

# The Lord's Service

December 21, 2025

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle - The Bradley 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!”**

### 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.

### \*Invocation

by Pastor David Stephenson

\*Hymns of Adoration & Praise *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
(Hymnal No.218)

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth;

*Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(Hymnal No.214)

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
(Hymnal No.203)

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

# God Cleanses Us

## Call to Confession

Psalm 32.3-5

**LEADER:** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**PEOPLE:** I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

## Corporate Confession of Sin

from *Church Practices*, Bucer, Strassburg (1539)

**Almighty, everlasting God and Father, we confess and acknowledge to you that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life, as those who do not perfectly believe your Word nor follow your holy commandments. We implore you, remember your goodness and for your name’s sake be gracious to us and forgive us our wrongdoing, which indeed is great. Amen.**

## Private Confession of Sin

### Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 23.6

**LEADER:** Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:  
“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the  
house of the Lord forever.”

## 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.*

## 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.

**\*Hymn of Assurance**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*  
(Hymnal No.211)

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray;

*Refrain:* O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father,  
a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the son of God by name. *Refrain*

"Fear not, then," said the angel,  
"let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior  
of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might." *Refrain*

The shepherds at those tidings  
rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding,  
in tempest, storm, and wind:  
and went to Bethlehem straightway,  
the Son of God to find. *Refrain*

## **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**

Isaiah 9.2,6-7(p.573)  
read by Elder Jason Coffey

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

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

All Is Well

by Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick  
Arr. Ronn Huff  
Priscilla Wykoff, Soloist

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice!  
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.  
Sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.  
Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger.  
Sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.  
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.  
Sing alleluia!

\*Doxology

REGENT SQUARE

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

Prayer of the Church

by Elder Jim Hildebrand

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2.25-35(p.857)

Sermon

by Pastor Bill Massey

WHEN GOD WAS REVEALED

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.

\*Hymn of Response

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*  
(Hymnal No.207)

Good Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
earth and heav'n before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**\*Confession of Faith      Westminster Confession of Faith 8.5**

**LEADER:** Christian, what do you believe?

**PEOPLE:** The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given unto Him.

**\*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

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**Title:** When God Was Revealed

**Text:** Luke 2.25-35

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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**

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 Isaiah 61 & Revelation 21.

### 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 21

Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am

Church-wide Christmas Fellowship - SFH - 11 am

### Wednesday, December 24

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary - 5:30 pm

### Thursday, December 25

Church Offices Closed - Christmas Day

### Friday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

### Sunday, December 28

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)

**Prayer Requests:** Email your request or update to [prayer@cpcchatt.org](mailto:prayer@cpcchatt.org). These needs are shared M-F. If you have an urgent need, contact your shepherding elder.

**Online Directory:** Contact the church office to request access as a member.

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## CELEBRATIONS CALENDAR

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

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## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

For the Christmas holidays, the church offices will be closed December 24-26 and January 1.

# COVENANT LIFE

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## CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

**TODAY • 11 am • Room 100**

Join us for a church-wide fellowship around "favorite holiday dishes" after the morning service in Schum Fellowship Hall.

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## 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!

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## CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Now through Christmas Eve, drop your Christmas cards for fellow church members in the labeled basket in the Lobby.

Please include the first **and** last name of the recipient. 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).

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## THANK YOU

I have been so blessed and loved by the many cards, calls, texts, meals, and visits during this time of Ken's illness and passing. We truly do have a wonderful and supportive church family.

~ Barbara Vandergriff

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

2025 Budget.....\$1,947,725.39

Giving as of 12/14/25.....\$1,460,155.10

Giving as of 12/15/24.....\$1,502,933.03

If you have questions, please contact:

- CPC Treasurer: Gary Cosby

*[cpctreasurer@cpcchatt.org](mailto:cpctreasurer@cpcchatt.org)*

- CPC Bookkeeper: Lauren Frye

*[lfrye@cpcchatt.org](mailto:lfrye@cpcchatt.org)*

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## END-OF-YEAR GIVING

All end-of-the-year contributions need to be in the offering or locked offering box in the Lobby by Sunday, December 28 (or postmarked by December 31) to be counted as tax-deductible for 2025 contributions.

Like last year, all giving statements will be sent digitally to the email 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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## THANK YOU

I would like to thank my church family for the many calls, visits, texts, cards, delicious meals, and most importantly the prayers that I have received during the loss of my husband.

Christ's love was tangibly extended to me through each one of you.

~ Laura Fosgate

# 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!

## 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**

## SS & MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

- 2026 Sunday School classes start - **Jan 11**
- 2026 Midweek activities start - **Jan 14**

## MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

**Jan 23-24 • Schum Fellowship Hall**

Our focus this year will be  
*Christian Men: Called to Provide and Protect.*  
Brian Cosby will be our speaker.

We will gather Friday evening at 6:00 pm for  
dinner, fellowship, and teaching.

Saturday morning at 8:30 am, we will return  
for breakfast and additional  
sessions. Cost is \$30 for men.  
High school students are free.

Scan the  
QR Code to register.



## NURSERY SCHEDULE - TODAY

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 Heather Harris Jon Harris	No SS	No SS

## NURSERY SCHEDULE - Dec 28

Worship - 9:15 am			Sunday School - 11 am	
Front Desk	Little Lambs	Busy Bees	Little Lambs	Busy Bees
Sherry Baierl	Dianne Cosby Barbara Leach Lauren Warren	Lois Ann Atkinson Cisse Griffin Bea Sanders	No SS	No SS

# MISSIONS

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**Luke & Amanda McAuley**  
Kenya

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## **Ministry Focus:**

Luke is an Occupational Therapist working with SIM and BethanyKids.

“Our team treats nearly 4,000 patients per year. Each of our families brings their children to receive nursing care, therapy, social services, and parent-to-parent mentorship. One of the unique things about therapy is that we can create a strong relationship with our families and show the love of Christ over several visits.”

## **Prayer:**

- For safe travels as they are in the USA for several months
- For the people of Kenya
- For ongoing financial support and ministry purpose/vision for the entire family



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**Andy & Kathy Napier**  
NC - worldwide

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## **Ministry Focus:**

Andy's primary responsibility at TransWorld Radio is producing and hosting a radio program, “Footsteps,” for the American audience. It tells the amazing story of what God is doing around the world through TWR and its partner ministries. In essence, Andy is a reporter on the fulfillment of the Great Commission happening through radio broadcasts.

## **Prayer:**

- For Andy and Kathy with the boys getting older and having their own jobs
- For continued support from ministry partners
- For Gospel impact through TWR programs





