



A CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2025

3:00 p.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.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome to worship at Covenant, we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare is available for ages 6 weeks through 5 years in the Education Wing and Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available on the left side of the balcony. The service can also be viewed in the Chapel and Parlor. See an usher for assistance.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Christmas Must Be Tonight R. Robertson¹

This Christmas N. McKinnor, D. Hathaway²

The Night That Christ Was Born K. Franklin³

Coventry Carol Public Domain

Call to Worship

O Holy Night Public Domain

~ Aaron Jones, soloist ~

Prayer of Christmastide. Katherine Kerr

ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

*O Come All Ye Faithful C.F. Oakley, J.F. Wade, J. Espy³

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold him, born the king of angels

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above

Glory to God, all glory in the highest (*Refrain*)

Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning

Jesus to thee be all glory giv'n, Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing (*Refrain*)

Scripture Reading. Grace Lindvall

Isaiah 11:1-3; 6-9 Old Testament, p. 602

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Public Domain

O come O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel

Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Wisdom from on high

And order all things far and nigh

To us the path of knowledge show

And cause us in her ways to go

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel

Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Desire of nations

Bind all peoples in one heart and mind

Bid envy strife and quarrels cease

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel
Rejoice, rejoice

Scripture Reading. Serenitye Taylor
Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament, p. 1

*Hark, *The Herald Angels Sing* Wickham, Smith, Mendelssohn, Wesley⁴

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king

Scripture Reading. Courtney Shudak
Matthew 2:1-11 New Testament, p. 1-2

Offering and the Gift of Angel Ornaments

This year's Christmas Eve offering will be given directly toward supporting vulnerable children here in Charlotte and Nablus, Palestine. Through your generosity, the offering will benefit God's work through Charlotte Family Housing and Tomorrow's Youth Organization, two partners dedicated to helping children find safety, stability, and hope when they are most vulnerable. To make a gift online today, simply text "Give" to 704-312-7616. You'll receive a link—follow the prompts to complete your gift.

Each family is invited to select an ornament to take home (however you define family). This angel is a symbol of the spirit of Christmas shared by our Covenant family—a reminder of love, generosity, and hope as you place it on your tree.

Jesus O What A Wonderful Child. H. Bagby⁵
Wexford Carol (Traditional Irish Carol) C. Adams

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

You are invited to take communion by intinction. With the ushers' guidance, please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at the center station. Those wishing to be served in the pew may signal an usher.

Song of the Magi..... A. Mitchell⁶

Festival of Light and Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Silent Night*.....Public Domain

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

**Invitation and Benediction*

**Benediction Response*

Joy To The World (Joyful Joyful)P. Wickham⁷

**Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing
We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing
Joyful joyful we adore thee
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee
Op'ning to the sun above
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing**

Please place candles in the baskets as you exit the Sanctuary.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Afternoon

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care
Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education
Serenity Taylor, associate minister, congregational life
Courtney Shudak, pastoral resident, mission and outreach
Ben Thomas, interim contemporary band leader
Tameka Thomas, interim contemporary worship leader
Ricko Hill, assistant director of contemporary worship and arts

Sharing the Gifts of Music

Jackson Daisley (electric guitar), Paul Fisher (drums), Lois Frost (vocals), Phyllis Fulton (vocals), AJ Harriss (vocals), Katrina Heath (vocals), LaVita Hill (vocals), Ariana Hindman (vocals), Emie Hindman (vocals), Jessica Hindman (vocals), Vince Hindman (vocals), Cheryl Hoover (bass guitar and vocals), Clark Humphries (vocals), Emma James (vocals), Mollie James (vocals), Zach Leitner (acoustic guitar), Noelle Lewis (vocals), Jessica Moss (vocals), Jolene Powell (vocals), Ben Thomas (keys), Tameka Thomas (vocals), Henry Trexler (upright bass).

Cover Image

Shepherds at Night is located in the Sanctuary on the west nave in the first window from the narthex entrance. Reference: Lk 2:8-20; Num 24:7; 2 Peter 1:19; Rev 22:16. © 2010 JonSilla

Advent Star (wood, willow branches, bamboo, vine)

The star installed in the sanctuary was designed and created by members of the Worship Arts Ministry. Using non-traditional materials to construct the art piece, the star symbolizes the totality of the Christmas story. The rugged and harsh aspects of the star remind us that Christ's birth was darkened by political unrest, genocide, and homelessness. And yet, the green branches attest to the new life Christ brings. Like the Advent wreath, the star serves as a visual reminder of God's light that shines in a world of darkness.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

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 for more information.

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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, SANCTUARY

One worship service: 11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

No Sunday School or Small Group meetings

Childcare will be available.

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

We resume our regular worship schedule:

8:45 a.m. Chapel (Traditional)

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary (Contemporary)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall (Family Service)

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional)

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