

**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.*

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## preparing our hearts

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

– Micah 5:2 ESV

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## choral anthem

SANCTUARY CHOIR

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te*

*Benedicimus te*

*Adoramus te*

*Glorificamus te*

*Glory to God in the highest!*

*And on earth peace to men of good will.*

*We praise you*

*We bless you*

*We adore you*

*Let us glorify you*

Words: Traditional. Music: Greg Gilpin.

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\*\* Please stand if you are able

*Leader:* Praise the LORD!

**All: Praise the name of the LORD.**

*Leader:* Give praise, O servants of the LORD,

**All: Who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!**

*Leader:* Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

**All: For I know that the LORD is great, and that our LORD is above all gods.**

*Leader:* Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout the ages.

**All: Praise the LORD!**

– From Psalm 135 ESV

## COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice.

Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend. To us he'll condescend.

His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Words: Christian Henry Bateman; Music: MADRID, Spanish melody. Public Domain.

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## \*\*prayer of invocation

*Leader:* O Lord God, we magnify you, and our spirits rejoice in you, our great Savior, for you have looked on the humble estate of your servants and you, who are mighty, have done great things for us. Holy is your name. Your mercy is for those who fear you from generation to generation. We come before you this morning to worship, seeking you Gracious Father. Grant us to know you, we ask, by the light of your word and the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask in the exalted name of Jesus Christ, the Son you sent for our sake. Amen.

– Based on Luke 1:46-50

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## advent reading & candle lighting

THE PALUCH FAMILY

*The candle color for the third week of Advent is pink, or rose, representing joy or rejoicing. It reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration. The third candle is named the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy.*

**The Readings** | Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Isaiah 35:1-4<sub>ESV</sub>

*Leader:* This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;  
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.  
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?  
A mist that vanishes at dawn;  
All glory be to Christ. \*

*\* Chorus:*

All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.  
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.  
And we shall e'er his people be;  
All glory be to Christ. \*

“All Glory Be To Christ,” Music: Traditional Scottish folk tune. Words: Dustin Kensrue.  
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## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* “From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

– Numbers 21:4-6 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** **O Lord, our God, our provider, sustainer, and redeemer,  
We hear in the story of ancient Israel, echoes of our own hearts.  
Hearts that are ungrateful, angry, lacking remembrance, and rebellious.  
You have provided, sustained, and redeemed us, over and over again.  
Yet we succumb to our sinful nature; we fold to our fleshly desires.  
Like Esau, we want what we want, and we want it now – no matter the cost.  
Forgive and forget our failure to receive, rest in, and rely upon your Gospel.  
In the name of the One who makes us right with you,  
Jesus, our Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

**All:** **He is the true and the living bread that came down from heaven. May we feast by faith on his provision – the flesh and blood he sacrificed for us – in preparation for our eternal life with him!**

– Adapted from John 6:32, 35, 40 ESV

## IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong,  
And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears; Music: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis. Public Domain.

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## **scripture reading**

*Leader:* Exodus 5:1-23  
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.**

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## reception of communing members

### CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNING MEMBERSHIP

Davi Tumolin  
Mariana Tumolin  
Julia Tumolin

### VOWS FOR COMMUNING MEMBERS

*All those who are joining the church as communing members for the first time, whether through baptism, profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership, must affirm the following vows:*

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and the discipline of the church and promise to study its purity and peace?

*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.*

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**sermon**

DANIEL MCDOWELL

**Series** | “Philippians – Joy in the Lord”

**Sermon** | “God’s Gift to Grumblers”

**December 15, 2024**

**Philippians 2:14-15** ESV | 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world[.]

*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**



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**\*\* affirmation of faith**

*Leader:* Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

**All:** **As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;**

*Leader:* To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,

**All:** **To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

*Leader:* Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

**All:** **To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

– From Luke 1:67-79 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.*

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## 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.”

– Matthew 26:26-28 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 Lord and heavenly Father, when we celebrate and observe this memorial your Son has commended to us, we remember his sacrificial suffering and death, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension; and we await his coming again with power and great glory. God of Mercy, hear our prayer and by your Word and Holy Spirit bless and sanctify these symbols of your atoning sacrifice. Grant us, O Lord, to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup poured out, with hearts filled with gratitude and praise to your 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:* 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 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 from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
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.

*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.*

### GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,  
 2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,  
 3. "Fear not then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright,  
 4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,  
 this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure Vir - gin bright,  
 And left their flocks a - feed - ing in tem - pest, storm, and wind,

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray:  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name:  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the son of God to find:

Oh, tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, Oh, tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Words & Music: GOD REST YOU MERRY, English carol. 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.

**welcome**

Serving Communion today is Rick Box. Rick has graciously served CPC through preaching and serving Communion often these last 7 months. He was born and raised in Texas and served MTW as a church planning missionary in Columbia and elsewhere. Rick retired in 2020 and now lives in Austin. If you have an opportunity, please greet Rick and Na-Shuang and express our sincere thanks for his service to CPC these last months.

**PRAYER MEETING | TUESDAY**

Please join us for the monthly prayer meeting **Tuesday, December 17, 12p** in the conference room. There will be a zoom option as well. **Email Jeanne Dillinger** (prayer@cpcgeorgetown.org) for prayer requests and the meeting link. All are welcome to join!

**BACKYARD CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY**

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).

**installation & ordination of officers | january 5**

God is good and we are thankful for his constant supply and provision for CPC! On December 1, **Gary Gottschalk, Bryan Herron, and Allen Utzig** were elected to the office of deacon by congregational vote. **Rob Castro, Shawn Horrall, and Lane Joffrion** were elected to the office of elder 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 **January 5**.

**cpc kids checkout**

Just a reminder, that when it's time for child pick-up, please stay outside the classroom and allow volunteers to bring your child to the door. Teens and siblings please remain outside of the classroom with parents during checkout time. Thank you for helping us maintain an orderly and safe dismissal!

**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! The last Advent service is **December 22**. Our Christmas Eve service will be **Tuesday, December 24, 530p**.