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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
December 10, 2023

**Covenant's Mission Statement**

*"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."*

**Covenant's Values**

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,  
**connectional** by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),  
**confessional** by adhering to the Westminster Standards,  
**missional** by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and  
**relational** by encouraging the church family to build community.

*The Second Sunday in Advent*  
*Peace*

*“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*  
Galatians 3:27

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Galatians 3:27 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

1 John 5:20

*And we know that the Son of God has come and has  
given us understanding, so that we may know him  
who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son  
Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

Invocation

Opening Hymn

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*  
(stanzas 1 and 2)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;  
come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;  
“Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

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Today’s Advent Readers are Steve and Janet Recker

Responsive Reading

Reader: Great peace have they who love your law,  
**Congregation: nothing can make them stumble.**

Reader: Those who walk uprightly enter into peace;  
**Congregation: they find rest as they lie in death.**

*<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

*<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

*<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every  
garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to  
uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and  
forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer

Hymn

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*  
(stanzas 3 and 4)

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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Scripture Reading

Psalm 26

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

*[1] Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.*

*[2] Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my  
mind.*

*[3] For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.*

*[4] I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.*

*[5] I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.*

*[6] I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,*

*[7] proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.*

*[8] O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.*

*[9] Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,*

*[10] in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.*

*[11] But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.*

*[12] My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.*

Congregational Prayer

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Advent Promise”*  
arr. by Jon Paige

Choir

As we light a candle in the night, as we light a candle in the night,  
we remember the promise of peace and pray,  
O prepare our hearts as we wait, O prepare our hearts as we wait.  
As we sing a song in the night, as we sing a song in the night,  
we remember the Promise of hope, and believe.  
O prepare our hearts to receive, O prepare our hearts to receive.  
Long awaited Promise, You are our hope and life.  
Prince of Peace prepare our hearts.  
Fill them with Your everlasting, fill them with Your everlasting light.  
As we see Your star in the night, as we see Your star in the night,  
we remember your Promise of life today.  
O prepare our hearts, we pray, O prepare our hearts, we pray,  
O prepare our hearts, we pray.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

*Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:  
He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit,  
seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations,  
believed on in the world, taken up in glory.*

Hymn

*“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood;  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow’rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,  
born in my birth, alive in my life,  
strong in my character, dominating my faculties,  
following me as a shadow, intermingling with my every thought,  
my chain that holds me captive.  
Yet Your compassions yearn over me,  
Your heart hastens to my rescue,  
Your love endured my curse,  
Your mercy bore my justice.  
Let me walk in humility,  
bathed in Your blood,  
tender of conscience,  
living in triumph as an heir of salvation  
through Your blessed name. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:13-14

*[13] He has delivered us from the domain of  
darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of  
his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemp-  
tion, the forgiveness of sins.*

Hymn

*“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
earth and heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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Scripture

Romans 13:11-14

*[11] Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.*

*[12] The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.*

*[13] Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.*

*[14] But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

Sermon

*“The Gospel Call to Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”*

Pastor Coyle

Hymn

*“Savior, Blessed Savior”*

Saviour, blessed Saviour, listen while we sing;  
hearts and voices raising praises to our King;  
all we have we offer, all we hope to be,  
body, soul, and spirit, all we yield to Thee.

Nearer, ever nearer, Christ we draw to Thee,  
deep in adoration bending low the knee;  
Thou for our redemption cam'st on earth to die;  
Thou, that we might follow, hast gone up on high.

Great and ever greater, are Thy mercies here;  
true and everlasting are the glories there,  
where no pain nor sorrow, fear nor care, is known,  
where the angel legions circle round Thy throne.

Higher then, and higher, bear the ransomed soul,  
earthly toils forgotten, Saviour, to its goal;  
where, in joys unthought of, saints with angels sing,  
never weary, raising praises to their King.

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Ordination and Installation of Officers

Closing Hymn

*“Gloria Patri”*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline

*“The Gospel Call to Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”*

Romans 13:11-14

I. Wake Up (v.11)

II. Walk Honorably (v.13)

III. Wear Christ (v.12, 14)



## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

**Class of 2023**  
Mr. Bruce Hurlbut  
Mr. Carl Monroe  
Mr. Jason Van Goor

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. Jim Lewis  
Mr. Josh Sanford  
Dr. Brandon Walser

**Class of 2025**  
Mr. Dan Butkowski  
Dr. Bob Tramel

### **TEACHING ELDERS**

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2023**  
Mr. Scott Freydl  
Dr. David Matlock  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. David Beuerman  
Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Kurt Smith

**Class of 2025**  
Mr. Peter Bogaards  
Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
Mr. Jason Guenther

### **STAFF**

Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

### **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Liz Baker, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mr. Mike Walsh, Pianist  
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Vocalist

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico  
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock  
Scott & Kathy Craig, Mexico  
Roger & Laura Dye, South Carolina  
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Rob & Jenny Ilderton, England  
Darlene Johnson, Japan

Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan  
Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France  
Jim & Karan Romaine, New York City  
Julian & Christiana Russell, Bahamas  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

One Covenant Drive • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-228-5903  
cpc@covenantpca.com • www.covenantpca.com  
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America