



COVENANT

presbyterian church

To the Greater Glory of God

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:45 a.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.

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:45 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant; we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship. Childcare (ages 6 weeks to Kindergarten) is offered in the Education Wing. See an usher for assistance.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Two Noels (from Burgundy, France) C. Balbastre

INTROIT

Call to Advent. J. Jerome Williams

~Chapel Choir~

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Alan and Nancy Atwell

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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION Grace Lindvall

PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO CONFESSION

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 MYSTERIUM¹

**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

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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. Stopford²
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.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia, Alleluia.
With Deo gracias always, Alleluia, Alleluia.
~ Chapel Choir ~

ENCOUNTER GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:11-15, 30-33..... New Testament, p. 52-53

SERMON

“Love Came Down at Christmas”.....Serenitye Taylor
Sermon Series: *Discern. Decide. Declare.*

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 110

Love Has ComeBRING A TORCH

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Serenitye Taylor, associate minister, congregational life
Grace Lindvall, associate minister, education
Emily Floyd, director of traditional music
Mark Glaeser, organist
Chapel Choir

WELCOME TO COVENANT

We are happy that you are worshiping 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 for more information. We will gladly host meetings in the Welcome Center upon request.

Assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.
Audio-induction hearing loops are installed in the chapel 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.



Giving a financial gift makes Covenant's programs and ministries possible. You are invited to give generously at 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

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. 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. A pastor remains on call for emergency situations (death, sudden hospitalizations, etc.). Please call 704-333-9071.

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www.CovenantPresby.org