

Christ is Born

December 26, 2021 | Christmastide



*Shepherds bring wool to the midnight stall:
For the mother a robe, for her darling a pall,
His sleeping cold, hers warm.*

*Three gentlemen bring three measures of myrrh,
A dram to perfume, an ounce to purge,
And a pound to embalm the Lord.*

*And gold is lovely to they eye,
But brutal stone to him who lies
Inside his sepulcher.*

~ Walt Wangerin



Children's programming is available on the lower level, see page 14 for details.

Large Print orders of worship and devices to improve hearing are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

Call to Worship

from Psalm 96

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

**All: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;

All: he will judge the peoples with equity."

Leader: He will judge the world in righteousness,
All: and the peoples in his faithfulness.



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Come and wor - ship, Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Angels From the Realms of Glory, Words James Montgomery, 1816, Music: Henry Smart, 1867

Invocation

Leader: God of **Advent**, of waiting and hoping, our hearts are expectant and ready for your coming among us. God of **Christmas**, of celebration and rejoicing, our hearts are glad and filled with joy and wonder at the revelation of your glory in the Incarnation of Christ, our Lord.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, and visit us with the presence of the incarnate Christ.**

For You, O Lord our souls in still - ness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.

1.O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra - diance
2.O Joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we

shines on all who look to You in the
find more than e - nough We come as we

dark. E - man - u - el come, come light our hearts.
are, O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

Come Light Our Hearts, words and music by Sandra McCracken, 2016

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6

Sing to Prepare, Holy Baptism

All: 

De - scend, O Spi-rit, purg-ing flame, brand us this day with Je-sus'
De - scend, O Spi-rit, as a dove, clothe us this day in Je-sus'
De - scend, O Spi-rit, be our guide, the voice of God, a migh ty
name! Con - firm our faith, con - sume our doubt; Sign us as
love. Mark us as chil - dren of the King; Then send us
tide. Con - vict our sin, com - pel our lives; Spi - rit, keep
Christ's, with - in, with - out, Sign us as Christ's with - in with - out._
forth, in Je sus' name, Then send us forth in Je - sus' name.
us and draw us nigh, Spi - rit, keep us and draw us nigh.

Holy Baptism, Words, vs1, Scott Brenner, 1903, vs.2-3, Steve Hendershot, 2012; Music, Paul vdBijl, 2012

Lucia Renee Knutsen, daughter of Dan and Hillary, sister of Gus

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving **Lucia** by baptism. Keep her always in your love. Guide her as she grows in faith. Protect her in all the dangers and temptations of life. May she be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to her life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.

All: "Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."

Christmaside Confession of Sin, *from John 1 and 3*

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

All: The light has come into the world, and we loved the darkness rather than the light because our works were evil.

Leader: For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a 7/8 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 7/8 time signature. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The lyrics are: O Lord of light who made the stars, In low - li - ness you came on earth To pay the debt we owed for sin. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 7/8 time signature. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The lyrics are: O Dawn, by whom we see the way, To res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares; Your pain - ful cross was made the price; The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 7/8 time signature. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The lyrics are: O Christ, re - deem - er of the world: Oh, won - drous love that healed our wounds From bles - sed Ma - ry's womb you came, The fourth staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 7/8 time signature. The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The lyrics are: Come now and list - en as we pray! by ta - king on our mor - tal cares. A vic - tim pure for sa - cri - fice.

O Lord of light who made the stars,
In low - li - ness you came on earth
To pay the debt we owed for sin

O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
To res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares;
Your pain - ful cross was made the price;

O Christ, re - deem - er of the world:
Oh, won - drous love that healed our wounds
From bles - sed Ma - ry's womb you came,

Come now and list - en as we pray!
by ta - king on our mor - tal cares.
A vic - tim pure for sa - cri - fice.

Silent time to confess

Christmastide Assurance of Pardon, *from John 1 and 3*

Leader: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

All: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

But now you reign the King of kings,
A - dored in high - est ma - je - sty;
Your ve - ry blood shed on the cross,
raised us to life e - ter - nal - ly!
A - - - - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first four staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The fifth staff begins with a double bar line and repeat dots, followed by a half note 'A', four dashes, and a half note 'men.'.

Lessons from the Word

read by Linda and Steve Smith

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 42:5-9
New Testmaent Lesson - 1 Peter 2:4-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God**

For You, O Lord our souls in still - ness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first two staves are identical and contain the lyrics 'For You, O Lord our souls in still - ness wait.' The third staff contains the lyrics 'Tru-ly our hope is in You. Tru-ly our hope is in You.' The music consists of a simple melody with a bass line and a treble line.

The Word

Pastor Dan Adamson
Waiting for the Consolation of Israel, Luke 2:22-38

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Notes:

Passing the Peace and Preparing the Gifts

2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

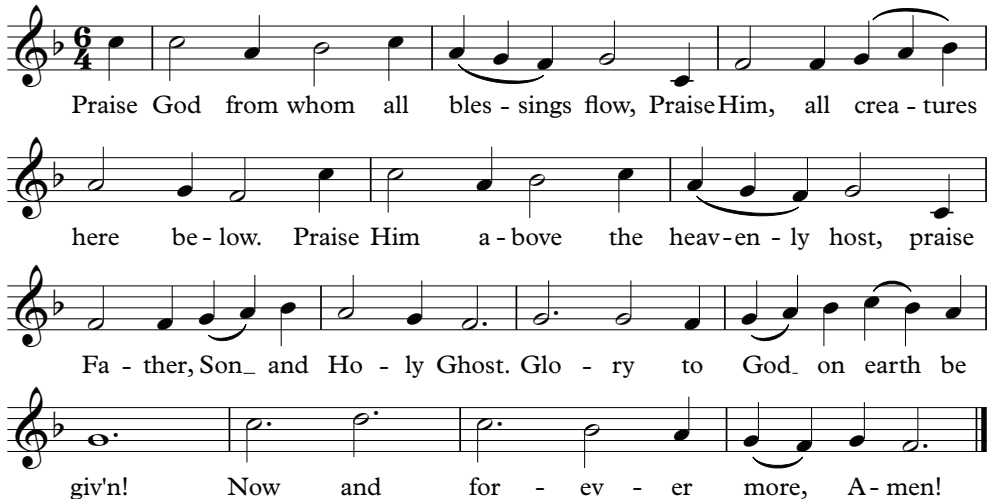
All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Greet each other in the name of Christ

Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures
here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host, praise
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Glory to God on earth be
giv'n! Now and for ever more, A-men!

Doxology, Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, Sussex Carol by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1900

Christmastide Great Thanksgiving

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

With clear hearts and minds,
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right indeed that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfilment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

All: And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

Leader: As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister.

All: Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family, the church.

Leader: Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we proclaim your unending love, as we sing:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

A - - - - - men.

to God the Fa-ther, and the Son, and Ho-ly Spi- rit Three in one. to one.

Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice.
There is individually wrapped gluten free bread available.

Receiving Communion

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

1 What Child is this_ who, laid to rest_ On Ma-ry's lap__ is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies He in_ such mean es - tate,_ Where ox and ass__ are feed - ing?
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh,_ Come pea - sant, king_ to own Him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet,_ While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear,_ for sin - ners here__ The si - lent Word_ is plead - ing.
The King of kings_ sal - va - tion brings,_ Let lo - ving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this__ is Christ the King,_ Whom shep - herds guard_ and an - gels sing;

Haste, haste,_ to bring Him laud,_ The Babe,_ the Son__ of Ma - ry.

Silent prayers for reflection

Prayer for those taking communion

Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Respond to the Table

Leader: Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice
dedicated to your service.

All: **Great is this mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and an-gels sing;

Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

In Community

Announcements about Covenant events and opportunities during the coming weeks.

Go With Joy

All:



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ was born to - day.
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Good Christian friends Rejoice. words: Latin carol, 14th century; music: Traditional German melody

Leader:

Benediction

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

TODAY AT COVENANT

9am service

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Large Print orders of worship are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance: Covenant is pleased to announce it now has electronic devices to assist those with difficulty hearing during the service. The receivers are available in the narthex. Ushers can assist you with finding and using the receivers. The receivers can be paired with your personal earbuds or headphones, as well with most hearing aids.

Current Mask Requirements: In accordance with the city's mask mandate, Covenant requires masks for everyone over 2 at both services and during Common Ground.

Read This Book: How to Read Scripture. Many of us start or renew our habit of reading Scripture at the start of the year. But why do we do it and how do we read the Word of God well? Join us in January for a 4-week class on how to read Scripture. We'll talk about how to benefit from reading Scripture through study and meditation, and focus on how the story of redemption ties the different genres and sections of Scripture together. Join us starting January 9 in the All Saints Room during Common Ground at 10:15 am.

This Act of Grace: Thinking Biblically about Giving. The Apostle Paul calls giving an act of grace when he writes to the church in Corinth. What does it look like for us to give well of our money and possessions? What does Scripture teach us about who we should give to and how much? Join us for a 4-week class on giving as we think through Old Testament and New Testament lessons on the Christian practice of giving. We'll meet in the Library of the Education Building during Common Ground at 10:15 beginning on January 9.

Covenant Musicians: If you are a musician and would like to play and/or sing with the worship team on Sunday mornings, please contact our Worship Director, Paul van der Bijl at pvanderbijl@covenantchicago.org.

The Covenant Choir needs singers! They rehearse twice a month and sing in service once a month. Rehearsals are in the sanctuary during Common Ground. If you would like to join the Covenant Choir, contact Iva Riggs at iva.riggs@gmail.com.

Volunteer with Children's Ministry: Covenant needs additional volunteers to help in our nurseries, children's worship classroom and Sunday school classrooms. We need volunteers during both services (9:00 and 11:15 am) and during Common Ground (10:15). To volunteer, contact Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).

Ushers Needed: Covenant is looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers on Sunday morning. Ushers greet people as they arrive to church and help clean up the sanctuary after the service. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jonathan Ellison (jellisonimages@gmail.com).

Sermon Devotional Emails: Twice a week, a team from Covenant sends sermon devotional emails that will help you reflect on and pray through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. Email devotional@covenantchicago.org to sign up.

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor David (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

Meals Ministry: The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families. If you have recently experienced health problems, have welcomed a new child into your family, or have suffered a loss, please visit covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/ to request a meal. The Meals Ministry also seeks volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer through the website link. Questions? Contact meals@covenantchicago.org.

Year End Giving: Please note per IRS regulations, contributions to Covenant must be submitted or postmarked by December 31, 2021 in order to appear on your 2021 Contribution Statement. If you have any questions, please contact Gene Pierson (gpierson@covenantchicago.org).

One Service Sundays: On January 2, Covenant will only have one service at 9 am. There will be no Common Ground on these Sundays. Nursery care will only be available for children 0-4.

Sermon Text Next Week: Matthew 2:1-12

Giving QR Code



Pastoral Staff

Aaron Baker
Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org

David Salsedo
Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org

Dan Adamson
Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org

Jeff Schneider
Church Planting Pastor, jeff@blvdpres.org

Support Staff

Larissa Bossemeyer
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Gene Pierson
Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@
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Ian Troll
Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@
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Paul van der Bijl
Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@
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Session

Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David
Dillon, Dave Hoover, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis,
Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo.

*Please direct correspondence for the Session to
session@covenantchicago.org.*

Diaconate

Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner,
Joel Miller, Shane Rector, Deb Van Der Molen,
Matt Ver Steeg

Treasurer: Ben Harvey

*If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can
email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.*

Welcome to Covenant

Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of
the offering boxes at the back of the church.

circle one:

New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member

Name:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

↑ *This is new or updated information* ↑

I am interested in:

- More information
- Small Groups
- Service Opportunities
- Membership
- Receiving the Email Letter
- Children and Youth Ministry
- Other:

Prayer Requests:

Covenant Life

Worship Together:

We are made to worship the Triune God, and our worship is always ordered around Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and grace he secured for us by his cross, resurrection and ascension. Gathering around this good news together on Sundays strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus.

Grow and Learn Together:

Learning about our faith and growing together in it forms us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

Serve Together:

The natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. All of us have been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us, and we encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service.



*a church, a city,
and a world
continually made new
by the grace of Christ*

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covenantchicago.org