



covenant
children's ministries

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Dear parents of young worshipers,

Welcome! We are delighted to have you and your children worshipping with us this morning. Our goal each Sunday is to glorify and enjoy the God Who made us and saved us by His grace.

This bulletin was designed to help your children follow along with this morning's worship service. Here are some ideas to guide you:

- * Have children use the **stickers** provided as they follow along with this morning's liturgy. We've included some **brief definitions** for various parts of the liturgy to help you as you guide your child through the worship service.
- * Encourage your children to **color (or draw)** the main points of this morning's sermon as you listen together.
- * Help your children as they listen for the answer to the **question for young worshipers** during the sermon.
- * Check out the back of the bulletin for suggestions on **preparing for next week's worship service!** (Practicing can be especially helpful for young worshipers who cannot yet read!)

If you have any questions about our church, please do not hesitate to ask.

**In Christ,
Pastor Wiersema**

MORNING WORSHIP



Prelude

Think about why we are here. Get ready to worship!



Call to Worship: from Psalm 98

God calls us to worship Him from His Word

PASTOR: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.*

PEOPLE: **The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the sight of the nations.**

PASTOR: *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.*

PEOPLE: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**



Hymn of Adoration:

Good Christian Men, Rejoice! #207

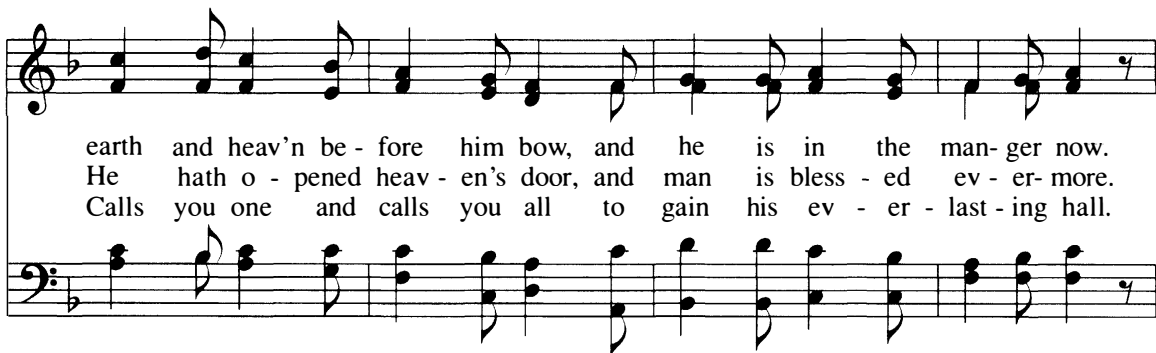
We respond to God's call to worship in praise and love!



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Invocation

We ask God to be present with us as we worship Him.



Profession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

**We declare what we believe about God —
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

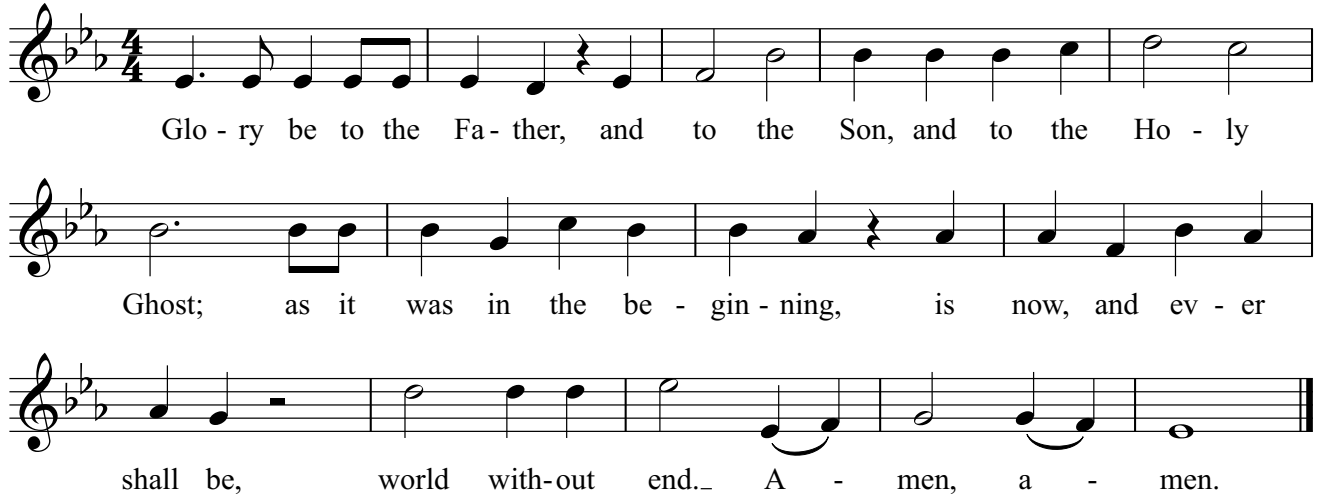
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the
living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Gloria Patri

We praise God for who He is.



2nd Cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)
Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Corporate Confession of Sin: from Psalm 98 & Luke 2

We confess our sins together as God's people.

PASTOR: *The LORD will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.*

ALL: **You know the thoughts of our hearts, O Lord.
We confess that we have sinned against you
in what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Instead of waiting on you, we have gone our own way. Instead
of blessing you for your good gifts,
we are selfish and prideful.
Instead of worshipping you throughout our lives,
we worship ourselves.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.**



Silent confession

Confess your own sins quietly to God.



Assurance of Pardon: from Isaiah 52-53

God promises to forgive all those who trust in Jesus!

PASTOR: *Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. For Christ was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.



Hymn of Assurance

Go, Tell it on the Mountain #224

We sing that we are forgiven and held secure by God.

Unison

(Ref.) Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Fine

1. While shep- herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
2. The shep- herds feared and trem- bled when, lo! a - bove the earth rang
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger our hum - ble Christ was born, and

hold, through- out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

D.C.



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

We hear God's word being read and thank him for it.

PASTOR: *This is the word of the Lord.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**



Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

The pastor prays for God's Church, locally and globally, then we pray the prayer Jesus taught His disciples.

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,
for ever. Amen



Offertory: Simeon's Song

We give back to God a portion of what He has given us.



Children's Worship (8:30 service only)




Parents, please bring participating **children ages 4-1st grade** to meet their Worship leader in the Narthex during the following hymn. Children can be picked up downstairs in Room 13. They are also invited stay with us during the remainder of the service!





Hymn of Preparation:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #196



We praise God as we prepare to listen to His Word.




1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep-herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.





Sermon: Luke 2:21-38

The Songs of Advent - Simeon and Anna (Pastor Noah)

We listen to God's Word preached to us.

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Question for young worshipers:

What did Simeon see?



SONGS OF

ADVENT -

SIMEON AND

ANNA



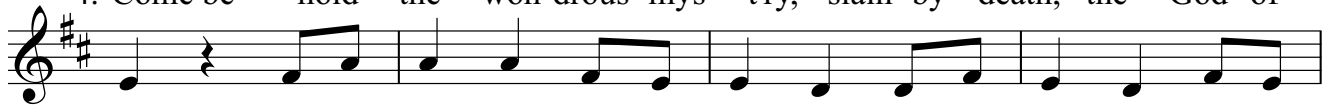
Celebration of the Lord's Supper:

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

As Christians, we share this meal - reminding us of and strengthening our union with Christ and with one another - as Jesus told His disciples to do before He was crucified.



1. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, in the dawn - ing of the
2. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, He the per - fect Son of
3. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, Christ the Lord up - on the
4. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, slain by death, the God of



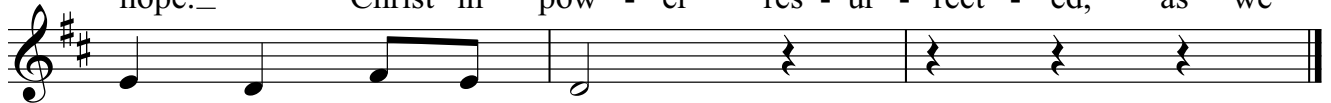
King. He the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i -
Man. In His liv - ing, in His suf - fring, nev - er trace, nor stain of
tree. In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to -
life. But no grave could e'er re - strain Him. Praise the Lord, He is a -



ty. In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has
sin. See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound
ry. See the price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan
live! What a fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wa - ver - ing our



come. Look to Christ, who con - de - scend - ed, took on
man. Christ, the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the
un - fold. Bring - ing man - y sons to glo - ry; grace un -
hope. Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed, as we



flesh to ran - som us.
law, in Him we stand.
meas - ured, love un - told.
will be when he comes.



Parents, if you think your child or children are ready to come to the table, please contact your fold elder or a pastor.



Benediction

The pastor proclaims a blessing on God's people



Doxology

We praise God and call others to praise Him!

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - - men.

Thomas Ken, 1709

OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter 1551



The Peace of Christ

We greet one another and are sent out on our way.

LEADER: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

ALL: **And also with you!**

Musicians – Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals

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Offertory (“Simeon’s Song”): Words and music by Paul Zach and Tenielle Neda.

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Communion Hymn (“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”): Words and music by
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NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!

Preparing for next week's worship service

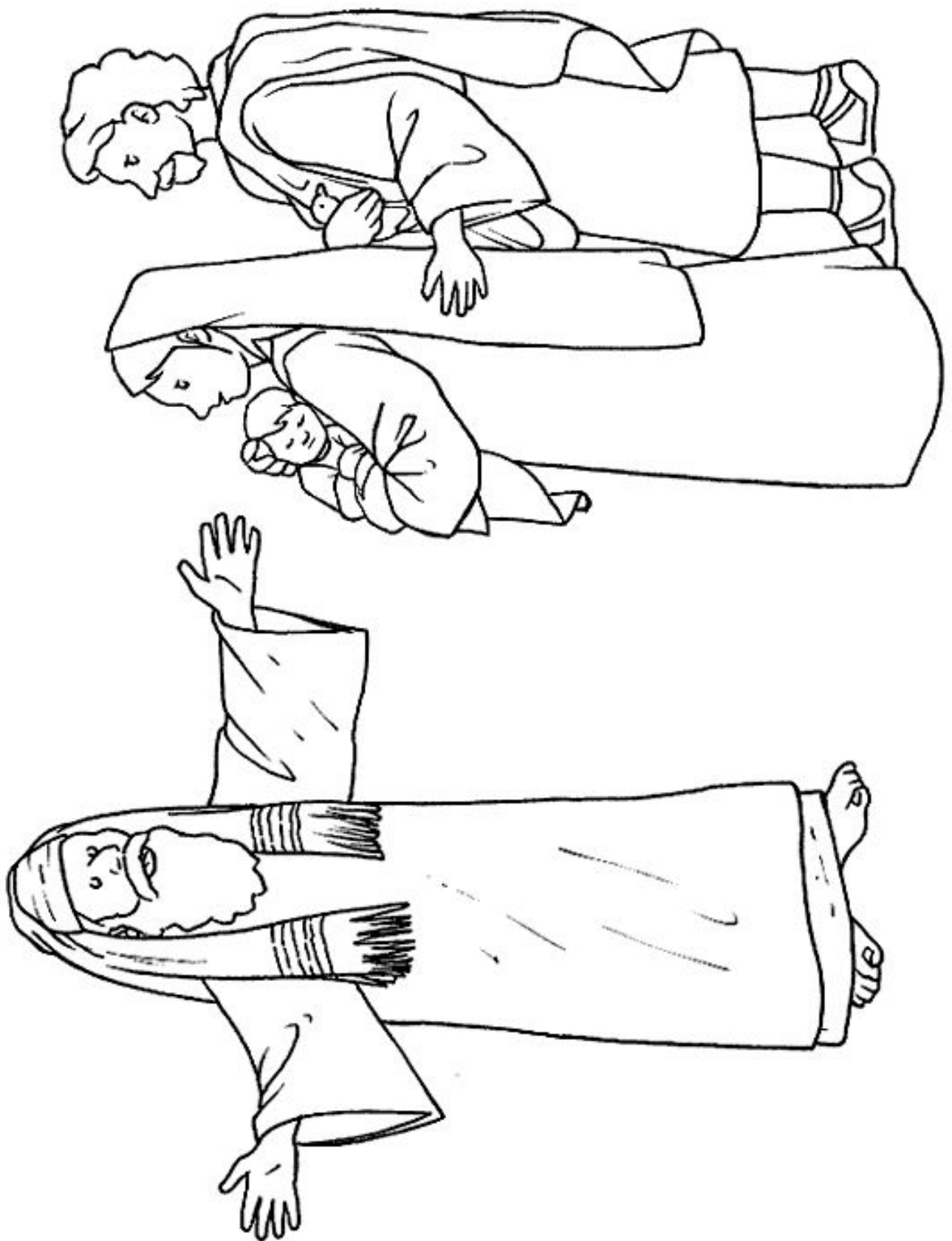
We know that **training our children to worship** does not happen overnight. Especially for children who are not yet able to read, worship services can be difficult to follow, much less participate in! By practicing some of the elements of the service at home as a family during the week as you are able, your child(ren) can be prepared for what to say and sing along with the congregation.

- **PRAY:** We need the Lord's help as we train our children in worship. Even our best efforts to prepare them will fall flat without His aid!
- **MEMORIZE:** Work on memorizing **The Apostles' Creed** and **The Lord's Prayer** with your child(ren). We say these almost every week! In addition, we almost always include one or more of the following songs: the **Doxology**, the **Gloria Patri**, and the **Threefold Amen**.
- **PRACTICE:** You can scan the QR code to find a Spotify playlist with hymns commonly sung in our service and other worshipful hymns.





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By the grace of the Triune God, Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to form and send disciples with passion for God and compassion for people.

Statement of Faith

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and holds to that system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms.

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