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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
December 18, 2022

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 families to build community.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Love

*"And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.
He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."
Isaiah 22:22*

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Isaiah 22:22 printed above.

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Luke 1:46-50

*46 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For
behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy
is his name.
50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation.*

Invocation

Opening Hymn

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

refrain: *Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:

refrain

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:

refrain

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:

refrain

Today's Advent Readers are Ben and Janaye Russ
and Addison, Ava, and Daniel

Responsive Reading

Reader: The Lord our God is with us and is mighty
to save us.

**Congregation: God will take great delight in us and
will quiet us in love. God will rejoice
over us with singing.**

Advent Scripture Reading

Isaiah 54:1-10

- ¹ *"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the Lord.*
- ² *"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.*
- ³ *For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.*
- ⁴ *"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.*
- ⁵ *For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.*
- ⁶ *For the Lord has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.*
- ⁷ *For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you.*
- ⁸ *In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer.*
- ⁹ *"This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.*
- ¹⁰ *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer

“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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Scripture Reading

Revelation 3:7-13

Jeff Nissen, Ruling Elder

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’

8 “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
arr. by Brent Olstad

Mike Walsh, pianist
Cheryl Visser, flutist

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Tom Fox, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Hebrews 1:1-3

- ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
- ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.
- ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
After making purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Corporate Confession of Sin

God of salvation, in Christ You have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.
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.
Help us to focus on Your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.
For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Galatians 4:4-5

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law,*

*5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as sons.*

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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Scripture

Isaiah 22:20-25

20 In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah,

*21 and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him,
and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.*

*22 And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall
open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

*23 And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become
a throne of honor to his father’s house.*

*24 And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father’s house, the
offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons.*

*25 In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in
a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the
load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken.”*

Revelation 3:7

*“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the
holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one
will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’”*

“The Authority of the Key of David”

Closing Hymn

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All -
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid -
here in the death of Christ I'll live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death -
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home -
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“The Authority of the Key of David”
Isaiah 22:20-25

I. The Provision of the Key (v.22a)

II. The Power of the Key (v.22b)

III. The Person of the Key (Rev.3:7)

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Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

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

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