

# The Lord's Service

December 14, 2025

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Testimony of Making Christ Known

Preparation for Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Romero Lopez Tello Family

## God Calls Us

\*Call to Worship

1 Chronicles 16.31-34

LEADER: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth  
rejoice, and let them say among the nations,  
"The Lord reigns!"

PEOPLE: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
let the field exult, and everything in it!

LEADER: Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.

PEOPLE: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

\*Invocation

by Pastor Travis Hutchinson

### Testimony

We bear witness to God's  
redeeming grace and  
celebrate His faithfulness  
as Christ brings restoration  
to our lives, our church,  
and our world.

### 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.

### 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.

## \*Hymns of Adoration & Praise

*While by the Sheep  
We Watched at Night*  
Hymnal No.215

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*Refrain:* How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
in Bethlehem a child today. *Refrain*

There shall the child lie in a stall,  
this child who shall redeem us all. *Refrain*

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
that ever joy our hearts shall fill. *Refrain*

## God Cleanses Us

### Call to Confession

Psalm 25.10-11

**LEADER:** All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and  
faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant  
and his testimonies.

**PEOPLE:** For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my  
guilt, for it is great.

### 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**

### 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.

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.

## Private Confession of Sin

### 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.

### 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.”

### 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    *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor* Hymnal No.230

Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor.  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou Who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heav’nwards by Thine eternal plan.  
Thou Who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou Who art love beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship Thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou Who art love, beyond all telling,  
Savior and King, we worship Thee.

## God Consecrates Us

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 33.1-3,10-16 (p.662)  
read by Elder Jason Coffey

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Introduction of New Members

*Matt & Terry Damron; Alan & Martha Hulkan, Robert & Diana Kroening;  
Mike, Jenny, Zach, & Meghan Lewis; Nathan, Mack, & Elliot Blackburn*

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Sing We All Noel!*

*Traditional French Carol; Arr. by Mark Perry*

**Choristers**

*Sing we now, sing we now, sing we now, sing we all noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.*

*Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*Angels from on high say, "Shepherds come and see.*

*He is born in Bethlehem, a blessed lamb for thee."*

*Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

*In Bethlehem they found him. Joseph and Mary mild*

*Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.*

*Sing we noel, the King is born, noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.*

**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.

### \*Doxology

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. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

by Pastor Dan Steere

### Scripture Lesson

Luke 2.8-20 (p.857)

### Sermon

by Pastor David Stephenson

## WHEN GOD DREW NEAR

### \*Hymn of Response

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Hymnal No.208

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of angels;

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

God of God,  
Light of Light;  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God  
in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
late in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

## \*Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism 39

LEADER: Christian, why was it necessary that our  
Mediator should be a man?

PEOPLE: **That he might advance our nature, perform  
obedience to the law, suffer and make  
intercession for us in our nature, and have  
a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we  
might receive the adoption of sons and  
have comfort and access with boldness  
unto the throne of grace.**

## \*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

## Postlude

## 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.

## 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.

# SERMON NOTES

---

**Title:** When God Drew Near

**Text:** Luke 2.8-20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

---

## **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 Denking, 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.

.....

We invite you to join us next week as Pastor Bill 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 the Family Worship Room)

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 14

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am

Last Sunday School - *visit [cpcchatt.org](http://cpcchatt.org) for class list*

### Tuesday, December 16

ROMEO - Cracker Barrel, Ringgold - 8 am

### Wednesday, December 17

Session Meeting - Room 105 - 7 pm

### Thursday, December 18

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

### Friday, December 19

Men's Proverbs Bible Study - Room 105 - 8:30 am

### Sunday, December 21

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am

Church-wide Christmas Fellowship - SFH - 11 am

---

## MORE INFORMATION

All music is printed under CCLI No. 447727.

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

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

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



# COVENANT LIFE

---

## SS & MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

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

---

## 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 Schum Fellowship Hall.

Scan QR code to sign up  
to bring food.



---

## 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!

---

## ADVENT BOOKS

If your family has a child between 3 years old-5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

2025 Budget.....\$1,947,725.39  
Giving as of 12/07/25.....\$1,432,684.31  
Giving as of 12/08/24.....\$1,441,961.10

If you have questions, please contact:

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

---

## 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](mailto:office@cpcchatt.org).

---

## 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.

# COVENANT LIFE

## YOUTH GAME NIGHT

**Fri, Jan 9 • 5:30 pm • Room 100 (SFH)**

We hope you can join us for Game Night!  
We will be playing a few group games.  
Pizza is provided!

## MARRIAGE MINISTRY RETREAT

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

Save the date! More details to come.

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to  
Genie Davis and family on the loss of  
her brother, Phill Boyd.

Christian sympathy is extended to  
Laura Fosgate and family on the loss of  
her husband, Kevin Fosgate.

## 2026 SUMMER CAMP DATES

- Music Camp - **Jun 1-5**
- The Edge Conference - **Jun 15-19**
- HS Mission Trip - **June 27 - July 4**
- SHINE Camp - **July 20-24**
- Forge Camp - **July 30- Aug 1**

## NURSERY SCHEDULE - TODAY

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 Volunteer Needed	Connie Hildebrand Jim Hildebrand

## NURSERY SCHEDULE - Dec 21

Worship - 9:15 am			Sunday School - 11 am	
Front Desk	Little Lambs	Busy Bees	Little Lambs	Busy Bees
Laura Spotts	Annabelle Cross Sophia Cross Charlotte Gernhard	Brandon Cross Grace Durgin Wesley Durgin	No SS	No SS

# MISSIONS

---



---

**Jamie & Bethany**  
China

---

## **Ministry Focus:**

Their vision is to use their skills in agriculture and music to restore hope through Christ to those overlooked in Asia. Jamie partners with local farmers to implement conservation farming practices, and they both work at an English adventure camp. Having a heart for students, they support a youth group as well as the camps held nearby.

## **Prayer:**

- For success in cultural, linguistic, and administrative challenges
- For the hearts of neighbors to be captured and transformed for Christ
- For effective agricultural outreach
- For their marriage and family
- For travel safety



---

**HAFF**  
Haiti

---

## **Ministry Focus:**

Haitian American Friendship Foundation's ministries include academic education, theological education, community development, and mercy ministries. Academic training is offered primarily through their large Christian secondary school (Bohoc Training Institute). A medical clinic and dental services are also offered in the central plateau region.

## **Prayer:**

- For stability, peace, and safety in this troubled island nation
- For HAFF's finances during rapidly increasing prices of even basic supplies
- For students and their families to grow deeply in their love for the Lord

