



*To the Greater Glory of God*  
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:30 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

9:30 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

### Gathering Music

*You're Worthy of My Praise* . . . . . D. Ruiz<sup>1</sup>

I will worship, with all of my heart  
I will praise You, with all of my strength  
I will seek You, all of my days  
I will follow, all of Your ways  
I will give You all my worship  
I will give You all my praise  
You alone I long to worship  
You alone are worthy of my praise  
I will bow down, hail You as King  
I will serve You, give You everything  
I will lift up, my eyes to Your throne  
I will trust You, trust You alone  
I will give You all my worship  
I will give You all my praise  
You alone I long to worship  
You alone are worthy of my praise  
I will worship, with all of my heart  
I will praise You, with all of my strength  
I will seek You, all of my days  
I will follow, all of Your ways  
I will give You all my worship  
I will give You all my praise  
You alone I long to worship  
You alone are worthy of my praise

Lighting of the Advent Candle . . . Laura Winfree, Ashton and Ezra Mendez Winfree

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.**

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*\*Angels (Glory to God)* . . . . . P. Wickham, J. Smith<sup>2</sup>  
(worship team and congregation)

*\*Prayer of Adoration* . . . . . Katherine Kerr

# PRACTICES OF DISCIPLESHIP

## Call to Confession

*All Who Are Thirsty*. . . . . B. Brown, G. Roberts<sup>3</sup>

*(worship team and congregation)*

**Come Lord Jesus come**

**Come Lord Jesus come**

## Prayer of Confession

## Assurance of Grace

## \*Congregational Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* . . . . . VENI EMMANUEL<sup>4</sup>

*(worship team and congregation)*

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## \*Passing the Peace

*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.*

## 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

*Love Can Build A Bridge* . . . . J. Barlow Jarvis, N. Judd, and P. Overstreet

I'd gladly walk across the desert

With no shoes upon my feet

To share with you the last bite

Of bread I had to eat

I would swim out to save you

In your sea of broken dreams

When all your hopes are sinking

Let me show you what love means

Love can build a bridge

Between your heart and mine

Love can build a bridge

Don't you think it's time

Don't you think it's time

I would whisper love so loudly  
Every heart would understand  
That love and only love  
Can join the tribes of man  
I would give my heart's desire  
So that you might see  
The first step is to realize  
That it all begins with you and me  
When we stand together  
It's our finest hour  
We can do anything anything  
Anything anything  
If we keep believing in the power

## ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

### Scripture Reading

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

### Sermon

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

### \*Song of Response

*God With Us* ..... J. Ingram, L. Jordan<sup>5</sup>  
(worship team and congregation)

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*Invitation and Benediction

### \*Benediction Response

*\*For I Know* ..... R. Muchow<sup>6</sup>

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Notes:

# THE WORSHIP SERVICE

## Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister

Katherine Kerr, senior associate minister, congregational care

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), Jessica

Hindman (vocals), Cheryl Hoover (bass guitar and vocals), Ben

Thomas (keys), Tameka Thomas (vocals)

## 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](mailto:Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org) for more information. We will gladly host meetings in the Welcome Center upon request.

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](https://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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[www.CovenantPresby.org](https://www.CovenantPresby.org)