoia Prison Ministries are just a sampling with which our church may be familiar.

For more information or to find out how you could serve, become involved in, or be equipped by one of these ministries, visit www.pcamna.org.