

THE LORD'S DAY ~ December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

Preparation for Worship *Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.*

*Down he came from up,
and in from out,
and here from there.
A long leap,
an incandescent fall
from magnificent
to naked, frail, small,
through space,
between stars,
into our chill night air,
shrunk, in infant grace,
to our damp, cramped
earthy place
among all the shivering sheep.*

*And now, after all,
there he lies,
fast asleep.*

~ Luci Shaw

The Christ Candle

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
~ Romans 6:23*

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.”
~ Galatians 4:4-5*

Pastor's Welcome and Announcements

Two thousand years ago, the eternal God entered the womb of a virgin, where his human body grew for nine months. His mother gave birth to the Son of God, who took the flesh and blood of man. Big events demand a response, and we respond to the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus, in many ways.

The church does all kinds of things: we worship, read the Bible, make music, and more. But some of our Christmas activities are customary, not Biblical. Human customs must always be tested, so let's consider our Christmas customs ~ of decorations, mercy, music, meditation, and gifts ~ and the Biblical truths they express.

Special Music

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Ethan Delmar*

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (1)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*For those who are able, please stand at these times.

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Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
For the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

*Gloria, Gloria! Now my eyes have seen;
Soli Deo Gloria! Her salvation brings.
As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.*

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

*In the bleak midwinter I may go in peace.
As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.*

*Call to Worship

II Corinthians 8:9

*Hymns of Praise

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (T208)

“Joy to the World” (T195)

Custom #1: Decorations

John 1:1-14

** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (T201)*

Custom #2: Mercy

Luke 2:1-7

“Away in a Manger” (T204)

Custom #3: Music

Luke 2:8-14

** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (T203)*

Custom #4: Meditation

Luke 2:15-20

“O Holy Night” (C285)

*Confession of Faith

“The Word Made Flesh”

The Ligonier Statement on Christology

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
the Son created all things, sustains all things, and makes all things new.
Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to heaven,
and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

Custom #5: Gifts

Matthew 2:1-12

Children's Devotional

*A Christmas Prayer

“The Gift of Gifts”

The Valley of Vision

Heavenly Father, source of all good,
What shall I render to You for the Gift of gifts,
Your own dear Son, begotten, not created,
my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,
His self-emptying incomprehensible,
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.

Herein is wonder of wonders;
He came below to raise me above,
was born like me that I might become like him.

Herein is love;
When I cannot rise to him he draws near on wings of grace,
to raise me to Himself.

Herein is power;
When Deity and humanity were infinitely apart
He united them in indissoluble unity,
the uncreated and the created.

Herein is wisdom;
When I was undone, with no will to return to Him,
and no intellect to devise recovery,
He came, God-incarnate, to save me to the uttermost,
as man to die my death, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,
to work out a perfect righteousness for me.

O God and Father,
take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind;
let me hear good tidings of great joy,
and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise adore,
my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;
Place me with ox, ass, camel, goat,
to look with them upon my Redeemer's face,
and in him account myself delivered from sin;
Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,
embrace him with undying faith, exulting that he is mine and I am his.
In him You have given me so much that heaven can give no more. Amen.

Offertory Hymn

“Joy Has Dawned” (2)

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation.
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory;
But a humble gift of love ~ Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the Mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold ~ a King is born today. Incense ~ God is with us.
Myrrh ~ His death will make a way and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of Heav'n, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Proverbs 15:16

For Smart Phone Giving, text amount to 850-907-7448 OR



Scan for
General Fund



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Prayer of Illumination Sermon

Matthew 1:20-23
Ruth 4:1-22

*“The Christmas Promise”
The Ruth Series
Rev. Cory D. Colravy*

*Hymns of Response

*“What Child Is This?” (T213)
“Silent Night, Holy Night” (T210)
“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” (T207)*

***Charge and Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,

and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn of Benediction** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”* (C258, v.3)

***Postlude**



CPC Sermon Page

AM Sermon Notes
“The Christmas Promise”
The Ruth Series
Ruth 4:1-22
Rev. Cory D. Colravy

THIS WEEK, December 24 - 30, 2017

Today •Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.
Next Sunday •*New Year's Eve* ~ No Sunday School. Enjoy your family!
 •Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Announcements

- ◆ **Nursery Next Week:** Sunday School ~ No Sunday School on New Year's Eve
Morning Worship ~ Elizabeth Sato, Belynda Walker
- ◆ **WIC Bible Study:** Will not meet again until January 9, 2018

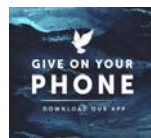
◆ **Budget Summary:**

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Weekly Operational Budget Requirement | \$ | 5,550.00 |
| Tithes/Offerings, December 17, 2017 | \$ | 6,904.00 |
| FYTD Tithes/Offerings Received | \$ | 108,598.69 |
| FYTD Special Gifts | \$ | 3,000.00 |
| FYTD Operational Budget Expenses | \$ | 110,953.16 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$ | 189,383.37 |

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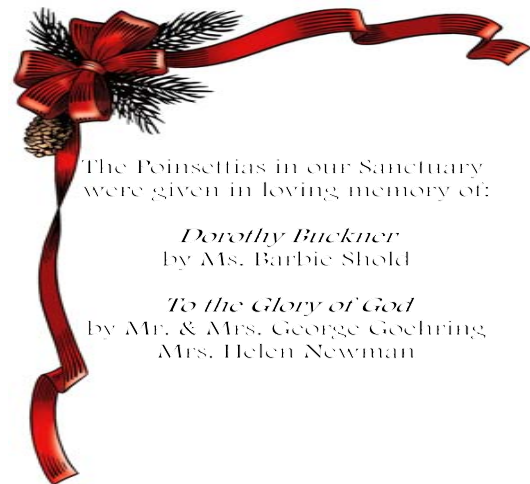
COVENANT FAMILY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

Johanna Richards, December 26th
Greg Clark, December 29th

CPC On-Line Prayer Room



View the on-going prayer requests on the church website:
[www.covenantpca.net/community/prayer room](http://www.covenantpca.net/community/prayer-room)



The Poinsettias in our Sanctuary
were given in loving memory of:

Dorothy Buckner
by Ms. Barbie Shold

To the Glory of God
by Mr. & Mrs. George Goehring
Mrs. Helen Newman

