

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Recent sermons are available on-line or by CD in church office.

If you would like an audio-recorded copy of today's sermon, you may request one from the church office. \$2.00 will cover the expense of the CD recording.



C O V E N A N T
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC)

December 9, 2018

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Service for the Lord's Day

10:30 A.M.

+ Worshipers arriving late may be seated.
* The congregation will please stand.

The word *advent* means “coming.” The entire Old Testament period was used by God to prepare Israel for the coming or *advent* of the Messiah (Christ). Christmas is the celebration of the *first* advent of Christ, the birth of Jesus the Messiah. The **Advent season** begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and runs through Christmas Eve. Historically, it is the season in which Christians have focused on preparation for the *final advent* of Jesus: his coming again, in power and glory, “to judge the living and the dead.” Thus, the Advent season is a season of preparation for the coming of the Lord and the fullness of his Kingdom. This preparation includes repentance from our sins, an earnest desire to be delivered from “the present evil age” (Galatians 1:4), and an eager longing to see the whole creation “set free from its bondage to decay” (Romans 8:21).

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel.”*

*“Come, Lord Jesus!”
(Revelation 22:20)*

+The Greetings, Announcements, and Registry of Fellowship

+The Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*The Call to Worship with the Lighting of the Advent Candle:
Isaiah 9:2,6 (responsively)

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those
who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.*

**For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government
shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

+*The Hymn of Praise #233: “To Us a Child of Hope is Born”

*The Prayer of Adoration

The Call to Confession and Repentance: Romans 13:11-12

*The hour has come for you to wake from sleep; for salvation is
nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far
gone; the day is at hand.*

**So then, let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor
of light.**

This Week At Covenant

Sunday December 9	9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Service of Scripture and Songs Light Refreshments to follow in the Fireside Room
Tuesday December 11	11:00 a.m. Senior Saints' Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Officers' Meeting
Wednesday December 12	6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study ~ Gray Hall

Next Week At Covenant

Sunday December 16	9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday December 19	6:45 a.m. Men's Bible Study ~ NOT MEETING

The Prayer of Confession and Repentance:

Father of all mercy, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. I have yielded to the sinful inclinations of my deceitful heart and have disobeyed your holy commands. Forgive me, Lord, for sins of pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust. Deliver me from all bitterness, ingratitude, jealousy, sexual impurity, and worldly idolatry; and forgive me for all the ways in which I have selfishly neglected the needs of my neighbor.

O Lord, renew my heart by the power of your Holy Spirit, that I may cast off all the works of darkness and walk in newness of life in the light of Jesus Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit in a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Do this, I earnestly pray, for the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

***The Congregational Response: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

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!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

+The Special Time for Young Disciples

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may be dismissed to Catechism Time.
Children in 1st grade and above are to remain in the Worship Service.)

The Prayer for Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture: Genesis 3:14-21 (p.3)

The Proclamation of the Gospel: Pastor Wagner
“Judgment, Promise, and the Glory of God”
(#12 in the series through Genesis 1-3)

The Prayer for a Right Response to God’s Word

***The Affirmation of Faith: THE NICENE CREED**

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 men, 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 together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic 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.

***The Gloria: “Praise and Glory to the Father...” REGENT SQUARE**

Praise and glory to the Father,
Praise and glory to the Son,
Praise and glory to the Spirit:
ever Three and ever One!
One in might and One in glory,
While unending ages run!

The Celebrations and Concerns of the Church

**The Pastoral Prayer, concluding with
The Lord’s Prayer (in unison):**

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.

The Reception of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory Hymn #311: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

***The Doxology: “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...”**

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!

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison):

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we give you thanks for all the blessings of this life, the generosity of your providence, and your faithfulness to your promises. All that we have is the gift of your hand. All that we offer, we have received from you. Bless this offering, multiply it, and use it for the sake of your Kingdom throughout the earth; that all the world may know that Jesus Christ is Lord; to the glory of your Name. Amen.

***The Hymn #195: “Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!”**

***The Benediction**

***The Congregational Amen: “A-men, A-men, A-men.”**

***The Postlude**
