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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
December 3, 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 First Sunday in Advent  
Hope*

*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:11*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Isaiah 53:11 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 85:7-13

*[7] Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. [8] Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. [9] Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. [10] Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. [11] Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. [12] Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. [13] Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.*

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

*"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**refrain:** *Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

**refrain**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Today's Advent Readers are Richard and Lolo Long

Responsive Reading

Reader: Blessed is the man who hopes in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in Him.

**Congregation: He will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.**

Reader: It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

**Congregation: It has not worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.**

Advent Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:15-23

*[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

*[16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him.*

*[17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

*[18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*

*[19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,*

*[20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

*[21] And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,*

*[22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*

*[23] if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer

Hymn

*"Doxology"*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye, heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*[52:13] Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.*

*[14] As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—*

*[15] so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.*

*[53:1] Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

*[2] For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*[3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*[4] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

*[6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.*

*[8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?*

*[9] And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

*[10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*[11] Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.*

*[12] Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Come to the Dance”*  
words by Pamela S. Martin  
music by Mark Patterson

Choir

Awake, rise up, come to the dance and join the angel’s singing.  
The music of great joy and peace across the world is ringing.  
Let the news be heard in ev’ry land and ev’ry soul rejoice.  
The Song of joy is born today and we now lift our voice.  
Awake, rise up, come to the dance as shepherds spread the story.  
Come, share the wonder and delight as we behold God’s glory.  
Let ev’ry knee bend low in prayer and ev’ry heart be raised.  
The Lamb of God has come to save and we now give our praise.  
Awake, rise up, come to the dance and join wise men’s journey.  
The Light they seek still shines today and in our night is burning.  
With a gift of heart, of soul and mind, our very best we bring.  
The Gift of life is ours today in Jesus Christ the King,  
in Jesus Christ the King.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jason Guenther, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus Christ, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be exploited;  
rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name  
that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge  
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*  
(stanzas 1-2)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

***refrain:*** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

***refrain***

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## Corporate Confession of Sin

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much  
for the comforts of this world.

We have loved the gifts more than the giver.

In Your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows,  
but You are substance; that they are quicksands, but You are mountain;  
that they are shifting, but You are anchor.

We plead Your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ.

Accept His worthiness for our unworthiness,

His sinlessness for our transgressions, His fullness for our emptiness,

His glory for our shame, His righteousness for our dead works,

His death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

### Assurance of Pardon

Romans 5:1-2

*[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we  
have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*[2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith  
into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope  
of the glory of God.*

### Hymn

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

(stanzas 3 - 5)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

**refrain:** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

**refrain**

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

**refrain**

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### Scripture

Romans 1:1-6

*[1] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the  
gospel of God, [2] which he promised beforehand through his prophets in  
the holy Scriptures [3] concerning his Son, who was descended from David  
according to the flesh [4] and was declared to be the Son of God in power  
according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus  
Christ our Lord, [5] through whom we have received grace and apostleship  
to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the  
nations, [6] including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

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

The Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to The Lord’s Supper

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn

*“Praise Him! Praise Him!”*

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! hail Him! highest archangels in glory;  
strength and honor give to His holy name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,  
in His arms He carries them all day long:

***refrain:*** *Praise Him! praise Him!*  
*tell of His excellent greatness,*  
*praise Him! praise Him! ever in joyful song!*

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
For our sins He suffered and bled and died;  
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the crucified.  
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:

***refrain***

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth for ever and ever;  
crown Him! crown Him! Prophet and Priest and King!  
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,  
power and glory unto the Lord belong:

***refrain***

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude



Sermon Outline  
*“The Gospel of God’s Son”*  
Romans 1:1-6

I. A Divine Gospel.

II. A Promised Gospel.

III. An Incarnate Gospel.

## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

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Mr. Carl Monroe  
Mr. Jason Van Goor

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Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

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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**

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Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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