

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

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him[.]

– Isaiah 11:1-2a ESV

choral anthem

AN ADVENT ACCLAMATION

*Look to the light, prepare the way. Turn from night, embrace the day.
Let all creation praise with singing; set ev'ry bell in heaven ringing.
Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!*

*Look to the dawn, prepare your heart. This is a day of celebration; join in the music of jubilation.
Waken your song, let worship start. Rejoice, and sing! Sing! Sing! Sing!
Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light is coming soon!*

*Look to the star that gilds the East, golden of heart and burning with peace.
See now the torch is rising yonder, lifting our hearts with glorious wonder.
See the torch rising, lifting hearts, wonder.
Christ, the Light, is coming soon!
Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon! Prepare the way!*

Words: Roger Thornhill; Music: BESANCON, arranged by Stacey Nordemeyer.
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** Please stand if you are able

Leader: Praise the LORD!

All: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Leader: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

All: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

Leader: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

All: The LORD is gracious and merciful.

Leader: They will call his name Immanuel.

All: Come, let us adore him.

– Based on Psalm 111:1-4 and Matthew 1:23 ESV

O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King, all-glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain; and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end; our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Words: Robert Grant; Music: LYONS, Johann Haydn. Public Domain.

**prayer of invocation

Leader: Because of your tender mercy, O Lord our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Therefore, Holy Father, give us great joy because you have drawn near and made your dwelling among your people; all by the gracious name of your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

– Based on Luke 1:78-79

advent reading & candle lighting

THE HULSEY FAMILY

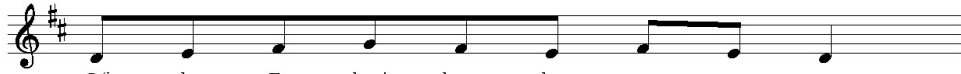
The candle color for the second week of Advent is purple, symbolizing royalty and the sovereignty of Christ. This week's candle is called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. It demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King that is celebrated during Advent.

The Readings | John 1:1-5 and Revelation 21:22-26 ESV

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed,
 This is he whom heav'n taught sing - ers
 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him;
 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther,



ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 sang of old with one ac - cord,
 an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 whome the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets
 all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the Source, the End - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
 and ex - tol our God and king;
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

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:
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
That we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL **

All: **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 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.**

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

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

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

– Jeremiah 31:34 ESV

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Words: Frank Houghton, © 2007 Thankyou Music. CCLI #3022711, #20579701, Song #6224404.
Music: FRAGRANCE, French carol. Public Domain.

prayer

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. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.

sermon

Series | “O Come Let Us Adore Him – Sermons from Luke”

DANIEL MCDOWELL

Sermon | “Celebrating the Goodness of God”

December 10, 2023

Luke 1:39-56^{ESV} | 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“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.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.*

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

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

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing:

All: (*singing Gloria Patri*)



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and e - ver shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Let us pray.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, 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 eat this bread and to drink this cup, with hearts filled with gratitude and praise to your dear Son Jesus Christ, by whom our souls are washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, examine your heart and reflect on the meaning of this supper, that you would take it in a worthy manner.

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

ROCK OF AGES

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood from thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady; Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings. Public Domain.

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.

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all!

You chosen seed of Israel's race, you ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all!

Words: E. Perronet, J. Rippon; Music: CORONATION, O. Holden. Public Domain.

announcements

**** benediction**

**** doxology**

All: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

all that glitters

Parents, please be mindful of your kids after the end of worship services in the Advent season, as there will be lots of pretty (yet fragile) things that tempt little hands. For the safety of all our children and our beautiful decorations, please keep the stage area clear and all decor off limits and undisturbed. Thank you for your help!

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG | DECEMBER 15

Join us for an informal Christmas carol sing-along on **Friday, December 15, 6p** in the church lobby. We'll have an evening of singing over hot drinks and cookies. Invite family and friends to spread the good cheer and festive spirit of the season. **Contact Rose Castro** (roseandmimi@gmail.com) with questions.

INSTALLATION & ORDINATION OF OFFICERS | DECEMBER 17

God is good and we are thankful for his constant supply and provision for CPC! On December 3, **Larry Brown, Jacob Jennings, Donald Wilcox, and Chris Windsor** were elected to the office of deacon by congregational vote. Please join us in giving thanks to God for these men! They will be ordained and installed into office during our Sunday worship service **December 17**.

intro to cpc class

We will be offering another Intro to CPC Class on **January 21 and February 4, 4-6p** in the lobby. This class is a great way to learn more about our church and the various ways you can partake and serve. This class in two sessions is also required for membership — even transferring in from other PCA churches. Each class will run around two hours and be a mixture of teaching and discussion. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers as well, and for us to share our backgrounds and testimonies. Childcare will be provided. **Contact Daniel McDowell** (daniel@cpcgeorgetown.org) to sign up or for more information.

advent devotionals

If you are interested in a devotional for the Advent season you can pick up a copy of *The Weary World Rejoices* by Melissa Kruger in the lobby. There is a limited supply so pick yours up today! Suggested donation \$10.

advent and christmas eve services

Join us and invite others for Advent and Christmas Eve at CPC! Advent services are **December 17 and 24, 1030a**. Our Christmas Eve service will be **Sunday, December 24, 530p**.

year-end giving

In order to be deductible on your 2023 tax return, contributions must be received or postmarked no later than **Sunday, December 31**. If you have questions about year-end giving or any other giving-related question, **please contact Poem Turner** (finance@cpcgeorgetown.org).