

THE LORD'S DAY ~ December 31, 2017

MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

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

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You return man to dust and say, 'Return, O children of man!
For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday
when it is past or as a watch in the night.
So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes establish the work of our hands!
Psalm 90:1-4, 12, 14, 17*

Prelude Special Music *"Silent Night, Holy Night"*
Caroline Delmar

Pastor's Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *"Come, Thou Almighty King"* (T101)

Invocation

*Call to Worship Psalm 100:3-4

*Hymn of Praise *"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"* (T30)

*Hymn of Adoration *"Indescribable"* (1)

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea Creation's revealing Your majesty.
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring,
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings. All exclaiming:

*Indescribable! Uncontainable!
You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name;
You are amazing, God! All powerful! Untameable!
Awestruck, we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim: You are amazing God!*

Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go;
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow?
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light,
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night? None can fathom:

*Indescribable! Uncontainable!
You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by name;
You are amazing, God! Imcomp'able! Unchangeable!
You see the depths of my heart and you love me the same; You are amazing, God!*

*Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism #1

Leader: *What is your only comfort in life and in death?*
People: That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

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

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Scripture Reading

Psalm 90:1-17

Hymn of Confession

"Amazing Love" (C351)

Call to Confession

I John 2:1-2

Confession of Sin

Merciful God and Father in heaven,
you are faithful and just;
you are willing to forgive our sins
and to purify us from all unrighteousness.
Before you and my sisters and brothers,
I confess that I have spoken many empty and hurtful words
and have broken many times my most sacred vows
and your holy commandments beyond number.
Our sins are an offense to you;
they are a disgrace before the watching world,
and they have caused unspeakable pain to others
and have left a trail of brokenness in our relationship with others.
Through the Lord Jesus
may we begin this New Year
2018 A.D., *anno Domini*, in the Year of our Lord,
that in spite of our sins, bless us ~
with the comfort and joy of knowing we belong forever to you,
with the freedom and peace of being cleansed by our Savior's blood,
and with the healing and grace that only the Holy Spirit can bring us.
Heavenly Father,
we humbly pray in the blessed name of Jesus,
with the Holy Spirit interceding for us according to your will,
and helping us in our weakness,
Hear us, and bless us,
that you may be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for you O God, are good,
compassionate and forgiving.
You remember that we are dust
and your steadfast love endures forever.
We praise you!
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

I John 1:8-9

Pastoral Prayer

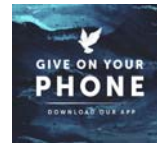
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Proverbs 30:7-9

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Offertory Hymn

"Another Year Is Dawning" (C811)

Prayer of Illumination

Psalm 119:105

Sermon

Psalm 119:25-32



"Daleth Dust Revived in 2018!"
Rev. Cory D. Colravy

CPC Sermon Page

*Hymn of Response

"Psalm 119:25-32" (Tune: T304)

My soul has cleaved to dust revive according to Thy word.
Teach me Thy statutes; when my ways I've told, Thou hast me heard.
Make me to know Thy precept's way, Thy wonders to review,
My soul melts down with grief my strength, as Thou has said, renew.

The way of falsehood take from me; grant me Thy law in grace.
The faithful way I choose; I'll give Thine ordinances place.
I to Thy testimonies cleave; O LORD, no shame impart.
I'll run the way of Thy commands; Thou wilt enlarge my heart.

*Charge and Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*Hymn of Benediction

"Gloria Patri" (T734)

*Postlude

THIS WEEK, December 31, 2017 - January 6, 2018

Today •Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday •Praise Team Rehearsal, 5:15 p.m.
•Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Announcements

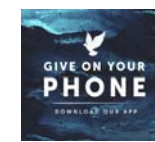
- ◆ **In Our Nursery Today:** Morning Worship ~ Anna Denny, Hailey Zechman
- ◆ **Nursery Next Week:** Sunday School ~ Valerie Cleveland
Morning Worship ~ Elizabeth Sato, Belynda Walker
- ◆ **WIC Bible Study:** Will not meet again until January 9, 2018
- ◆ **Budget Summary:**

Weekly Operational Budget Requirement	\$ 5,550.00
Tithes/Offerings, December 24, 2017	\$ 5,168.35
FYTD Tithes/Offerings Received	\$ 113,667.04
FYTD Special Gifts	\$ 3,000.00
FYTD Operational Budget Expenses	\$ 132,173.02
Mortgage Balance	\$ 188,067.25

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COVENANT FAMILY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

Joe O'Lear, December 31st
Jack Langham, January 2nd
Malachi Delmar, January 2nd
Emma Richards, January 4th

CPC On-Line Prayer Room

View the on-going prayer requests on the church website:
www.covenantpca.net/community/prayer-room



O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Isaac Watts, 1719



*“Lord, You have been our dwelling place
in all generations. Before the mountains were
brought forth, or ever You had formed the
earth and the world, even from everlasting
to everlasting, You are God.”*

~ Psalm 90:1-2

As Isaac Watts quietly pastored Mark Lane Chapel in London, the growing popularity of his hymns was causing a tempest. “Christian congregations have shut out divinely inspired Psalms,” one man complained, “and taken in Watts’ flights of fancy.” The issue of singing hymns versus Psalms split churches, including the one in Bedford, England, once pastored by John Bunyan.

We don’t know Isaac’s reactions. Dr. Samuel Johnson later reported that “by his natural temper he was quick of resentment; but, by his established and habitual practice, he was gentle, modest, and inoffensive.”

But in 1712, Isaac suffered a breakdown from which he never fully recovered. A wealthy couple in the church, Sir Thomas and Lady Abney, invited him to spend a week on their estate. Isaac accepted—and lived with them until his death 36 years later. While living on the Abney estate, Isaac devoted himself to a massive project, adapting the Book of Psalms for Christian worship. In 1719, *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* was published. In it, Watts worked his way through most of the 150 Psalms, paraphrasing them, injecting them with New Testament truth and framing them in singing form.

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” is based on Psalm 90, and is perhaps Watts’ most bracing hymn. It was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared, and was later sung at the funeral service of Winston Churchill. Here are some of the original verses that have fallen into disuse,

*Thy Word commands our flesh to dust, “Return, ye sons of men:
All nations rose from earth at first, and turn to earth again.*

*Like flowery fields that nations stand, pleased with the morning light;
The flowers beneath the mower’s hand lie withering ere ‘tis night.*

As you read these additional verses and as we sing this hymn, think of the ailing hymnist sitting at the desk in his room on the Abney estate, pouring over Psalm 90.

We also have a great Christmas carol from this 1719 collection. As Watts studied Psalm 98, especially verses 4-9, he worded them this way: *“Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!”*

*from *“Then Sings My Soul, Vol 1.”* by Robert J. Morgan



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AM Sermon Notes “Daleth Dust Revived in 2018!”

Psalm 119:25-32
Rev. Cory D. Colravy

