



CHRIST COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2023 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

The Lord's Day

PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION

Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25

Minister: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in You I trust, O my God.

All: Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.

SONGS OF PRAISE

How Great Our Joy!

TEXT & MUSIC: Traditional German carol

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy joy! Joy, joy, joy!*

*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

There shall be born, so did he say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

TEXT: Edmund Sears, 1850, alt. Chris Tomlin, 2015 TUNE: Richard Willis, 1842, alt. Chris Tomlin, 2015

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

The Bereans (Acts 17:10-12)

Randy Hays

Room 4

I would like to invite each of you to consider attending our study of the Apostle John's Letters to the churches. These letters are John's call to each believer to live in God's Light and in God's love if we are truly His. "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13 ESV

Women of all ages

Tina Hulse

Room 10

Join us as we explore the life of Joseph and increase our wisdom for dealing with life's trials through the study of Scripture.

Church Membership—Pastor's Inquirers Class

We have an Inquirers Class for those who are considering church membership or who simply want to know more about Christ Covenant. This class meets in the Sanctuary during Sunday School. Please contact Jason Ellerbee or Brad Eidson if you would like to attend.

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are cross-generational groups intended to allow participation of all Christ Covenant members plus regularly participating non-members for the purposes of belonging, serving, encouraging, and nurturing. You may contact any of the elders on the back of the bulletin to get connected with a Covenant Group.

Women for Christ

The CCPC Women's Committee was developed to serve the women in our church body based on Romans 12:2. We are committed to teaching women to be transformed by the renewing of their minds through Scripture so that the women of our church will be able to test and approve God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. Our desire is that every woman at CCPC has an opportunity to serve and connect. We are focused on outreach, prayer, mercy ministry, and spiritual growth. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas of service to our church family, please contact Tina (256) 347-3593 or Diane (256) 709-2642.

Church Directory Updates

Our church directory is available to view on your mobile device. Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a free app for church members to download on their Apple and Android devices. Download the Instant Church Directory app from the App Store on your device. You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Jonathan Haynes know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device. Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device too. In the app you will be able to search for families and members and call, email, and text right from the app. More information can be found at www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app.

Classes & Other Information

Children's Sunday School

Sunday school classes for all ages are held after the worship service. All children 3rd grade and younger go directly to Room 3 (the "chandelier room") following the service. Children 3rd grade or younger should be picked up from their class once Sunday school is over. All 4th-6th grade students should go directly to their class downstairs and will be dismissed following Sunday School. Below you will find a class list and room numbers.

Toddler Class - Scott/Becky Lewis—Room 14

PreK-Kindergarten - Braden & Whitney Cook/Kristi Nyquist & Ginger Pettus—Room 15

1st Grade - Anthony & Rebecca Taylor/Chris & Merrill Dotson—Room 6

2nd Grade - Shawn & Nicole Robb/Madison McCoy/Sara Haynes—Room 8

3rd Grade - Sheena Johnson/Laura Reeder—Room 9

4th - 6th Girls - Caroline Lunsford/Siusan Peek—Downstairs

4th - 6th Boys - Bo Shirey/Daniel Johnson/Dennis Porter—Downstairs

Youth Sunday School

The youth will meet in three classes at The Hill and will all be studying the book of Joshua.

7th and 8th Grades	Jonathan & Amanda Knappenberger	The Hill (Big Room)
9th and 10th Grades	Hayes & Jessi Eidson	The Hill (Green Room)
11th and 12th Grades	Benjamin & Mary Rogers	The Hill (Orange Room)

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school classes are divided roughly along the lines of age and stage of life. Each Sunday provides an opportunity for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer with others experiencing similar circumstances according to the particular age and stage of life. These classes are for both men and women unless indicated otherwise.

Foundations	Andy / Derek / Jason	Gloria Edwards Room
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"Ripped from the headlines!" Please join us in the Gloria Edwards Room for a Biblical view of current events and culture. We are studying current cultural topics and where they intersect and differ from biblical teaching. Come join us to gain some perspective on living in the world but being "not of the world".

Salt & Light	Steve Nyquist	Fellowship Hall
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Current series - *Encouraging the 'Counter-Culture' Family*
Today - 'Salt & Light Community Building Sunday'

“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heav’n’s all-gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still thru the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

*Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God evermore.
Good news, great joy for all. Melody breaks through the silence:
Christ, the Savior is born! Jesus, love song of God!*

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For low, the days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When the new heav’n and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world gives back the song which now the angels sing

INVOCATION

ADVENT READING

Luke 1:39-56

Carson Starnes
Rees Sheffield

CONFESSION OF SIN

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him! And in whose spirit is no deceit. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Men look at our outward appearance, O God, but you look on our hearts. Your eye peers into the innermost secrets of our souls discovering our sin at its roots. You see our pride, our lust, our covetousness rising up from within. We confess, O Lord, that sin lies within our wandering hearts. We are indeed prone to leave the One we proclaim to love. So, we plead once again the tender mercy of Your forgiving grace. We ask for hearts made pure by the cleansing blood of Christ, made constant by the regenerating grace of the Spirit, and made grateful by the goodness of our heavenly Father. Then let us rejoice and give thanks to Your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868 TUNE: Fernando Ortega, 2006

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.

Sermon Notes

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

SERMON

**“For to us a Child is Born, and His
Name Shall be Called Mighty God”**

COMMUNION SONG

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

TEXT & TUNE: English Carol, 18th Century

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;
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.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

“Love . . . Reaching”

“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.”
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

CONFESSION OF FAITH **The Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 7**

Minister: What is God?

All: God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, present everywhere, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

Joy To The World

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719 TUNE: George Fredrick Handel, 1742

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Greetings From Our Pastor

Welcome to Christ Covenant! We are honored and delighted to have you worshiping with us this Lord’s Day. The entire CCPC family is eager to meet you, answer any questions you may have, and serve you best we can. After the service my wife and I will be in the lobby where we would love to personally greet and welcome you. I pray that our time together has been a source of encouragement to your soul, and that you have been refreshed by the Lord’s Word and His people. Please let us know how we can serve you! —Grace and peace, Jason Ellerbee, Sr. Pastor

Christ Covenant News

1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW · Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.christcovenantcullman.org · (256) 739-0505
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

This Week's Activities

Monday
10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer Time

Tuesday
6:00 a.m. Men's Morning Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday
6:15 p.m. Covenant Kids, Covenant Groups
Youth Group

Friday
7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study—Guys
7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study—Girls

Nursery Volunteers Schedule

December 10
Church Service— Mary Rogers, Tamara Sheffield
Sunday School— Katie Shirey

December 17
Church Service— Rebekah Taylor, Kristi Nyquist
Sunday School— Christie Bright

Covenant Kids Corner

12/13 Menu: Pizza
This Week: Special Activities Night, Christmas —
Parents please make sure your kids wear tennis shoes.

Nursery Ministry

Our nursery welcomes children 0-3 years of age. Parents need to fill out information on Check-In stickers each week. Volunteers are needed; text Karena to be added to the list. We also have openings for paid nursery staff on Sunday mornings. If you or someone you know is 18 years old or older and interested in working 2-4 regular shifts per month, please contact Karena Haynes at (256) 636-0999

Birthday This Week

Dec 10.....Abby Adams
.....Rachel Skeen
12.....Sue Groff
13.....Daniel Johnson
.....Patty Hutchens
14.....Judith Taunton
.....Laura Marie Kornegay
.....Ryland Quinn
16.....Amanda Knappenberger
.....Cathy Tew
.....Jack Nyquist
.....Mary Haynes

Did we miss a birthday? Email Brooke.

Operation Foundry Tree

Help the men of the Foundry buy Christmas gifts for their children. Beth Moultrie will have information available in the Narthex this Sunday for CCPC families to sponsor children. Presents will need to be dropped off before the wrapping party on December 13th. The Foundry Farm is a Christian-based drug and alcohol recovery resident program in Cullman county.

CCPC Christmas Caroling

Thursday December 21st
6:00 at CCPC
We will bring joy to those who need a little extra this time of year!
After caroling we will meet at the home of Anne Moultrie for hot chocolate and cookies. Please bring your favorite cookies or treats.
Sign up below to attend, recommend someone we visit, or volunteer to drive a group!



Men's Ministry Events

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

Men's Morning Study – We have finished 1st Timothy and will start again in the New Year.
3M Men's Fellowship— December 18th
Men's Prayer Time – Friday mornings, 7:00 am in the church session room.

Roots '24

Roots is a weekend camp with fun, relationship building, and hearing from God's Word. Open to all 7th-12th graders. Registration and flyers available in the narthex following the service

Date: January 19th-21st
Where: Camp Toknowhim in Pisgah, AL
Cost: \$145

Art Fellowship

The Art Fellowship will not be meeting during the month of December but will resume on the 1st & 3rd Sunday in January from 2-4 p.m. Contact Marion Frey if you have any questions. 256-347-4201

Prayer Chain

Your brothers and sisters in Christ would love to pray for you. Please call, text, or email with any requests
Gwen Hays 256-709-5276
gwen2829@yahoo.com.

Worship Ministry Help Needed

The worship ministry is in need of volunteers to sing and/or play instruments during worship on Sunday mornings. There is minimal time commitment and the schedule from Sunday to Sunday is flexible. Please see Zeb Powell or Mike Lunsford or email Mike at mjlsunford21@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

Sound Booth Help Needed

Would you be willing to help with the soundboard, projector slides, or live stream production? Contact Roger Tew for more information 256-338-8285 or email westpoint02@hotmail.com.

Women's Ministry Events

Tuesday Women's Bible Study: In the Bible we are introduced to different kinds of faith- great faith, weak faith, child-like faith and steadfast faith. James wrote this book to bring hope and encouragement to the Jewish and Gentiles Christians who were scattered throughout all of the Roman Empire due to persecution. They were experiencing perilous and challenging times and he wrote this book to help them know how to have steadfast faith in the midst of all these trials. His primary theme is how to live out one's faith. As we study the book of James we will be encouraged to be a doer of the word and not just a hearer of the word. Join us Tuesday mornings at 9:30 here at CCPC. Please contact Patty Hutchens for information as to how to order the book. Our teacher will be Yvonne Welch. We hope to see YOU there!!

Thursday Women's Bible Study: The Thursday Night Bible Study will resume in January.

Ladies Prayer Time: Ladies' Prayer Time will be meeting on Monday, December 11th, from 10:00-11:00 in the Bride's Room at the church. Women of all ages are invited. This is a great way to serve the Lord through intercession for our church. Ephesians 6:18: *"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints."*

Crates for Ukraine Update

Thanks to those who contributed to Crates for Ukraine 3.0. We were able to purchase two medical crates as well as make a donation for additional supplies. If you would like to make an additional donation or if you would like to learn about upcoming Zoom updates, go to <https://www.cratesforukraine.com/>