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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
December 15, 2024

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

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:9-10

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Revelation 5:9-10 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Choral Introit

"Day of Joy"

by Paul Williams, Joseph M. Marin

This is the day of joy, a day of celebration!
This is the day of joy for all of God's creation,
Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Let every heart rejoice.
This is the joy of joy!
This is the day of joy, a day of adoration.
This is the day of joy, a time of jubilation,
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Let every heart rejoice.
This is the day of joy!
Come sing a glad hosanna, sing an alleluia.
Sing an alleluia to the Lord.
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Call to Worship

1 Peter 2:9-10

[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Invocation

Hymn

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

refrain: *Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong men and maidens meek,
raise high your free, exulting song; God's wondrous praises speak.

refrain

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth!

refrain

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.

refrain

At last the march shall end, the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blest.

refrain

Then on, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

refrain

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Today's Advent Readers are the Walser Family

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

"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"

Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever;
for on the holy cross has Thou the world from sin redeemed.
Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore Thee.

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Scripture Reading

Revelation 5

Brandon Walser, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Brandon Walser, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

"Rejoice! Emmanuel"
by Mary McDonald

Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; and fill the world with heaven's peace.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jason Guenther, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 8, Paragraph 1

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

Hymn

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts, Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
from the best bliss that earth imparts we turn unfilled to Thee again.
Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; Thou savest those that on Thee call;
to them that seek Thee Thou art good, to them that find Thee all in all.
We taste Thee, O Thou Living Bread, and long to feast upon Thee still;
we drink of Thee, the Fountainhead, and thirst our souls from Thee to fill.
Our restless spirits yearn for Thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast;
glad when Thy gracious smile we see, blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.
O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world Thy holy light.
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Corporate Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have not loved You from the heart nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. You have shown us mercy, but we have been harsh and unforgiving. You show love to all, but we show favor only to our friends. Our hearts are corrupt and we are guilty. Please forgive us and cleanse us from our sin. Help us by Your Spirit to reflect Your love and kindness. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8:1, 37-39

*[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,
[39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Hymn

“See, amid the Winter’s Snow”

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
refrain: *Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Singing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*
Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
refrain
Say, you holy shepherds, say, what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?
refrain
“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing, ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Savior’s birth.”
refrain

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Sermon

"A Joyful Song in Response to God's Saving Work"

Pastor Reed

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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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
"A Joyful Song in Response to God's Saving Work"
Psalm 98

I. This New Song is to the King, the LORD.

II. This New Song About His Salvation.

III. This New Song is for All.

MEMBERS OF SESSION

RULING ELDERS

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

Class of 2025
Mr. J. C. Baker (sabbatical)
Mr. Dan Butkowski
Dr. Bob Tramel

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

TEACHING ELDERS

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

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Mr. David Beurman
Dr. Ken Knecht
Mr. Kurt Smith

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

Class of 2026
Mr. Andrew Kinzler
Mr. Mike Lieblich
Dr. David Matlock

STAFF

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)
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

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock
Scott & Kathy Craig, Mexico
Roger & Laura Dye, South Carolina
Jamie & Jacki Gildard, France
Rob & Jenny Ilderton, England

Darlene Johnson, Japan
Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan
Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)
Will & Martha, International
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

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