

# Traditional Worship

December 14, 2025  
8:45 am



## cherry creek pres

A member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Advent



## Worship Notes

*...making our worship more  
meaningful & understandable*

If you are tuning in to Cherry Creek,  
welcome and thank you for worshipping  
with us on this Sunday morning.

### Today we light the pink candle.

The Advent wreath symbolizes the  
growing light of Christ, becoming  
ever brighter. Do we live with an  
“Advent wreath” lit in our hearts?  
Do we live with expectancy that  
Christ will return, and do we let that  
reality shape who we are, what we  
do, and how we act? The wreath’s  
traditional candle colors have been  
three purple and one pink. Where-  
as the purple is a symbol of both  
Christ’s royalty and our longing  
and preparation, the pink candle  
reminds us that joy should charac-  
terize our longing. We do grieve  
in this life, but we don’t grieve as  
those with no hope. Our longing  
for Christ is undergirded with a  
deep joy, which gives purpose to  
our lamentation, because we  
know that God will bring all things  
to His good and just ends. O God,  
well up within us the joy of Christ!

Is “Joy to the World” really about  
Christmas? This well-known Christ-  
mas hymn may be so associated  
with Christmas that it has lost some  
of its original intent by the author,  
Isaac Watts. Read the text carefully  
some time. What concepts are being  
addressed? What contexts are illus-  
trated?

*The Savior reigns...*

*He comes to make His blessings flow far  
as the curse is found...*

*He rules the world...*

## God Gathers Us

### Prelude

Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella - Music: Rainey, arr. Sherman

### Welcome

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Invocation

### Introit - Cherub Choir

Away in a Manger - arr. James Murray  
Hear the Bells - Michael Bedford

### Gathering Hymns

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen - arr. Willcocks

O Come, All Ye Faithful - Trad.

### Gloria in Excelsis Deo

## We Respond to God’s Presence

### Anthem - Cantus & Choristers Choirs

Deo! We are Marching on to Bethlehem - Shafferman/Liebergen

### Worship Through Giving

### Prayer of Joy

### The Lord’s Prayer - arr. Grantham

### Doxology - VENI EMMANUEL

### Announcements

### Greeting

# God Reveals His Word to Us

## Song of Illumination

O Come, O Come Emmanuel - VENI EMMANUEL

**Sermon** Wade Pursell

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, Rev. 12:1-5 (pages 680 & 1226 in pew Bible)

**Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.**  
**All: Thanks Be to God!**

Series: For Unto Us a Child is Born

Message: Dragon Tales

## We Go Forth in Joy

### Hymn of Response

#179 Joy to the World!

### Benediction

*As you are able, we invite you to extend your hands out, palms up, in a posture of receiving God's blessing during the benediction.*

### Postlude

Joy to the World! - arr. Michael Bedford

### Prayer for the Week

Eternal God,  
you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.  
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,  
and make us strong in faith,  
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,  
we may joyfully give him praise  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.  
(from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd ed.)

*and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness.*

Is this speaking of Jesus' coming to earth at Christmas? Yes, in part. But this entire hymn is equally viewing the picture of Christ's second coming, described in the book of Revelation. Ultimately, this hymn is an "eschatological" hymn (a song about the end times). Let's not rob this hymn of all the great ideas it conveys.

**Assisting in Worship** Hand Bell Choir; Trudy Pohawpatchoko, conductor; Edwin & Priya Sunder, Advent Candle Lighters; Cherub Choir; Karen Suchomel, conductor; Lorraine Cooper, accompanist; String Octet: Laura Schleiger, Kellie Johnson, Isabelle Wong, Chelsea Winborne, Katie Fouse, Sarah Stenbakken, Evan Shelton, & Heather Hadley; Cantus/Choristers Choirs; Ella Smith, cajon, Suzanne Compton, Children's & Teen Choirs Coordinator; Lu Downing, accompanist; Teen Choir, Ben Bear, conductor; Reese Meintjes, reader; David Knopp & Tech Team; Usher Team

**May We Pray With You?** If you would like, please come forward after the service to find a pastor or elder. We'd love to pray for you and/or anoint you with oil (per James 5).

**Giving** In response to God's goodness, we are called to offer our whole selves—heart and mind, soul, and strength—in joyful adoration in our daily lives. One way we do that is through giving financially, which you can do in person after the service, by mail or here: <https://cherrycreekpres.org/give>



Rev. Dr. Brad Strait, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gary Hein, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Chris Piehl, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Phil Bremerman, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Jeanne Gaessler, Assistant Pastor  
Evan Mazunik, Dir. of Worship & Liturgy  
Bohee Paek, Organist/Pianist  
Rebecca Sarian, Contemporary Worship Leader

Services: Sunday: Traditional 8:45; Convergent 10:30; 1st & 3rd Saturday: Word & Table, 5 pm

For information on CCPC events or ministries, please visit the Welcome Desk or [www.cherrycreekpres.org](http://www.cherrycreekpres.org).

# Convergent Worship

December 14, 2025  
10:30 am



## cherry creek pres

A member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Advent



## Worship Notes

*...making our worship more  
meaningful & understandable*

If you are tuning in to Cherry Creek, welcome and thank you for worshipping with us on this Sunday morning.

### **Today we light the pink candle.**

The Advent wreath symbolizes the growing light of Christ, becoming ever brighter. Do we live with an "Advent wreath" lit in our hearts? Do we live with expectancy that Christ will return, and do we let that reality shape who we are, what we do, and how we act? The wreath's traditional candle colors have been three purple and one pink. Whereas the purple is a symbol of both Christ's royalty and our longing and preparation, the pink candle reminds us that joy should characterize our longing. We do grieve in this life, but we don't grieve as those with no hope. Our longing for Christ is undergirded with a deep joy, which gives purpose to our lamentation, because we know that God will bring all things to His good and just ends. O God, well up within us the joy of Christ!

**Is "Joy to the World" really about Christmas?** This well-known Christmas hymn may be so associated with Christmas that it has lost some of its original intent by the author, Isaac Watts. Read the text carefully some time. What concepts are being addressed? What contexts are illustrated?

*The Savior reigns...*

*He comes to make His blessings flow far  
as the curse is found...*

*He rules the world...*

## God Gathers Us

### Prelude

Bring A Torch, Jeanette Isabella - Music: Rainey, arr. Sherman

### Welcome

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Invocation

### Introit - Cherub Choir

Away in a Manger - arr. James Murray  
Hear the Bells - Michael Bedford

### Gathering Hymns

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen - Trad.

O Come, All Ye Faithful - Trad.

### Gloria in Excelsis Deo

## We Respond to God's Presence

### Anthem - Cantus & Choristers Choirs

Deo! We are Marching on to Bethlehem - Shafferman/Liebergen

### Worship Through Giving

### Prayer of Peace

### The Lord's Prayer - arr. Grantham

### Doxology - VENI EMMANUEL

### Announcements

### Greeting

# God Reveals His Word to Us

## Song of Illumination

O Come, O Come Emmanuel - VENI EMMANUEL

**Sermon** Wade Pursell

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, Rev. 12:1-5 (pages 680 & 1226 in pew Bible)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All:** Thanks Be to God!

Series: For Unto Us a Child is Born

Message: Dragon Tales

## We Go Forth in Joy

### Hymn of Response

#179 Joy to the World!

### Benediction

*As you are able, we invite you to extend your hands out, palms up, in a posture of receiving God's blessing during the benediction.*

### Postlude

Joy to the World! - arr. Michael Bedford

### Prayer for the Week

Eternal God,  
you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.  
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,  
and make us strong in faith,  
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,  
we may joyfully give him praise  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.  
(from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd ed.)

*and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness.*

Is this speaking of Jesus' coming to earth at Christmas? Yes, in part. But this entire hymn is equally viewing the picture of Christ's second coming, described in the book of Revelation. Ultimately, this hymn is an "eschatological" hymn (a song about the end times). Let's not rob this hymn of all the great ideas it conveys.

**May We Pray With You?** If you would like, please come forward after the service to find a pastor or elder. We'd love to pray for you and/or anoint you with oil (per James 5).

**Assisting in Worship** Hand Bell Choir; Trudy Pohawpatchoko, conductor; The Hunt Family, Advent Candle Lighters; Cherub Choir; Karen Suchomel, conductor; Lorraine Cooper, accompanist; String Octet: Laura Schlei-ger, Kellie Johnson, Isabelle Wong, Chelsea Winborne, Katie Fouse, Sarah Stenbakken, Evan Shelton, & Heather Hadley; Cantus/Choristers Choirs; Suzanne Compton, Children's & Youth Choirs Coordinator; Lu Downing, accompanist; Ella Smith, cajon; Teen Choir, Ben Bear, conductor; Reese Meintjes, reader; David Knopp & Tech Team; Usher Team

**Giving** In response to God's goodness, we are called to offer our whole selves—heart and mind, soul, and strength—in joyful adoration in our daily lives. One way we do that is through giving financially, which you can do in person after the service, by mail or here: <https://cherrycreekpres.org/give>



Rev. Dr. Brad Strait, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gary Hein, Executive Pastor  
Rev. Chris Piehl, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Phil Bremerman, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Jeanne Gaessler, Assistant Pastor  
Evan Mazunik, Dir. of Worship & Liturgy  
Bohee Paek, Organist  
Rebecca Sarian, Contemporary Worship Leader

Services: Sunday: Traditional 8:45; Convergent 10:30; 1st & 3rd Saturday: Word & Table, 5 pm

For information on CCPC events or ministries, please visit the Welcome Desk or [www.cherrycreekpres.org](http://www.cherrycreekpres.org).