

ADVENT | *The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the Second Coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.*

preparing our hearts

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.

– Isaiah 9:2 ESV

** call to worship

Leader: In the days of Herod the king, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,
All: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Leader: Then Herod summoned the wise men and sent them to Bethlehem. After listening to Herod, they went on their way.

All: And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

Leader: When they saw star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

All: And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Leader: Let us all become as the wise men – seeking out and worshiping the Lord.

– Based on Matthew 2:1-11 ESV

** Please stand if you are able

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To the great One in Three, eternal praises be,
Hence evermore. His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

Words: Anonymous; Music: TRINITY (ITALIAN HYMN), Felice de Giardini. Public Domain.

**prayer of invocation

Leader: Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly, today as we worship, bring us to the valley of vision, where we live in the depths but see thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin may we behold thy glory. Let us learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Let us find thy light in our darkness, thy life in our death, thy joy in our sorrow, thy grace in our sin, thy riches in our poverty, thy glory in our valley. Amen.

– Adapted from a Puritan Prayer from *The Valley of Vision*

advent reading & candle lighting

THE NESS FAMILY

The candle color for the first week of Advent is purple, symbolizing repentance. This week's candle is called the Candle of Hope. It is the light that burned within the Prophets who longed for God's Messiah.

The Readings | Isaiah 7:14 and Revelation 21:1-5 ESV

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n taught singers sang of old with one accord,
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts his praises sing,
All dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: DIVINE MYSTERIUM, Plainsong. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: [Thus says the LORD,] “I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.”

– Jeremiah 33:8 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets,
To preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.
We confess our sin to you, O Lord.
Grant us your grace to hear and to heed the warnings of your messengers
And, forsaking our sins, to cast away the works of darkness;
Striving, rather, to put on the armor of light and to live by faith in Christ,
That we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen**

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: “And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.

All: **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”**

– Jeremiah 31:34 ESV

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. *

** Chorus:*

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of glory now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *

Perfect submission – all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *

Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp. Public Domain.

Leader: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-5.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. Greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.

about our guest speaker | **Paul Wells**

Paul Wells is emeritus Professor at the Faculté Jean Calvin in Aix-en-Provence, France, where he taught for 40 years. He has recently published the first of a two-volume theology in French. English publications include *Cross Words* and *Taking the Bible at its Word* (Christian Focus Publishing). He is editor in chief of *Unio cum Christo* for Westminster Seminary, PA (which can be read online at uniocc.com). He also recently completed a new book titled, *Growing In Christ: 5 Biblical Steps for Enduring Growth*. Paul and his wife Alison live in Liverpool, England. Please greet Dr. Wells and Alison if you have an opportunity, and thank Paul for preaching to us today.

Sermon | “Time and Chance Happen”

December 1, 2024

Ecclesiastes 9:11 ^{ESV} | 11 Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

** affirmation of faith

Leader: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,

All: **[T]hat Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.**

Leader: But I received mercy for this reason,

All: **[T]hat in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.**

Leader: To the King of ages,

All: **[I]mmortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

– 1 Timothy 1:15-17 ESV

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians — a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that his work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And he [Jesus] took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

– Luke 22:19-20_{ESV}

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us pray.

All: O merciful Lord, we do not presume to come to this your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But it is your right, O God, to give mercy to whom you please. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to share in the table of your dear Son Jesus Christ, that our sinful hearts may be made clean by his sacrifice, and our souls washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

**All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come again.**

Minister: Take these symbols of Christ’s sacrifice in remembrance and proclamation that he died for you, and partake of them in faith and thankfulness.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to both to him and to one another.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Words: Latin hymn, trans. by John Mason Neale; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

** offering & song of thanksgiving

The offering is a vital part of our response to God's grace provided for us in the preaching of his word and administration of the Lord's Supper. Our tithes and offerings represent the entirety of our lives being consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the coming of his kingdom to this world. As God's grace is freely given to us, so we give freely in return; not in any way to add to Christ's supremely adequate atonement for us, but in joyful response to this work and in thanksgiving for such unmerited grace.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1&4), Mark Hunt (vv. 2&3); Music: HYFRYDOL, R. H. Pritchard. Public Domain.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH. Public Domain.

for first-time visitors

Whether you are visiting us from out of town or looking for a church to call home, we're so glad to have you with us. Please fill out the welcome pad when it comes to you.

sunday school

Sunday School is on break until January 19. Look for details about the spring session in the coming weeks.

welcome

Worshiping with us again and serving Communion today is Rev. John Weller. John is a Teaching Elder in the South Texas Presbytery and has assisted us in Worship many times this year. Currently, he serves as a hospital chaplain in Austin and previously, John was Assistant Pastor at Christ the King PCA in Austin. He and Natalie Weller have 4 grown children. If you have opportunity, please greet John and Natalie, and express our great thanks to John for his repeated service to CPC.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | TODAY

Members, please stay after the service today for the congregational meeting to elect new officers.

BACKYARD CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT | DECEMBER 20

CPC's kids along with their friends and family are invited to a backyard Christmas movie night! Join us **Friday, December 20, 630p**, at the Horralls' place, as we watch *The Star*. Bring blankets and your favorite comfortable chairs. We will serve popcorn, cookies, and hot cocoa while we all enjoy a Christmas classic movie together. For more information or if you have any questions feel free to **reach out to Korina Slabach** (kids@cpcgeorgetown.org).

new cry room available

Starting today, the Youth Room will be set up as a cry room for parents of young children to take during the worship service. It is located at the end of the hallway on the left. The service will also be playing on the televisions mounted there. Please use this location over the lobby or nursing room if this need arises. Thank you!

reynosa missions trip

If you are looking for an opportunity to put your faith into action, please join the CPC Missions Trip to Reynosa, Mexico, **March 15 - 21**. We will be working with our own missionaries, Marcus and Heather Rudd, at Isaiah 55 Ministries, which works with the deaf and marginalized community in this border area of northern Mexico. We will be helping with some construction projects that are ongoing at the mission – but all you need to bring is a willing heart to spread the love of Christ. **Please sign up on the form in the lobby or contact Shawn Horrall** (shorrall@gmail.com).

year-end giving

In order to be deductible on your 2024 tax return, contributions must be received or postmarked no later than **Tuesday, December 31**. If you have questions about year-end giving or any other giving-related question, **please contact Russ Newcombe** (treasurer@cpcgeorgetown.org).

advent and christmas eve services

Join us and invite others for Advent and Christmas Eve at CPC! Advent services are **December 8, 15, and 22**. Our Christmas Eve service will be **Tuesday, December 24, 530p**.

advent devotionals

A limited supply of *Everyday Gospel*, *Christmas Devotional* by Paul David Tripp are available in the lobby. Pick yours up today!

thank you

Thank you to all of the Advent decorating volunteers that helped deck the halls of CPC to get ready for the Christmas season. The building looks beautiful! Thank you to the Herrons, Joffrions, Montoneys, and Slabachs for your faithful service to CPC!

missionaries & ministries we support

Rachel Bauserman | MTW—Nagoya, Japan

John & Kathy Clow | MTW—Central America

Adair Evans | MTW—Munich, Germany

Tim & Moonsook Lim | MTW—Cambodia & Southeast Asia

Gama & Grace Pozos | Church Planter, McAllen, Texas

Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County

Marcus & Heather Rudd | Isaiah 55 Ministries (MTW)—Reynosa, Mexico

Reach South Texas (Church Planting Network)

South Texas Presbytery (PCA)

Kevin Tanner | Prison Ministry

The Caring Place

Dan & Becky Young | MTW—North Mexico/Texas Border

Young Life Georgetown