

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Leading worship this morning

Bob Henderson, senior minister
Ian Clark, pastoral resident
Heather Potter, director of traditional music
Robert Dicks, associate director of traditional music & organist
Kenney Potter, choral conductor
David Balas, visuals
Janet Delery, Pat Springs:, usher team leaders

Leading other services

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

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.

WELCOME TO COVENANT

Welcome to this service of Word and Sacrament at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The beautiful Morrison Chapel – with its intimate architecture, artful appointments and stunning stained glass windows that tell the “old, old story” – is the setting for this traditional service. With the finest of instruments we raise our voices in praise of God. In the majesty and mystery of worship and the sacraments it is our hope and prayer that all encounter the living Lord.

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.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES (AS OF DECEMBER 20)

Baptism Today at Covenant (9:30 Sanctuary)
Tasher James Hicks, son of Andrea and Justin Hicks

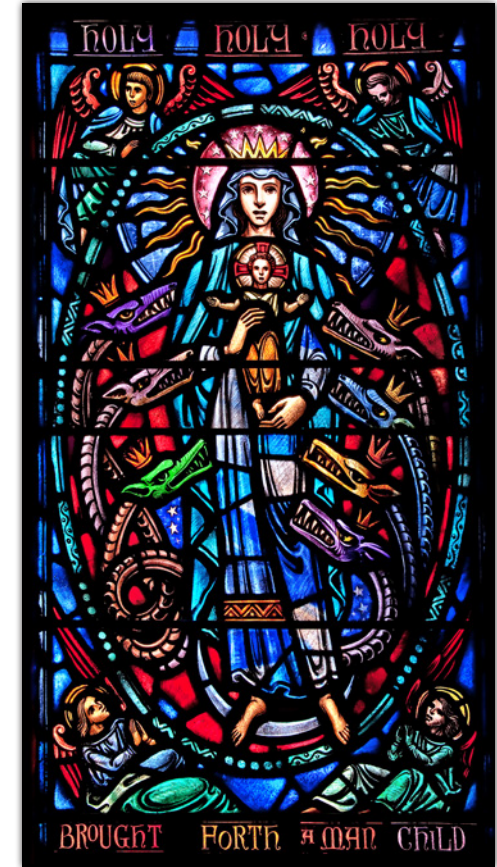
Deaths

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

8:45 a.m.

CHAPEL

 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

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

8:45 a.m.

Chapel

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Angels From the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

**All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, you who shaped out of nothing 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

**Sung Response (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!"**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please greet those nearest you with the peace of Christ

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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?

~ Chapel Choir; Doug Bacon, flute ~

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

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

SERMON

"Joy" Bob Henderson

Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT 113**

Angels We Have Heard On High GLORIA

* You are invited to rise in body or spirit

SENDING

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships R. Elliot

