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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
November 27, 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 First Sunday in Advent*  
*Hope*

*"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save."  
Zephaniah 3:17*

Prelude **During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Zephaniah 3:17 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship Zechariah 2:10

*"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come  
and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD."*

Invocation

Hymn

*"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*  
(stanzas 1-2)

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***

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Today's Advent Readers are Josh and Kirsten Sanford  
and Walt, Theo, and Lucy

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 no worries in a year of drought and  
never fails to bear fruit.**

- <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
- <sup>16</sup> 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.*
- <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*
- <sup>18</sup> 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.*
- <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,*
- <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*
- <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,*
- <sup>22</sup> 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,*
- <sup>23</sup> 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

*“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*  
(stanza 3)

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.

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

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The Sacrament of Baptism

Alina Jillaine Young  
Covenant daughter of Bryant and Alexandra Young

To God be the glory, great things He has done!  
 So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
 Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
 and opened the life gate that we may go in.

*refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
 let the earth hear His voice!  
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
 let the people rejoice!  
 O come to the Father thro’ Jesus the Son,  
 and give Him the glory, great things He has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
 To ev’ry believer the promise of God;  
 the vilest offender who truly believes,  
 that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

**refrain**

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
 and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
 but purer and higher and greater will be  
 our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

**refrain**

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## Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

*<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.*

*<sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*

*<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:*

*<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).*

*<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,*

*<sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Advent Promise”*  
Words and Music by Pamela Martin  
arr. by Joh Paige

Choir

As we light a candle in the night, as we light a candle in the night,  
we remember the Promise of peace and pray.  
O prepare our hearts as we wait, O prepare our hearts as we wait.  
As we sing a song in the night, as we wing a song in the night,  
we remember the Promise of hope and believe,  
O prepare our hearts to receive, o prepare our hearts to receive.  
Long awaited Promise, You are our hope and life.  
Prince of Peace, prepare our hearts. Fill them with Your everlasting,  
fill them with Your everlasting light.  
As we see Your star in the night, as we see Your star in the night,  
we remember Your Promise of life today.  
O prepare our hearts, we pray, O prepare our hearts, we pray,  
O prepare our hearts, we pray.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Ken Knecht, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among  
us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the  
only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

Awesome and compassionate God, You have loved us with unending, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved You. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as You come to us in mercy, we repent, admit our sin, and gratefully receive Your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

## Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

### Assurance of Pardon

1 John 4:9-10

*<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.*

*<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

### Hymn

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
(stanza 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

Isaiah 7:10-17

*<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:*

*<sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”*

*<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”*

*13 And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”*

*14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

*15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.*

*16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.*

*17 The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”*

Sermon

*“The Sign of Immanuel”*

Pastor Coyle

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

Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“The Sign of Immanuel”*  
Isaiah 7:10-17

I. The Setting

II. The Sign

III. The Significance



## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

**Class of 2022**  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Dr. Tom Paulus, Clerk  
Mr. Bill Scholl

**Class of 2023**  
Mr. Bruce Hurlbut  
Mr. Carl Monroe  
Mr. Jason Van Goor

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. Josh Sanford  
Dr. Brandon Walser

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Mr. Tom Fox, Chairman

**Class of 2023**  
Mr. Scott Freydl

**Class of 2024**  
Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Kurt Smith

### **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

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

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico  
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Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

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