



covenant.presbyterian.church

Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
December 17, 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 Third Sunday in Advent
Joy

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*
Romans 15:13

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Romans 15:13 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 130:5-8

*[5] I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word
I hope;*

*[6] my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for
the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

*[7] O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there
is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.*

[8] And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”
(stanzas 1 and 2)

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.

CCLI 209271

Today's Advent Readers are Micah and Jessica Allison

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.

[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

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”
(stanzas 3 and 4)

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.

CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Brandon Walser, Ruling Elder

[1] There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

[2] And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

[3] And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

[4] but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

[5] Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

[6] The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

[7] The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

[8] The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

[9] They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

[10] In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Congregational Prayer

Brandon Walser, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Come, Come, Immanuel”
words and music by Jay Althouse

Choir

Come, come. Immanuel, a child and yet a King.
Born to reign forever; praise to Thee we sing.
Come, come, Immanuel, and set Thy people free;
from fear and sin release us; find our rest in Thee.
Come, come, Immanuel, the Savior promised long.
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.
Come, come, Immanuel, let all go forth and tell
the story of the tiny King born in Israel.
Open the heavens wide; God sends a Son.
He is a tiny babe, the blessed, Holy One.
O come, come, Immanuel, the Son of God to earth.
Let us who know and love Him celebrate the birth.
O come, come, Immanuel, the time is drawing near.
Salvation now is close at hand; the Son of God is here.

CCLI 209271

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jonathan Goodwin, Deacon

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my
heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”
(stanzas 1-4)

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!

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.

CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us
there is an abundance of sin,
but in You there is the fullness of righteousness
and abundance of mercy.

We are spiritually poor, but You are rich and
in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor.

Strengthen our faith and trust in You.

We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us.

We are weak in faith; strengthen us.

We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for You
that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7-8

*[7] In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the
riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us,
in all wisdom and insight.*

Immovable our hope remains though shifting sands before us lie.
 The One who washed away our stains shall bear us safely to the skies.
 The floods may rise, the winds may beat, torrential rains descend,
 yet God His own will not forget; He'll love and keep us till the end;
 You'll love and keep us till the end.

This is eternal life: to know the living God and Christ, the Son.
 The Savior will not let us go until His saving work is done.
 Our debt was great, as was our need, but now the price is paid.
 Who can behold Immanuel bleed and doubt His willingness to save?
 We trust Your willingness to save.

The Lord acquits, who can condemn? Though Satan's accusations fly
 his pow'r can never reach our names to blot them from the Book of Life.
 The Son has surely made us free His Word forever stands;
 and all our joy is knowing we are graven on His wounded hands;
 we're graven on Your wounded hands.

Built into Christ, secure we stand, for with His Spirit we've been sealed.
 By grace we'll see the promised land where every sorrow shall be healed.
 To God who gave His only Son, to Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 to God the Spirit, Three-in-one, be songs of praise forevermore;
 we'll sing Your praise forevermore.

CCLI 209271

Scripture

Romans 15:8-13

[8] For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

[9] and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

[10] And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

[11] And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

[12] And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Closing Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

chorus: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

chorus

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

chorus

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found;
dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

chorus

CCLI 209271

Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“The Gospel Hope for All, Jew and Gentile”
Romans 15:8-13

I. The Messiah of Hope.

II. The Means of Hope.

III. The Magnitude of Hope.

IMMOVABLE OUR HOPE REMAINS

Augustus Toplady (1740-1778)
 Alt. words by Bob and Brittany Kauflin

Bob Kauflin and Brittany Kauflin

♩ = 72 G D/F# G D C G Em G/B D G

1. Im - mov - a - ble our hope re - mains though shift - ing sands be - fore us lie. The
 2. This is e - ter - nal life: to know the liv - ing God and Christ, the Son. The
 3. The Lord ac - quits, who can con - demn? Though Sa - tan's ac - cu - sa - tions fly, his
 4. Built in - to Christ, se - cure we stand, for with His Spi - rit we've been sealed. By

G D/F# G D C G Em G/B D G

One who washed a - way our stains shall bear us safe - ly to the skies. The
 Sa - vior will not let us go un - til His sa - ving work is done. Our
 pow'r can nev - er reach our names to blot them from the Book of Life. The
 grace we'll see the prom - ised land where ev - ery sor - row shall be healed. To

D G Am Em Em G C G D G Am Em

floods may rise, the winds may beat, tor - ren - tial rains de - scend, yet God His own will not for - get; He'll
 debt was great, as was our need, but now the price is paid. Who can be - hold Im - man - uel bleed and
 Son has sure - ly made us free, His Word for - ev - er stands; and all our joy is know - ing we are
 God who gave His on - ly Son, to Je - sus Christ, our Lord, to God the Spi - rit, Three - in - one, be

C Am7 Bm C Em7 D G

love and keep us till the end; You'll love and keep us till the end.
 doubt His will - ing - ness to save? We trust Your wil - ling - ness to save.
 gra - ven on His wound - ed hands; we're gra - ven on Your wound - ed hands.
 songs of praise for - ev - er - more; we'll sing Your praise for - ev - er - more.

© 2012 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI). Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Churches. All rights reserved.
 Administrated worldwide at www.CapitolCMGPublishing.com, excluding the UK which is adm. by Integrity Music,
 part of the David C Cook family. www.SovereignGraceMusic.org CCLI #6271794

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
Jamie & Jacki Gildard, France
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