

# The Lord's Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

*\*Standing together is our ordinary practice,  
but you are welcome to remain seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle - The Gary Cosby Family

## God Calls Us

### Call to Worship

Only God Himself can call  
us into worship. He sets  
the terms for worship  
because, through His Son,  
He makes worship possible.

\*Call to Worship

Revelation 5.11-13

LEADER: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne  
and the living creatures and the elders the  
voice of many angels, numbering myriads of  
myriads and thousands of thousands, saying  
with a loud voice,

PEOPLE: **“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to  
receive power and wealth and wisdom and  
might and honor and glory and blessing!”**

LEADER: And I heard every creature in heaven and on  
earth and under the earth and in the sea, and  
all that is in them, saying,

PEOPLE: **“To him who sits on the throne and to the  
Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and  
might forever and ever!”**

\*Hymn of Adoration

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Text: Latin hymn, attributed to John Francis Wade (1751);  
translated by Frederick Oakeley (1841)*

*Music: ADESTE FIDELES, from John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi (1751)*

*Hymnal No. 208*

## God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession

Proverbs 28.13

LEADER: Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,

PEOPLE: ... but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Private Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

from *The Valley of Vision*, Bennett (1975)

**O Savior, help us.**

**We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb.**

**We remain in the foothills when we should be on the heights.**

**We are pained by our graceless hearts,  
our prayerless days, our poverty of love,  
our sloth in the heavenly race;  
sullied consciences, wasted hours, and unspent opportunities.**

**We are blind to the light shining around us.**

**Take the scales from our eyes and grind to dust our stony hearts of unbelief.**

**Make it our highest joy to study you, to meditate on you, to gaze on you,**

**to sit like Mary at Your feet,**

**to lean like John on your breast,**

**to appeal like Peter to your love,**

**to count like Paul all things but as rubbish.**

**We believe. Help our unbelief.**

**Amen.**

### Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

### Call to Confession

As we see God in His invitation and our praise, we cannot help but see how we have fallen short. God's Holy Scripture has the authority to reveal us to ourselves and transition our hearts to confession.

### Corporate Confession of Sin

We sin in thought, word, and deed every week. This prayer begins with silent confession, followed by corporate confession as people equally in need of God's grace.

## Assurance of Pardon

Holy Scripture assures Christians, sinners saved by grace, that they are united to Jesus in His death and resurrection.

## Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103.1-5

**LEADER:** Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:  
“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

The peace of the Lord be with you!

**PEOPLE:** And also with you!

\*Hymn of Assurance

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

*Text: Medieval Latin carol;*

*translated by John Mason Neale (1853)*

*Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody (14<sup>th</sup> century)*

*Hymnal No. 207*

## God Consecrates Us

### Scripture Lesson

We hear and read Holy Scripture throughout the service. Listen to this reading (lesson) to prepare for the sermon.

### Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 1.1-12 (p. 1001)

read by Elder Ken Henry

**LEADER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

### Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

We set aside a tithe and additional offering of our resources for the purposes of God, for His glory. Both are a display of our joyful dependence upon God rather than ourselves.

### Tithes and Offerings

# Offertory

## Joy to the World Congregation, please join on verses 1, 4

Text: Isaac Watts (1719)

Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872);

arranged by John Rutter (1981)

Sanctuary Choir

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

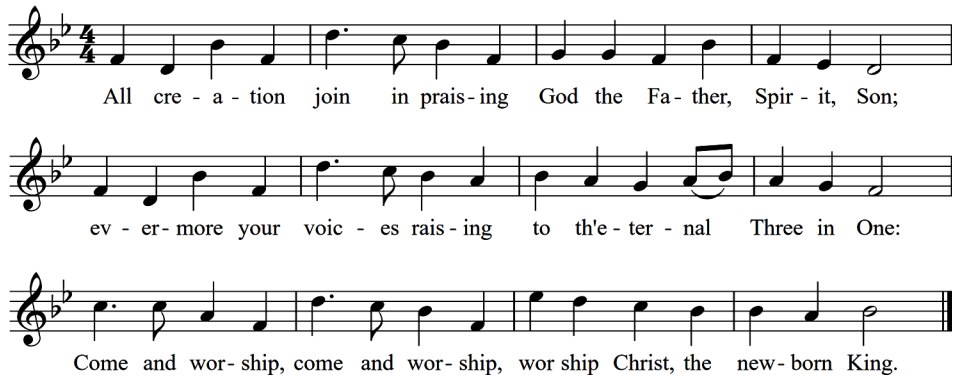
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## Doxology

A doxology is a hymn or word of praise to God for His goodness and glory. The *Gloria Patri* is another example of a doxology.

## \*Doxology

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 5*



All cre - a - tion join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor ship Christ, the new - born King.

## Prayer of the Church

We share in our health and sickness, happiness and sorrow, assurance and doubt, as we bring our prayers to God, together. Holy Scripture commands elders to pray with and for God's people, not just publicly, but privately.

## Scripture Lesson

We hear and read Holy Scripture throughout the service. Follow along with this text (lesson) that directs the sermon.

## Sermon

A preacher is commanded to faithfully steward God's Word by submitting to it, studying it, and expositing it (holding it forth), bearing witness to Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Prayer of the Church

by Pastor Eric Mullinax

## Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2.13-15 (p. 808)

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

## Sermon

by Pastor Travis Hutchinson

## A COSMIC CHRISTMAS

## \*Hymn of Response

*What Child Is This*

*Text: Traditional English carol, adapted by William C. Dix (circa 1865)*

*Music: GREENSLEEVES, English melody (16<sup>th</sup> century)*

*Hymnal No. 213*

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe?

PEOPLE: We believe in one God, the Father

Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the  
only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance  
with the Father;

by Whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again according to  
the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father;

and He shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord  
and Giver of Life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son

By confessing our faith  
together using statements  
believed by Christians  
over the ages, we join  
in the sweep of Christian  
history even as we await  
the return of Jesus.

† "catholic" -- universal

together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic<sup>†</sup> and apostolic  
church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of  
sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

\*Gloria Patri

*MEINEKE*

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

## God Commissions Us

### **Benediction**

Just as God calls us to  
worship at the beginning of  
the service, He graciously  
sends us into our week  
with a blessing (good  
word) founded on the  
redeeming work of Jesus.

\*Benediction

Postlude

# SERMON NOTES

**Title:** A Cosmic Christmas

**Text:** Matthew 2.13-15

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## **Mission Statement of CPC**

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to love God and our neighbors by making Christ known in all of life.

## **CPC Pastors**

Bill Massey (*Interim Senior Pastor*), Travis Hutchinson (*Interim Pastor of Youth & Families*),  
Eric Mullinax (*Elder Emeritus-Volunteer for Congregational Care*)

## **CPC Officers**

ELDERS: Woody Brauer, Ernie Brown, Jason Brown, Adam Cathey, Jason Coffey, Todd Gaither,  
Danny Grant, Jon Harris, Ken Henry, Jim Hildebrand, Dee Hobbs, Ken Hostetler, Bill Massey (Moderator),  
Will McDaniel, Chris Rimondi, Adam Sanders (Clerk of Session), Todd Smith, Rex Wagner,  
Mike Walker, Tim Warren, Tracy Wright

DEACONS: Geff Adams, Mike Bacon, Paul Baierl, Thomas Blackburn, Jonathan Calloway, David Close,  
Jason Collins, Rich Denkinger, Mike Evatt, David Gernhard, Jon Griffin, James Hall, Steven James,  
Steve Leach, Eric Mantel, Mike Mason (Chairman of Diaconate), Richard Mauroner, Jared McCurry,  
John Morrison, Vince Pereski, Caleb Ray, Phil Wade (Clerk of Diaconate), Matt Wright



## WELCOME

We are glad you joined us this morning! If this is your first visit with us, please fill out a Connection Card (located in each pew).

Join us in the Lobby for coffee and fellowship following worship.

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We invite you to join us next week as Pastor Bill Massey preaches from Micah 5.2-5a.

### Finding your way:

Scan the QR code to view a map of our campus. Printed maps can be found on the bulletin board just off the Lobby and outside the Nursery.



### For those with children:

Your children are welcome and wanted in worship! Little ones sometimes have a hard time sitting quietly through a service. Please take advantage of these helpful tools:

- **Special Bulletin** - designed for our Little Theologians (available in Narthex)
- **Family Worship Room** - where children can be a little louder and more active (windowed room in Sanctuary)
- **Family Restroom and Nursing Mother's Room** (in Family Worship Room)
- **Nursery** - available to children born after September 1, 2021 (deacons can direct you)
- **Calm Kit Bags** - borrow fidgets and tools to help soothe the wiggles during worship (in the Family Worship Room)

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 22

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am  
*Messiah* Discussion - Room 100 - 11 am  
Christmas Concert - Sanctuary - 7 pm

### Tuesday, December 24

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Eve  
Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary - 5:30 pm

### Wednesday, December 25

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Day

### Sunday, December 29

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am

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## MORE INFORMATION

All music is printed under CCLI No. 447727.

**Website:** [cpcchatt.org](http://cpcchatt.org)

**Online Directory:** Contact the church office to request access

**Prayer Requests:** Email your request or update to [prayer@cpcchatt.org](mailto:prayer@cpcchatt.org)

**Pastoral Care Line:** Call/text your request or need to 423-521-2142

# COVENANT LIFE

## Holst Christmas Day & Handel Messiah (*Christmas Portion*)

December 22 - 7:00 pm - Sanctuary  
CPC Festival Choir & Orchestra



### PREPARING FOR MESSIAH DISCUSSION

**Sun, Dec 22 • 11 am • Room 100**

To assist you in getting the most out of this year's Christmas Concert, Tim Schoap will help us look at the history of the *Messiah* and examine the Scripture that forms its lyrics. He will share how Handel set the music to evoke the emotion of the Scripture, with lots of musical samples to prepare you for what you'll hear that evening. Please join us both Sunday morning and evening, December 22, to magnify the Lord!

### LESSONS & CAROLS

**Tues, Dec 24 • 5:30 pm • Sanctuary**

Join us on Christmas Eve for a special service of Scripture and songs that ends in candlelight. Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

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### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

For the Christmas holidays, the church offices will be closed December 24-25 and January 1.

# COVENANT LIFE

## CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Now through Christmas Eve, drop your Christmas cards for fellow church members in the labeled basket in the Lobby, and we will distribute them for you. Cards will be sorted during Sunday School and Midweek classes.

Be sure to check the slot with the first letter of your last name and take home your cards.

Contact Tammy Bacon at 423-432-5177 with any questions.

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## LADIES' WINTER BIBLE STUDY

**Thursdays, beginning Jan 9 • 10 am • Room 105**

Bev Mealor is leading an inductive study in 1, 2, & 3 John. Book cost is \$20.

Contact Bev at mealor555@gmail.com to sign-up and order a book.

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## MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

**Jan 24-25 • Room 100**

Our focus this year will be on *Walking By Faith*; Dr. Dan Steere will be our speaker.

On Friday evening at 6:30 pm, we will gather for dinner, fellowship, and teaching. Saturday morning at 8:30 am, we will return for breakfast and additional sessions. Cost is \$20. Men and high school guys are invited. Scan the QR Code to register.



## END-OF-YEAR GIVING

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the offering or locked offering box in the Lobby on Sunday, December 29 (or postmarked by December 31) to be counted as tax-deductible for 2024 contributions.

Like last year, all giving statements will be sent digitally to the e-mail address we have on record in ShelbyNext. If you would like your giving statement to be mailed or have any questions, please contact the church office at [office@cpcchatt.org](mailto:office@cpcchatt.org).

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through December 15:

2024 Budget:	\$1,780,340.00
Giving To Date:	\$1,502,933.03
Diaconate Fund Balance:	\$52,524.32

Diaconate account funds are managed by the Mercy Committee and are used to care for individuals within our church and community.

If you have questions, please contact these individuals:

- Chairman of the Diaconate: Mike Mason  
[mmason89@comcast.net](mailto:mmason89@comcast.net)
- Mercy Committee Chair: Geff Adams  
[mercy@cpcchatt.org](mailto:mercy@cpcchatt.org)
- Bookkeeper: Lauren Frye  
[lfrye@cpcchatt.org](mailto:lfrye@cpcchatt.org)

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## DEC 22 NURSERY SCHEDULE

### Front Desk

Laura Spotts

### Worship - 9:15 am

Sarah & Sylvia Wade (Little Lambs)

Richard & Jean Mauroner & Lillie Yonkofski  
(Busy Bees)

### No Sunday School

## DEC 29 NURSERY SCHEDULE

### Front Desk

Sherry Baierl

### Worship - 9:15 am

David & Bekah Gernhard (Little Lambs)

Madelyn Horton & Babs Leach (Busy Bees)

### No Sunday School

## SS & MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

- 2025 Sunday School Classes begin - **Jan 12**
- 2025 Midweek activities resume - **Jan 15**

## YOUTH GAME NIGHT

**Fri, Jan 10 • 5:30 pm • Room 100**

We hope you can join us for Game Night!

We will be playing a few group games.

Pizza is provided!

## 2025 SUMMER CAMP DATES

- Music Camp - **Jun 2-6**
- The Edge Conference - **Jun 16-20**
- HS Beach Retreat - **July 5-9**
- Forge Camp - **July 17-19**
- SHINE Camp - **July 21-25**

# OUTREACH

## MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW)



MTW is the global missions-sending agency of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). MTW sends nearly 700 Christian workers to 102 countries all over the world who are committed to the establishment, growth, and maturity of the church. All that they do flows into, rests within, or flow out of the local church.

For example, establishing a new church might require people who can teach local leaders, or evangelize through sports ministry, or provide a medical clinic. These ways of serving can reach and equip future leaders and build connections in the community. They work with national partners to help strengthen this endeavor.

Serving within the church would be church planters, assistant pastors, disciplers, teachers, and others who directly support the growth and maturity of the church.

Flowing out of a healthy, growing church will be ministries that transform the community and continue to draw others to the gospel message, such as teaching English, caring for orphans, art and music outreach, or serving refugees.

For more information about this mission agency of the PCA, visit [www.mtw.org/about](http://www.mtw.org/about).

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## MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA (MNA)



MNA is an agency of the PCA whose calling and vision is to strengthen the church in North America to serve, grow, and multiply. MNA purposely strives to implement these Kingdom values: Kingdom Diversity (advancing the gospel among all people groups), Kingdom Prayer (building a house of prayer for all the nations), Kingdom Evangelism (growing through people coming to Christ), Kingdom Engagement (acting justly, seeking mercy, and walking humbly with God), and Kingdom Mobilization (advancing the gospel through the ministry of lay people).

MNA is composed by a wide variety of ministry umbrellas that are actively engaged in serving and equipping the church and those in need. The Chaplain Ministries, Church Planting Resources, Engaging Disability With The Gospel, ESL Ministries, Disaster Response, and Metanoia Prison Ministries are just a sampling with which our church may be familiar.

For more information or to find out how you could serve, become involved in, or be equipped by one of these ministries, visit [www.pcamna.org](http://www.pcamna.org).

