

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading Worship this Morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Grady Moseley, interim minister of congregational life, pastoral care
Ian Clark, pastoral resident
Heather Potter, director of traditional music
Robert Dicks, associate director of traditional music & organist
Kenney Potter, choral conductor
Sherry Ward, carillonneur
Pat Springs, usher team leader

Audio and Visuals

Cleveland Elam (video), Joe Pool (audio)

Leading Other Services

Jason Graffis, director of contemporary worship and arts
Jessica Patchett, associate minister

Cover Image

The Portent of the Birth of Christ is located in the Sanctuary in the central gallery window. Mary has found joy in believing that the Archangel Gabriel's message about her pregnancy would be fulfilled even as the peace she experiences is in the midst of trouble. In tradition, the Blessed Virgin Mary is clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and wears a crown of twelve stars as she is about to give birth in the presence of a seven-headed dragon of power that would devour her child. But the deceiver of the whole world is defeated. Christ ascends to the heavenly throne, and Mary finds a place of refuge and salvation. Her soul magnifies the Lord even as a sword pierces her own soul. Reference: Lk 1:39-45; 46-56; 2:35; Rev 12:1-9. Photo © 2010 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 20)

Baptism Today at Covenant (9:30 Sanctuary)

Tasher James Hicks, son of Andrea and Justin Hicks

Deaths

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to Dana and Chad Dawson and their family on the death of her father, Allan Bruce Cox, on December 6, and to

Ellen Rhyne and her family on the death of her daughter, Mary Kathryn Rhyne, on December 17, and rejoices with them all in the assurance of the resurrection.

In Need of Healing Prayer

Judy Gaffney
Lamont Hudson
Frank Mansfield
Edna Hamilton
Lillian Neal
Bob Taylor
Barbara White



To the Greater Glory of God
A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Sunday, December 23, 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 23, 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

In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Christy, Steven and Campbell Carter

INTROIT

Call to Advent J. Williams

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.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand

Christ our God to earth descended. Our full homage to demand.

~ *Covenant Choir, Henry Trexler, double bass* ~

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Almighty God, you who shaped all that is,

forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who called for the light,

forgive our preference for the shadows!

You who sent teachers and prophets

to be a voice of hope crying amidst despair,

forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.

We yearn for clean hearts, O God,

and renewed spirits within us.

Hear us, O God, as we come to you,

trusting that you will come to us. Amen.

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

Masters In This Hall D. Willcocks

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today brought from oversea,
and ever I you pray.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear!

Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear.

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we loud.

God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.

Going o'er the hills through the milk-white snow heard I
ewes bleat while the wind did blow.

Shepherds many an one sat among the sheep,
no man spake more word than they had been asleep.

Quoth I, "Fellows, mine, why this guise sit ye?"

Making but dull cheer, shepherds though ye be?"

Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,

Thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing."

Quoth these fellows then, "To Bethle'm town we go,
to see a mighty Lord lie in a manger low."

"How name ye this Lord, shepherds?" then said I.

"Very God," they said, "come from heaven high."

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad!

Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

~ *Covenant Choir and Youth Alumni Choir* ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-45 New Testament, p. 53

SERMON

"Joy" 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.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt C. Courtney

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?

~ *Covenant Choir, Doug Bacon, flute* ~

*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 113

Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

*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

I Saw Three Ships R. Elliot

