

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

REV. DEAN WILLIAMS

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house.
I will bow down toward your holy temple
in the fear of you.

– Psalm 5:7 ESV

choral anthem

SANCTUARY CHOIR

O NATA LUX

*O nata lux de lumine (O light born of light,
Jesu redemptor saeculi (Jesus, redeemer of the world.)
Dignare clemens supplicum (Mercifully deem worthy and accept)
laudes precesque sumere. (our praises and prayers.)*

Words: Traditional Latin; Music: Victor C. Johnson

** call to worship

REV. WILLIAMS

Leader: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:
All: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

– Isaiah 12:3-4 ESV

** Please stand if you are able

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

****prayer of invocation**

REV. WILLIAMS

advent reading

The Readings | Psalm 89:1-4_{ESV}

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

candle lighting

THE SHAVER FAMILY

The fourth Advent Candle color is purple, standing for the sovereignty of Christ, and demonstrating the reception of the coming King. It is called the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY



1. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, in the dawn - ing of the King.
 2. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, he the per - fect Son of Man.
 3. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, Christ the Lord up - on the tree.
 4. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, slain by death, the God of life.



He the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i - ty.
 In his liv - ing, in his suf - f'ring, nev - er trace, nor stain of sin.
 In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry.
 But no grave could e'er re - strain him; praise the Lord, he is a - live!



In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come!
 See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell - bound man.
 See the price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold.
 What a fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wa - ver - ing our hope:



Look to Christ, who con - de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
 Christ, the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law, in him we stand.
 Bring - ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - mea - sured, love un - told.
 Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed as we will be when he comes.

“Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery,” Words & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, & Michael Blecker.

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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

– Psalm 51:6_{ESV}

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: O Lord, you who are merciful, take away my sins from me and enkindle within me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away this heart of stone from me and give me a heart of flesh and blood, a heart to love and adore you, a heart which may delight in you, love you, and please you, for Christ's sake. Amen.

– Ambrose of Milan, a 4th century bishop

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

– Psalm 145:8-9_{ESV}

JOY TO THE WORLD



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and
- ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and



heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
- peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, far
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his love, and



heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
- peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel, adapted by Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

scripture reading

REV. DR. DANIEL J. MCDOWELL

Leader: Mark 1:1-8
This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

RULING ELDER SHAWN HORRALL

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.**

** 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. Greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ.

Sermon | “The Messiah’s Song”

December 21, 2025

Isaiah 40:1-9 ^{ESV} | 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

6 A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

**** affirmation of faith**

RULING ELDER HORRALL

Leader: What is the preface to the ten commandments?

All: The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Leader: What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

All: The preface to the ten commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

– *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Questions 43-44

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.

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 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: Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

All: They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Minister: He also said, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”

**All: For his flesh is true food and his blood is true drink.
For on the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood up
And cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”**

Minister: Let us pray.

As the elements are distributed and the instrumentals are played, please use the opportunity to contemplate Christ’s giving himself for you and consider how you might respond to the lovingkindness expressed by the King of Kings through his selfless sacrifice.

**** 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 Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris-tian men, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
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

REV. DR. MCDOWELL

**** benediction**

**** doxology**

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.



get involved

Meaningful involvement is the best way to build relationships and connect to a church. If you want to go deeper and find out more, **please contact our church office** (office@cpcgeorgetown.org). If you are looking for a place to serve in the church, scan the QR code and sign up for the areas you are interested in.

NEWCOMERS' GATHERING | NEXT SUNDAY

Immediately following the worship service **Sunday, December 28**, we will be hosting a Newcomers' Gathering in the conference room across the hallway. This is an informal social event for visitors to meet the staff, some of the ordained officers, and each other as well as the chance to ask some questions. Light refreshments will be provided. This event normally lasts about 30 minutes but it is come and go as you please.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - COMING SOON!

CPC Women are invited to our Winter/Spring 2026 Bible Study using *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: Pointing to the Promised King* by Kathleen Buswell Nielson, exploring God's restoration and pointing us to the promised Savior. Studies meet Wednesday mornings (childcare available with RSVP by January 7) and Thursday evenings (no childcare), **beginning January 21 and 22**. Sign-ups coming soon!

christmas eve service

Join us and invite others for Christmas Eve at CPC! Our Christmas Eve service will be **Wednesday, December 24, 530p**.

year-end giving

In order to be deductible on your 2025 tax return, contributions must be received or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, December 31**. If you have questions about year-end giving or any other giving-related question, please contact Russ Newcombe (treasurer@cpcgeorgetown.org).