



# COVENANT

presbyterian church

*To the Greater Glory of God*

## A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

11:00 a.m.

SANCTUARY

*Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship.*

# A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

11:00 a.m.

*Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare and children's programs (ages 6 weeks to fifth grade) are offered in the Education Wing. Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available in the balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.*

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## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

*Two Noels (from Burgundy, France) . . . . . C. Balbastre*

### INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT

*What Child is This . . . . . arr. T. Curd*

*~Connor Holloway, violin~*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Wade, Emily, Lauren, and Brooks Cantrell

One: God is love!

**All: Love that calls us to see our neighbor and choose compassion.**

One: God is love!

**All: Love that breaks through every wall we build and every line we draw.**

One: God is love!

**All: Love that reaches for us when we feel distant, weary, or unworthy.**

One: God is love!

**All: In Jesus, love takes on flesh and finds us right where we are.**

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 143

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory . . . . . REGENT SQUARE*

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION . . . . . Grace Lindvall

## PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

### CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

*Come, Now, O Prince of Peace . . . . . G. Lee<sup>1</sup>*

*Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*

*Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.*

*~Covenant Choir~*

### SILENT CONFESSION

### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of love, you guided Mary and Joseph from the dangers of their journey to the shelter of the stable where love was made known, yet we trudge through our days as if we never knew he arrived. Be it out of fear, resentment, callousness, or contempt, we deny ourselves the transforming power of your incarnation, divine love made known in human form. Forgive us, we pray, and so touch our hearts with the news of Christ's birth that we may welcome him into our lives and center our hearts on such extravagant love. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 108** *(choir and congregation)*

*Of The Father's Love Begotten* (vs. 6) . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM<sup>2</sup>  
**Christ to Thee with God the Father,  
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory evermore and evermore.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD**

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES** . . . . . Courtney Shudak  
*Following Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to remain in worship with their families or go to Childcare. Children going to Childcare should be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the first floor of the Education Wing.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1: 67-79 . . . . . New Testament, p. 54

**SERMON**

"Love Came Down at Christmas" . . . . . Bob Henderson  
Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

**RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 152**

*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright* . . . . . PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** (unison)

**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.**

**MINUTE FOR MINISTRY**

*My Heart Knows* . . . . . Vince DiSandro

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*A Child is Born in Bethlehem.* . . . . . P. Stopford<sup>3</sup>  
**A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
To Thee O Lord, be glory paid, Alleluia.  
The Son of Mary, mother maid, Alleluia.**  
*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
With Deo gracias always, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
~ *Covenant Choir* ~

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

#### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN 110

*Love Has Come* .....BRING A TORCH

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

*Wake, Awake!*..... arr. D. Cherwien

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Notes:

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education

Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Mark Glaeser, organist

Covenant Choir

Emily Reinicker, carillon

## WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshipping with us today. Please fill out one of the Worship Response Cards in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate when finished. All are welcome for fellowship and refreshments in the Circle where today's preaching minister will be glad to greet you.

Interested in joining Covenant? We welcome new members every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building. Feel free to contact our office at 704-333-9071 or email [Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org) for more information.

Masks are optional in the sanctuary and assistive listening devices are available from the ushers. Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the sanctuary for use with hearing aids.



Each Sunday, we offer educational and fellowship opportunities in the mornings and evenings for children, youth and adults in the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. Please see the digital signs in each building for details.

Are you signed up to receive our weekly emails? If not, please contact Lacy King, Communications Manager, at [Lacy.King@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Lacy.King@covenantpresby.org).



Giving a financial gift makes Covenant's programs and ministries possible. You are invited to give generously at [www.covenantpresby.org/ways-to-give](http://www.covenantpresby.org/ways-to-give) or by scanning the QR code to give online or by texting a dollar amount to 704-312-7616. We're grateful for your support.

**CONGREGATIONAL NOTES** (*As of December 17*)  
*Please keep the following individuals and families in your prayers:*

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
Tilden and Alex Arnold on the birth of their child  
Akers Pope Arnold on December 12.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Donald Vance Chamblee  
Elder  
June 15, 1931 - December 15, 2025  
*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. - Revelation 14:13*

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO  
Carla and Tommy Haughton and their family on the  
death of Carla's father John Trull on December 11.  
Laura Chamblee and her family on the death of her  
father Donald V. Chamblee on December 15.  
William Lucas and his family on the death of his father  
Rev. William H. Lucas on December 15.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Deloris Davis  
Murray Fadial  
Rick Peek  
Elaine Scoles  
Dottie Stowe

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Stay up to date by visiting [covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes](http://covenantpresby.org/congregational-notes)

We rely on members of the congregation, friends and relatives to keep us informed of hospitalizations, births and deaths. Please call the church office at 704-333-9071 or email [Aisha.Council@CovenantPresby.org](mailto:Aisha.Council@CovenantPresby.org). Prayer requests may be submitted on your Worship Response Card, on the website at Connect and Grow > Congregational Care, or to [Katherine.Kerr@CovenantPresby.org](mailto:Katherine.Kerr@CovenantPresby.org). A pastor remains on call for emergency situations (death, sudden hospitalizations, etc.). Please call 704-333-9071.

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