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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
December 14, 2025

**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 Third Sunday in Advent*

*Joy*

*"For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet."*

1 Corinthians 15:25

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on 1 Corinthians 15:25 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Luke 1:32-33

*[32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

Invocation

Hymn

*"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

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Today's Advent Readers are John and Lauren Melton  
and James and Macie

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 Candle

Prayer

Hymn

*"Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates"*

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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The Sacrament of Baptism

Samuel Jesse Nyberg  
Eve Eliza Nyberg  
John Ambrose Nyberg  
Covenant children of Jonathan and Aliciana Nyberg

Hymn

*“Before the Throne of God Above”*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea;  
a great high Priest whose Name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in Heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within;  
upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the just is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness;  
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God!

written by Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863/tune by Vikki Cook, 1997/CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Psalm 8

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Shout! Sing Hallelujah”*

Choir

Shout to God! Sing out a hallelujah! Shout to God! Let all the world rejoice!  
Lift your voice, and with all the people, sing to the newborn King!  
Shout to God! Sing out a hallelujah! Shout to God! Let all the world exclaim:  
"Praise His name, who life everlasting bring!" He's the newborn King!  
Let the oceans clap their hand; mountains leap for joy;  
trees bow down and starts adore this tiny, baby Boy!  
Gloria, gloria, Hallelujah, In excelsis Deo!  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!  
Son of God, Son of Man, Holy Lamb! He is the King!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Peter Bogaards, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism Question 54

*Q. How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God?*

Christ is exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God, in that as God-man he is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father, with all fullness of joy, glory, and power over all things in heaven and earth; and doth gather and defend his church, and subdue their enemies; furnished his ministers and people with gifts and graces, and maketh intercession for them.

Hymn

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God, who from His altar call;  
extol the Stem of Jesse’s rod, and crown Him Lord of all;  
extol the Stem of Jesse’s rod, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,  
hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all;  
hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all;  
go, spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,  
to Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all;  
to Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;  
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all;  
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, You have raised Jesus from the grave, and crowned Him Lord of all.  
We confess that we have not bowed before Him or acknowledged His rule in our lives.  
We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give Him glory. Forgive us and  
raise us from sin, that we may be Your faithful people, obeying the command of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, Who rules the world and is head of the church, His body. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (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 redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Hymn

*“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
He, the theme of heaven’s praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come!  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man,  
in His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man,  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory!  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father’s plan unfold,  
bringing many sons to glory: grace unmeasured, love untold!

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life.  
But no grave could e’er restrain Him; Praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliv’rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.  
What a foretaste of deliv’rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

text & music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker  
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arrangement/orchestration: Dan Kreider and Brad Weishaupt/CCLI 209271

Sermon

*"The Savior Reigns"*

Pastor Coyle

Hymn

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does His successive journeys run;  
His kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

For Him shall endless prayer be made and praises throng to crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

Blessing abound where're He reigns the pris'ner leaps to lose his chains  
The weary find eternal rest and all the sons of want are blessed.

Where He displays His healing power death and the curse are known no more  
In Him the tribes of Adam boast more blessings than their father lost.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring his grateful honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud "Amen!"

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*"The Savior Reigns"*  
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

I. Jesus Reigns (And Will Reign) Over Death (v.20-23,26)

II. Jesus Reigns (And Will Reign) Over All Things (v.24-27)

III. Jesus Reigns (And Will Reign) To the Glory of God (v.28)

1. Read Psalm 110, which Paul alludes to in v.25. How does this add to our understanding of Christ's present and future reign?
2. Where do you struggle to believe Christ's reign over all things today and still to come?
3. How does the present and future reality of Christ's reign increase your joyful worship today?

## **RULING ELDERS**

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

**Class of 2026**  
Mr. William Fennell  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

**Class of 2027**  
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Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
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Dr. David Matlock

**Class of 2027**  
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Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

## **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beurman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

## **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

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Will & Martha	International
Wes & Kim	Undisclosed

## **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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