

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Tim Chapman, Clerk
Chas Emerson, Treasurer
Bob Barber
Scott Sartor
Shaun Sipe*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Nick Manley
Robert Massey
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

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Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, women@christcovenantms.org

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Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

Sue Tarver, pianist

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Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Christ Candle

Greg & Jill Karr

Genesis 3:1-15 (p. 2)

John 1:1-14 (p. 886)

READER: We light the last candle of Advent, the Christ Candle. We light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the promised seed of the woman, the Light of the world. This Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Amen! Let us worship God!

Isaiah 9:6-7

*Song of Adoration

O Come All Ye Faithful #208

*Prayer of Adoration

The Old Testament Reading

READER: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. 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.

Isaiah 52:7-10 (page 617)

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Schedule: The church office will be closed 12.25 & 1.1

Christmas Eve Worship: The annual Christmas Eve offering will go towards the PCA Ministerial Relief fund which provides assistance to PCA church employees and their families with financial, spiritual, and emotional help since 1973.

Year End Giving: Please remember the church in your year-end giving this month. You can give securely online through our website, app, or mail a check by December 31st. Please give regularly to the general fund, but gifts beyond your normal tithe and offering can now be sent to our new "land and building fund" available online or if written on the memo line of your check.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14 (page 572)*

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

***Song of Praise**

Go Tell It On the Mountain #224

The New Testament Reading

READER: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 1:18-2:12 (p.807)

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory

What Child Is This #213

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14 (p. 805)

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: **But the word of our God will stand forever.**

Isaiah 40:8

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Jim Plunk

“Receiving His Birth”

FEASTING AT GOD’S TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: And with your spirit

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

PASTOR: On this night before Christmas we confess that we believe that the Son of God, very God of very God, was made Man, taking on Him human nature of soul and body, and joining it with the Divine in the unity of His Person: that a woman named Mary did by the immediate operation of the Holy Spirit conceive Him within her womb, continuing still as before a pure Virgin, and in due time brought Him forth: and that so the Word was made flesh, being, without any original corruption, born of a woman under the law, that He might deliver us from the guilt of sin. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying...

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.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Hallelujah!

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

***Spreading of the Light**

PASTOR: Arise, shine; for your light has come. As our Lord Jesus himself has told us, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

PASTOR: Behold, the Light of the world has come and the darkness will never overtake it!

***The Carol**

O Holy Night!

As the candles are lighted say to one another, “Behold, the Light of the world!”

Feel free to choose a battery operated candle for your children or yourself

***The Carol**

Silent Night! Holy Night! #210

***Benediction**

PASTOR: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Go forth in the peace of Christ.

ALL: Glory to God in the Highest! And on earth peace among those with whom our God is pleased! Amen.

As you leave, please drop your candle in the basket located by the door