

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

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}

choral anthem

CPC CHILDREN'S CHOIR

ALL BECAUSE JESUS WAS BORN

*Little baby in a manger, God's gift of love,
Born of Mary, come to save us, sent from above;
Like the angels, we sing, "Alleluia" to the Lord,
All because, all because, Jesus is born.*

*Shepherds all around him worship our King of kings.
Wise men know that he is Savior; all heaven sings.
We rejoice and we adore him on this Christmas morn
All because, all because, Jesus is born!*

*We are so thankful we sing out Joy to the World!
All because Jesus, Jesus is born.*

*Little baby in a manger, God's gift of love,
Born of Mary, come to save us, sent from above;
Like the angels, we sing, "Alleluia" to the Lord,
All because, all because, Jesus is born.*

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** Please stand if you are able

Leader: The LORD is our strength and our shield;

All: In him our hearts trust, and we are helped;

Leader: Our hearts exult, and with our song we give thanks to him.

All: The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Leader: Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

All: Be our shepherd and carry us forever.

Leader: They will call his name Immanuel.

All: Come, let us adore him.

– Based on Psalm 28:7-9 and Matthew 1:23_{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.

**prayer of invocation

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servants. For he who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. Let us come before you, Gracious Father, according to the hope that is in Jesus Christ, the Son you sent for our sake, and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

– Based on Luke 1:46-50

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 ESV

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

** hymn of praise

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth; *

** Chorus:*

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light: *

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear; *

Words: James Montgomery; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

– Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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.**

**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. John Mason Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: Through [our Lord Jesus Christ] we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

– Romans 5:2_{ESV}

All: Thanks be to God!

** hymn of gratitude

COME YE SOULS BY SIN AFFLICTED

Come ye souls by sin afflicted, bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted, through the cross behold the crown;
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus; mercy flows through him alone.

Take his easy yoke and wear it; love will make your obedience sweet;
Christ will give you strength to bear it, while his grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory, where his ransomed captives meet.

Blessèd are the eyes that see him. Blest the ears that hear his voice.
Blessèd are the souls that trust him, and in him alone rejoice.
His commandments, his commandments, his commandments then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary, light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary, is the rest the cross supplies.
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it shall to rest immortal rise.

Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus; mercy flows through him alone.

“Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted,” Words: Joseph Swain (alt. Twit); Music: Kevin Twit.
© Kevin Twit Music (ASCAP) CCLI #3022711, #20579701, Song #7079450.

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.**

the ordination & installation of officers

Presiding Minister: Whit Anderson

Candidates for Deacon: Larry Brown
Jacob Jennings
Donald Wilcox
Chris Windsor

Introduction

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of deacon in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity, and edification of the Church?

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as deacons, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which this office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

The Laying On of Hands and Prayer

Pronouncement & Charge:

Minister: I now pronounce and declare that Larry Brown, Jacob Jennings, Donald Wilcox, and Chris Windsor have been regularly elected, ordained, and installed as deacons in this church, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that as such they are entitled to all encouragement, honor, and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

**** passing the 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. 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.

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

Sermon | “Zechariah’s Song”

December 17, 2023

Luke 1:57-80 ^{ESV} | 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” 61 And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has visited and redeemed his people
 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David,
 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
 71 that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear,
 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 in the forgiveness of their sins,
 78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

**** 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.

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 know 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.

**** 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.

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: Translated by John Mason Neale; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody. 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!

PRAYER MEETING | DECEMBER 19

Please join us for the monthly prayer meeting **Tuesday, December 19, 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.

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.

the caring place seeks december donations

The Caring Place has released their wish list for the nonprofit's Hunger Free Holidays Food Drive that takes place through December. The Hunger Free Holiday campaign aims to fill the food pantry with the things it needs the most. **For December, The Caring Place is requesting hygiene items.** These items include toilet paper, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, feminine products, conditioner and more. **Financial donations can also be made to help The Caring Place** (<https://www.caringplacetx.org/how-to-help/give>). Items may be delivered to 2000 Railroad Avenue, Monday through Saturday from 10a to 4p. **Those interested in helping the food pantry or those who have questions about Hunger Free Holidays food drives can call or email** (fooddonations@caringplacetx.org, (512) 943.0738).

advent and christmas eve services

Join us and invite others for Advent and Christmas Eve at CPC! Our last Advent service is **December 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).

congratulations

Congratulations to Jake, Sam, and big sister Ryan Weaver! Baby Violet Ann was born Tuesday, December 5; 6 pounds 14 ounces, and 20.5 inches long!