

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.*

prelude

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

preparing our hearts

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

– Revelation 21:3 ESV

choral anthem

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

A CHRISTMAS INTROIT – Audrey Snyder

Leader: Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

All: **Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?**

Leader: It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

All: **To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.**

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

All: **The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**

Leader: Let not your hearts be troubled.

All: **Believe in God; believe also in me.**

– From Isaiah 40:9-28 and John 14:1 ESV

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
 5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
 • seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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

** prayer of invocation

Leader: O Lord of heaven and earth and all that is in them, this morning send out your light and your truth to us as we worship; let them lead us; let them bring us to your holy hill and to you yourself! Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may kneel before you in reverence and awe, and shout praises to you, our God and our exceeding joy. In the name of Jesus Christ, whom you sent as the Light of the World and to whom every knee shall bow, we pray before you. Amen.

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.

The Readings | Zephaniah 3:14-17 and James 5:7-9,11 ESV

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**** hymn of praise**

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow;
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

Words: Piotrowi Skardze, Edith M. G. Reed; Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY, Polish melody. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Jesus answered them, “Truly truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”

– John 8:34_{ESV}

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Most high God, have mercy upon us and be gracious to us.
On our own merits, we do not deserve a glimpse of heaven.
We are unable, with our works, to redeem ourselves before your holiness.
Forgive us earthbound creatures, lacking in righteousness,
Consumed with ourselves, full of disobedience, empty of hope, feeble in faith.
Nevertheless, you have sent us your Son, Jesus Christ,
Who is heaven’s precious gift to us,
And more powerful than sin, death, or the devil,
To spare us, to redeem us, to help us, to adopt us.
This boundless blessing you have given out of pure grace, without cost to us.
Therefore, O Father, call us ever upward in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: [T]he tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

All: **I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**

– Luke 18:13-14_{ESV}

SING WE THE SONG OF EMMANUEL



1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el; this, the Christ, who was long fore - told.
2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el, King who came with no crown or throne.
3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el. Joy and peace for the wea - ry heart.



Lo, in the shad - ows of Beth - le - hem, prom - ise of dawn now our eyes be - hold.
Help - less, he lay, the In - vin - ci - ble. Mak - er of Mar - y, now Mar - y's son.
Lift up your heads for your King has come. Sing, for the Light o - ver - whelms the dark.



God, Most High, in a man - ger laid. Lift your voic - es and now pro - claim,
O, what wis - dom to save us all. Shep - herds sag - es be - fore him fall.
Glo - ry shin - ing for all to see. Hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring.



"Great and glo - ri - ous, Love has come to us." Join now with the hosts of heav - en.
Grace and maj - es - ty, what hu - mil - i - ty. Come on bend - ed knee, a - dore him.
God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Je - sus.

"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel," Words & Music: Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend, and Keith Getty.
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Leader: Isaiah 9:6-7
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 | **Rick Box**

Preaching and serving Communion today is Rick Box. Rick has graciously served CPC through preaching and serving Communion often these last seven 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.

Sermon | “Peace on Earth”**December 22, 2024**

Luke 2:8-14 ESV | 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of woman, born under the law,

All: [To] redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Leader: And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying “Abba! Father!”

All: So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

– Galatians 4:4-7_{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

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.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Words: Liturgy of St. James, trans. by Gerard Moultrie. Music: PICARDY, French Carol. 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.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle, 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words: John Thomas McFarland, Martin Luther. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick. 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | TUESDAY

Join us and invite others for Christmas Eve at CPC! Our Christmas Eve service will be **Tuesday, December 24, 530p**. Nursery will be available for children under 3 years. If you sponsored a poinsettia please plan to take those home after the service.

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**.

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).