

*Covenant Presbyterian Church*

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service*

*December 24, 2020*

*5:30 pm*



## **Christmas Eve**

*“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*

Luke 2:11-14

Prelude

Greeting

Pastor Reed

Tonight's Advent Readers are Peter and Anna-Kate Bogaards  
with Emmalijn and Jacob

Responsive Reading

Reader: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

**Congregation: Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.**

Reader: And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

**Congregation: And he shall be their peace.**

Advent Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-14

*<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

*<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.*

*<sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town.*

*<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

*<sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.*

*<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.*

*<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*<sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

*<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

*<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Hymn

*“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every 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.

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Confession 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 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 Hymn

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King:"  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through 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.

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 lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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Testimony

Kevin Breniman, Ruling Elder

The Hymn

*"What Child Is This"*

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross He borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

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The Incarnation

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

<sup>2</sup> *He was in the beginning with God.*

<sup>3</sup> *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

<sup>4</sup> *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

<sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

<sup>6</sup> *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*  
<sup>7</sup> *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*  
<sup>8</sup> *He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*  
<sup>9</sup> *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*  
<sup>10</sup> *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*  
<sup>11</sup> *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*  
<sup>12</sup> *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*  
<sup>13</sup> *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*  
<sup>14</sup> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Hymn

*“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around,  
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he - for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind -  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind,  
to you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line,  
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign,  
and this shall be the sign.

"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid,  
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song  
addressed their joyful song.

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:  
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men, begin and never cease,  
begin and never cease!"

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Message

*“The God-Man”*  
John 1:14

Pastor Reed

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Hymn

*“Away in a Manger”*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

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**Candle Lighting**

*This tradition declares that the true Light is Jesus, the Messiah.  
It reminds us that we have received His Light into our hearts by God’s grace.  
It affirms our commitment to take His Light into the world.*

The Hymn

*“Silent Night! Holy Night!”*

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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\*Benediction

Pastor Reed

Postlude

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Liz Baker, Choir Director

Mike Walsh, Pianist  
Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
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Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

One Covenant Drive • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 228-5903 • 228-9534 (Fax)  
cpc@covenantpca.com • www.covenantpca.com  
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America