

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Julia Watkins, pastoral resident
Heather Potter, director of traditional music
Robert Dicks, associate director of traditional music & organist
Kenney Potter, choral conductor
Katie Cornwell, carillonneur
John Longshore, usher team leader

Audio and Visuals

Linda Hall (audio), Joel St. Onge (video), Walton St. Onge (visuals)

Leading Other Services

Ian Clark, pastoral resident
Jason Graffis, director of contemporary worship and arts
Jessica Patchett, associate minister

Cover Image

The Promise of the Holy Spirit is located in the Chapel on the east apse. Radiant light descends from the dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate. The dove wears a nimbus to indicate holiness and is contained within a trinitarian symbol. The entire medallion is framed within the shape of a dove, the wings and head of which include additional trinitarian symbols. In tradition, the fleur-de-lis symbol includes a band joining the members of the Trinity together by the humanity of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God through whom God's entrance into the world was made known. But the peace of Christ is not that peace given as the world gives. Reference: John 14: 25-31. Photo © 2012 JonSilla.com.

Note to Parents

During the school year, Sunday School is offered in the Education Wing for preschool and elementary-aged children at 9:30 a.m. Child care is offered on the First Floor during 11 a.m. services; elementary-aged children may go to the Kindergarten room (EW120).

WELCOME TO COVENANT

Join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Circle, where today's preaching minister will be glad to greet you. You also may learn more about our life of faith together at our website or on Facebook.

Interested in joining Covenant? We welcome new members every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building. We also welcome new members on the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall Library at 12 p.m.

Each Sunday, we offer education 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 for details.

Covenant expects and gladly welcomes many first-time and repeat visitors. By introducing ourselves and sharing a warm greeting, we express the hospitality of our congregation. Please share a smile and welcoming word with those around you.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (AS OF DECEMBER 13)

Death in the Church

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to Chad and Dana Dawson and their family on the death of her father, Allan Bruce Cox, on December 6, and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

In Need of Healing Prayer

Judy Gaffney
Edna Hamilton
Lamont Hudson
Frank Mansfield
Mary Nell McPherson
Lillian Neal
Helen Neubauer
Bob Taylor
Barbara White



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Sunday, December 16, 2018
11 a.m.
SANCTUARY

This service is being streamed live and recorded for online viewing at media.covenantpresby.org.

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



1000 E. Morehead Street • Charlotte, North Carolina, 28204 • 704.333.9071
www.covenantpresby.org

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 FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, December 16, 2018

11 a.m.

Welcome to Covenant, we are glad you are here.

Children are always welcome in worship. Child care 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.

PRELUDE

Reflections on "E'en So, Lord Jesus" P. Manz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Danette Rosenbrg

INTROIT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

~ Covenant Bell Ensemble, Candace Scott, oboe ~

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

Silent Prayer

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Be patient with us, for we struggle to see.
You promise that swords will be beaten into plowshares,
but we see little peace.
You promise that even the trees will clap their hands,
but we see little joy.
You promise that the lion will lie down with the lamb,
but we see little hope.
In a world filled with recalcitrant problems,
we look for powerful answers.
We forget that you are the one who comes as a baby,
laid in a manger, salvation wrapped up in swaddling cloth,
nothing special, and everything we need.

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response 112 (*choir and congregation*)

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing SUSSEX CAROL

When sin departs before God's grace,
then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before God's grace,
then life and health come in its place.
"Glory to God in highest heaven;
peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

He Comes to Us As One Unknown arr. J. Ferguson

He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred.
He comes when souls in silence
lie and thoughts of day depart;
he comes half seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky of night within the heart.
He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home.
He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame a life,
a death, a saving name,
for every child of earth.
He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the Scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown, our Savior and our Lord.

~ Covenant Choir ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21 New Testament, p. 103

SERMON

Ever-Elusive Peace Bob Henderson

Sermon Series: "What Are You Waiting For?"

CHORAL RESPONSE

While We Are Waiting, Come WAITING

While we are waiting, come; Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel.

~ Covenant Choir ~

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Stewardship Update Lecia and Steve Shockley

OFFERING & OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Prepare the Royal Highway arr. C. Moglebust

~ Covenant Bell Ensemble, Candace Scott, oboe, ~

~ Dan Hays, Rob Dicks, percussion ~

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 150

As With Gladness Men of Old DIX

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger,
rude and bare, so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 140

Once in Royal David's City IRBY

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*POSTLUDE

Noël X. L Daquin



* You are invited to rise in body or spirit