



A CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2025

5:00 p.m.

CHAPEL

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 5:00 p.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare is available in the Education Wing for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available on the left side of the balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

PRELUDE

Gesu Bambino P. Yon

CHORAL INTROIT

O Holy Night A. Adam¹

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!
Truly he taught us to love one another,
His law is love and his gospel is peace.
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise his name forever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

~ Jordan Taylor, tenor~

PRAYER OF CHRISTMASTIDE Serenity Taylor

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful, #133 ADESTE FIDELES

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!

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin,
a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! (*Refrain*)**

**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 given; Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing! (*Refrain*)**

SCRIPTURE READING Benjamin Reinicker

Isaiah 11:1-3, 6-9 Old Testament, page 602

CAROL

The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL

The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in
field as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a
cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *(Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE READING..... Billy Maddalon
Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament, page 1

*CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem...... ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy
deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark
streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the
years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals
sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning
stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the
king, and peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin
and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord
Emmanuel!

SCRIPTURE READING..... Ally Teeple
Matthew 2:1-11 New Testament, page 1-2

OFFERING AND GIFT OF ANGEL ORNAMENTSGrace Lindvall

*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.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Night of Silence...... J. Ferguson²

Cold are the people, winter of life.
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night.
Frozen in the snow, lie roses sleeping,
Fire that echoes the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth.
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.
Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light.

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

Gentle on the ear, you whisper softly.
 Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
 Breathless love awaits darkened souls.
 Soon will we know of the morning.
 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.
 Spirit among us, shine like the star.
 Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
 Shimmer in the sky, so empty, lonely.
 Rising in the warmth of your Son's love.
 Star unknowing of night and day,
 Spirit, we wait for your loving Son.
 ~Chapel Choir~

THE 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

The communion bread is gluten free.

Music At Communion

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt C. Courtney³

Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel's word,
 I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
 but there is room and welcome there for me.
 In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
 sweet newborn Babe, how frail and in a manger bed:
 a still small voice to cry one day for me.
 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
 his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare,
 a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its
 way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
 to die, to live, and not alone for me.

~Chapel Choir~

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Please take care with the open flames, particularly near young children.

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night STILLE NACHT
**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.

***BENEDICTION**

***CAROL**

Joy to the WorldANTIOCH

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.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

***POSTLUDE**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” arr. Harold DeCou

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

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.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Evening

Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education

Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life

Emily Floyd, director of traditional music

Lee Northcutt, guest organist

Ally Teeples, Ali Garner-McGraw, Jordan Taylor, Andy Peters,
vocalists

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 28, Sanctuary

One worship service: 11 a.m. (contemporary)

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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2 © 1984 GIA Publications

3 © Poet: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1986, Concordia Publishing Houses

This service is being streamed live and recorded for online viewing at CovenantPresby.org/live.

If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



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www.CovenantPresby.org