

The Lord's Service

December 7, 2025

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle - J.P. and Linda Sartain

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

Psalm 98.1-6

LEADER: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has
done marvelous things! His right hand and his
holy arm have worked salvation for him.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the
sight of the nations.**

LEADER: He has remembered his steadfast love and
faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends
of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PEOPLE: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing
praises!**

LEADER: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the
lyre and the sound of melody!

PEOPLE: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the
Lord!**

*Invocation

by Bill Massey

*Hymn of Adoration

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Hymnal No.194

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

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.

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.

Passing of the Peace

In Christ, we are one
family. In this moment, we
extend His peace with a
handshake, a smile, or a
simple greeting. We do this
to remind one another of
the grace we have received
and now share with each
other.

Corporate Confession of Sin

from *Psalter Hymnal* (1987)

**Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you
that we have sinned against you by what we have
done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart and
mind and strength; we have not fully loved our
neighbors as ourselves; we have not always had in us
the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we
have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering
from your ways, by forgetting your love.**

**Forgive us, we pray, most merciful Father, and free
us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength
of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your
Son, our Savior. Amen.**

Private Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 40.11

LEADER: Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:
“As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your
mercy from me; your steadfast love and your
faithfulness will ever preserve me!”

Passing of the Peace

LEADER: The peace of the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: And also with you!

**Please stand and extend God's peace to those around you.*

***Hymn of Assurance**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Music page 9

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away;
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death, and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

God Consecrates Us

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 25 (p.459)
read by Elder Rex Wagner

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

To Thee My Heart I Offer
Text: Anonymous (1863), Music by Elaine Hagenberg
Sanctuary Choir

To Thee my heart I offer,
Oh Christ-Child sweet and dear;
Upon Thy love relying, be Thou ever near.
Oh take my heart and give me Thine and may it be forever mine,
Oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, My Savior meek and mild.
What brought Thee to the manger,
Oh Christ-child sweet and dear?
Thy love for me a stranger, be Thou ever near,
Oh Lord how great Thy perfect Love, that reaches from the heavens above.
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made Thee, God, a child.

Scripture Lesson

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

**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.

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.

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.

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.

Let me be Thine forever,
Oh Christ-child sweet and dear;
Uphold me with Thy mercy, be Thou ever near.
Thy hand bestows Thy gifts to me and all I have, I offer Thee.
My heart, my soul, and all I own; Let these be Thine alone.

*Doxology

TALLIS' CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of the Church

by Pastor Bill Massey

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1.46-55(p.856)

Sermon

by Pastor David Stephenson

WHEN GOD WAS PRAISED

*Hymn of Response *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

Melissa Ferrel, soloist

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child,
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

O brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

O brighter than that glorious morn
shall this fair morning be,
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
and we His face shall see.

The King shall come when morning dawns,
and light and beauty brings;
"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Your people pray,
come quickly, King of kings!

***Confession of Faith**

Apostles' Creed (215)

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe?

PEOPLE: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic[†] church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

GREATOR EX

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.

Confession of Faith

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

The Lord's Table

Instruction

Please approach using the outer aisles and return using the center aisle. Juice is served in clear cups. Wine is served in tinted cups. Allergy-sensitive bread is available next to the tray (see page 14 for ingredients). An elder will offer to bring the meal to those who prefer to remain seated.

Sursum Corda

We don't fixate on the table, bread, and wine, but lift our hearts to Jesus in the glory of His Father.

Sursum Corda

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

PEOPLE: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Institution and Prayer

Hymns for Distribution

Just As I Am
(Hymnal No.501)

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Hymn

Amazing Grace, vs. 1-3, 6

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

God Commissions Us

*Benediction

Postlude

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.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1. How deep the Fath-er's love for us. How vast be - yond all meas - ure.
2. Be - hold a Man up - on the cross, My sin up - on his shoul - ders,
3. I will not boast in a - ny - thing. No gifts, no pow'rs, no wis - dom,



That He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure.
A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scoff - ers.
But I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death and re - sur - rec - tion.



How great the pain of sear - ing loss, the Fath - er turns His face a - way,
It was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - comp - lished.
Why should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer.



As wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring ma - ny sons to glo - ry.
His dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fi - nished.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

1995 Thankyou Music CCLI No. 447727

SERMON NOTES

Title: When God Was Praised

Text: Luke 1.46-55

And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Mission Statement of CPC

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

CPC Pastors

David Stephenson (*Senior Pastor*),

Bill Massey (*Assistant Pastor of Discipleship*), Travis Hutchinson (*Interim Pastor of Youth & Families*)

CPC Officers

ELDERS: Woody Brauer, Jason Brown, Adam Cathey, Jason Coffey, Jon Harris,

Ken Henry, Ken Hostetler, Bill Massey, Will McDaniel, Chris Rimondi,

Adam Sanders (Clerk of Session), Todd Smith, David Stephenson (Moderator), Rex Wagner,

Mike Walker, Tim Warren, Tracy Wright

DEACONS: Geff Adams, Mike Bacon, Paul Baierl, Thomas Blackburn, Jonathan Calloway,
Jason Collins, Rich Denkinger, Mike Evatt, Jon Griffin, James Hall, Steven James, Eric Mantel,

Mike Mason (Chairman of Diaconate), Richard Mauroner, Jared McCurry, John Morrison,

Vince Pereski, Caleb Ray, Tim Sotelo, 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 before Sunday School. If you are visiting or are wanting to become a member of Covenant, consider attending the *What Is Presbyterian?* Class that meets in Room 120.

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We invite you to join us next week as Pastor David preaches from Luke 2.

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, 2022 (deacons can direct you)
- **Calm Kit Bags** - borrow fidgets and tools to help soothe the wiggles during worship (in Family Worship Room)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 7

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am
Congregational Mtg - Sanctuary - 11 am (No SS)
Youth Parent Mtg - Room 100 - 12 pm
CPC Christmas Concert - Sanctuary - 7 pm

Monday, December 8

Women's Ministry Team Meeting - Morrison's Home - 6 pm

Tuesday, December 9

Men's Ministry Leadership Planning Meeting - Lobby - 7 pm

Wednesday, December 10

Midweek Meal - Room 100 - 5:30 pm
Children, Youth, & Adult Midweek Classes -
Visit cpcchatt.org for class list
Q&A: Worship Philosophy - Room 100 - 6:15 pm

Thursday, December 11

Men's Forge Group - Room 105 - 6:30 pm

Friday, December 12

Men's Proverbs Bible Study - Room 105 - 8:30 am
Memorial Service for Dick Fisher - Sanctuary - 12:30 pm

Saturday, December 13

Ladies' Christmas Dinner - Room 100 - 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 14

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am
Sunday School - *visit cpcchatt.org for class list*

MORE INFORMATION

All music is printed under CCLI No. 447727.

Website: cpcchatt.org

Prayer Requests: Email your request or update to prayer@cpcchatt.org

Online Directory: Contact the church office to request access

COVENANT LIFE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-

TODAY • 11 am • Sanctuary

Please plan to stay after worship for our Annual Congregational Meeting when we will receive the annual report from our pastoral staff.

We'll review the 2025 finances, and members will vote on the 2026 Board of Directors (trustees) as well as elect new officers.

Note: Sunday School is cancelled today to allow everyone to attend.

Wed, Dec 10 • 6:15 - 7 pm • Room 100

We will provide an update on the Session's work regarding the Worship Philosophy and the associated staffing plan. This will include a presentation and time for Q&A during our midweek dinner.

YOUTH DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

YOUTH PARENT MEETING

TODAY • 12 pm • Room 100

We will be discussing our spring curriculum, spring calendar, and summer trips, including our HS Mission Trip. We will meet at 12 pm following the Congregational Meeting.

HS PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Fri, Dec 12 • 5:30 pm • Meet at CPC

We will meet at the church and travel together to rotate through three families' homes for appetizers, the main meal, and dessert! Please let Heather know if you will be attending.

CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

Sun, Dec 21 • 11 am • Room 100

Join us for a church-wide fellowship around "favorite holiday dishes" after the morning service in Room 100 (Schum Fellowship Hall). Sign up next week to bring food with QR code.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Wed, 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!

SS & MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

- Last 2025 Sunday School - **Dec 14**
 - Last 2025 Midweek - **Dec 10**
 - 2026 Sunday School classes begin - **Jan 11**
 - 2026 Midweek activities resume - **Jan 14**
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ADVENT BOOKS

If your family has a child between 3 years old-5th grade, please stop by the Nursery or Sunday School Hallway to pick up an Advent calendar and accompanying book to use with your family as we look forward to Christmas and celebrating the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

COVENANT LIFE

BEHOLD *our* *God*

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

You are warmly invited to our annual Christmas dinner. This year's theme is *Come Celebrate the Joy of the Lord*. We will be collecting gently used items to donate to the new thrift store for

COME CELEBRATE

The Joy of the Lord

Ladies' Christmas Dinner
December 13 - 5:30 pm - Room 100

Scan the QR Code to **register by TODAY.**

Cost: \$8 (adults and children 11 and up)
\$6 (children 10 and under)



COVENANT LIFE

ALLERGY-SENSITIVE BREAD FOR LORD'S SUPPER

Ingredients: gluten-free flour mix (garbanzo bean, tapioca, sorghum, fava beans, potato starch), water, canola oil, and salt.

OCC REPORT THANK YOU & REJOICE!

The OCC Committee wants to thank all of you who helped with Operation Christmas Child this year, to those who packed boxes, brought items, packed on packing day, volunteered during collection week, baked cookies, and prayed. CPC had a total of **730 boxes** this year, and as a Collection Drop-Off location, we received 2,223 shoeboxes!

Continue to pray that the children receiving boxes will give their lives to Jesus.

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.

Please include the first **and** last name of the recipient since there are multiple families with the same last name. Also include your name in the top left corner so that we can return any unclaimed cards in January.

Be sure to also check the slot with the first letter of your last name and pickup cards to you.

Questions? Email office@cpcchatt.org.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2025 Budget.....\$1,947,725.39
Giving as of 11/30/25.....\$1,346,540.49
Giving as of 12/01/24.....\$1,441,961.10

If you have questions, please contact:

- CPC Treasurer: Gary Cosby
cpctreasurer@cpcchatt.org
- CPC Bookkeeper: Lauren Frye
lfrye@cpcchatt.org

DIACONATE FUND

As we come to the Lord's Table and share in Christ, we also share in caring for those in need. We receive gifts for the Diaconate Fund as an expression of our shared life in Christ.

The Diaconate Fund, overseen by our Mercy Committee, enables CPC to care for practical needs within our church and community as an expression of Christ's mercy to us. This ministry helps meet real needs in seasons of difficulty and reflects the Gospel's call to love one another in tangible ways.

The balance as of Dec 1 is \$6,889.97. If you would like to contribute, please use the enclosed envelope and mark it for *Diaconate Fund*.

- Chairman of the Diaconate: Mike Mason
mmason89@comcast.net
- Mercy Committee Chair: Geff Adams
mercy@cpcchatt.org

COVENANT LIFE

UPCOMING MIDWEEK MENU

Dec 10: Ham, Potatoes Supreme, Green Beans,
Salad Bar, Gingerbread Cake

MARRIAGE MINISTRY RETREAT

Fri, Mar 13 - Sun, Mar 15
Oak Haven Resort in the Smokies

Save the date! More details to come.

COAT CLOSET DONATIONS

Donate winter clothes and shoes to our Coat Closet. Items like socks, gloves, etc, are also welcome. Place them in the marked green bins located in the Youth stairwell.

THANK YOU

We want to thank our church family for the many expressions of love shown to us during this time of sorrow. Please keep is in your prayers.

~ Kent & Sherlyn Hobbs

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, texts, and prayers we received for Larry's recent heart procedure. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

~ Larry & Maria Miller

CELEBRATIONS CALENDAR

The December birthday/anniversary calendar is now available outside the Church Office.

NURSERY SCHEDULE - TODAY

Worship - 9:15 am			Sunday School - 11 am	
Front Desk	Little Lambs	Busy Bees	Little Lambs	Busy Bees
Leanna Cathey	Tammy Knotts Ellie Wright Lisa Wright	Nathan Blackburn Sarah Blackburn Evangeline Cathey	Congregational Meeting	Congregational Meeting

NURSERY SCHEDULE - Dec 14

Worship - 9:15 am			Sunday School - 11 am	
Front Desk	Little Lambs	Busy Bees	Little Lambs	Busy Bees
Tammy Bacon	Betta Cook Abby Sotelo Kristin Sotelo	Debby Gardner Heather Harris Jon Harris	Amy Creamer Selah Cross	Connie Hildebrand Jim Hildebrand

MISSIONS



Matt & Annette Cummings
Japan

Ministry Focus:

Matt and Annette, and their children, have served in Japan since 2013. In 2016, they began church planting in Sendai, Japan, the site of the 2011 earthquake and Tsunami. They host English classes, children's events, a cooking class, seasonal and special events, and various Bible studies.

Prayer:

- For Home Church, Young Adult Group, and Bible studies that meet regularly
- For salvation and further Bible study with those who are curious about Christianity
- For the Cummings' marriage and kids as they get older and are going to college/high school



Lee & Jen Leadbetter
UTK RUF-International

Ministry Focus:

The Leadbetters guide the ministry to more than 1100 international students at the UT-Knoxville campus. RUF-I seeks to serve international students and scholars at UT with the love and hospitality of Christ, and to sensitively engage them with authentic Christianity in order that their lives, families, and home communities might be transformed by the Gospel.

Prayer:

- For God to use the staff and volunteer Ministry Team to love and serve students well
- For students from many diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to be drawn to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- For a strong marriage that radiates the Gospel of grace