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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
December 12, 2021

Covenant's Mission Statement
Covenant seeks to glorify God by
Establishing Disciples biblically,
Engaging Culture redemptively,
Expanding Christ's Church faithfully.

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 families to build community.

The Third Sunday in Advent
Joy

*“Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump,
as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb,
has been sacrificed.”*
1 Corinthians 5:7

Prelude **During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on 1 Corinthians 5:7 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Today's Readers are Wes and Kim Clement

Responsive Reading

Reader: Let all who take refuge in God be glad;
Congregation: let them ever sing for joy.
Reader: O God, spread Your protection over them,
**Congregation: that those who love Your name may rejoice
in You.**

Advent Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*
- 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;*
- 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
- 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is
any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*
- 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice
these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Prayer

Opening 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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Scripture Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Jason Van Goor, Ruling Elder

- ¹ *The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,*
- ² *“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.*
- ³ *Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.*
- ⁴ *And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.*
- ⁵ *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,*
- ⁶ *and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.*
- ⁷ *“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.*
- ⁸ *They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.*
- ⁹ *Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.*
- ¹⁰ *And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.*
- ¹¹ *In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.*

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Congregational Prayer

Jason Van Goor, Ruling Elder

Offertory

“Once in Royal David’s City”
arr. by Howard Helvey

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Tom Fox, Deacon

Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old”
(stanzas 1 and 2)

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before Him whom heav’n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy-seat.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

God of salvation, in Christ You have done great things. By Your power You lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into Your kingdom. Salvation is Your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace Your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full. We try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness. Forgive us for not overflowing with joy over Your gift of salvation through Jesus. Enable us to focus on Your grace. Enable us to live grateful and joyful lives in return. For Jesus’ sake alone. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (silent prayer)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old”
(stanzas 3-5)

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

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Scripture Reading

John 1:29-34

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

Hymn

“Lamb of God”

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side,
to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

chorus: *O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

Your gift of love, they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died,
the humble King they named a fraud and crucified the Lamb of God.

chorus

I was so lost, I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side,
to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a Lamb of God.

chorus

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Installation of Officers (page 8)

Closing Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
melt the cloud of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“The Lamb of God Identified”
John 1:29-34

I. The Type of the Lamb.

II. The Witness to the Lamb.

III. The Identification of the Lamb.

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Jerry Potts

Class of 2022
Jeff Nissen
Tom Paulus, Clerk
Bill Scholl

Class of 2023
Bruce Hurlbut
Carl Monroe
Jason Van Goor

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Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor

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David Matlock
Jeff Rooker

Class of 2022
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Tom Fox, Chairman

Class of 2023
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