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**prelude**

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

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**preparing our hearts**

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

– Isaiah 60:1-2 ESV

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**\*\* call to worship**

*Leader:* The LORD has made known his salvation;

**All:** **He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

*Leader:* He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All:** **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

– Psalm 98:2-3 ESV

*Leader:* Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

**All:** **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;**

*Leader:* Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him!

**All:** **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

– 1 Chronicles 16:23,25a, 29 ESV

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.  
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

*Leader:* Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; your greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall declare your mighty acts and commend your works to another. Today as we worship, and every day, lead us to meditate on your glorious splendor and your wondrous works, O Lord. For they pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness; they sing of your righteousness; they give thanks to you. Let us, O Lord, bless your name, speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power – all to know ourselves, to make known to our children and to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Amen.

– Adapted from Psalm 145

## 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;  
Ox and ass 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.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

– John 3:19-21 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All: Almighty and merciful God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you  
And one another, in both our actions and our inactions.  
We recognize that in Jesus Christ your light has come to us,  
Yet we often choose to walk in the shadows  
And go the way our own selfishness leads us.  
Expose our sin that we might confess it, despise it, and finally deny it.  
Even more, O Gracious God, forgive our sins and  
Remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our minds and hearts.  
Illumine us by the light of your Word we pray,  
So that we may shine with the radiance of Christ. Amen.**

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart[.]

**All: The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst[!]**

– From Zephaniah 3:14-15 ESV

## JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry Van Dyke; Music: HYMN TO JOY, Beethoven. Public Domain.

*Leader:* Isaiah 49:1-7  
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.*

Preaching this morning is the Rev. Jonathon (Jon) Herr. Jon is an Associate Pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Austin and preached to CPC in August. Before moving to Texas in 2022, he served in varying ministry capacities in Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Alabama, Florida, and Michigan. He is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Beeson Divinity School, and has been ordained in the PCA since May 2018. Jon is married to his wife, Christy. They have twin 5-year-old daughters, Kate and Clairra Herr. Please take an opportunity to meet Jon, Christy, and their daughters, and express our thanks to Jon for his service to CPC this morning.

## Sermon | “Renewing Expectations in Following Christ”

December 29, 2024

**Acts 3:1-9; 4:1-6, 13-22** <sup>ESV</sup> | 3:1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God[.]

4:1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered



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them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” 21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## **\*\* affirmation of faith**

*Leader:* Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

**All: [B]ut in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**

*Leader:* He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**All: After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

*Leader:* [O]f the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”

**All: Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**

– Hebrews 1:1-3, 8, 2:1 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.*

## GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undefined, to the world a stranger:  
Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him:  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Words: Joseph Simpson Cook. Music: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM. Public Domain.

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## **\*\* 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.*

### 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!

His will be done, his kingdom come, on earth as is above,  
Who is himself our daily bread; praise him the Lord of love.  
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet;  
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. \*

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.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

As we look towards this coming year, we want to both encourage and guide our student volunteers in service to the children and the families of CPC. We are requesting that all current Children's Ministry student volunteers and teens who are interested in serving, join us **Sunday, January 12 at 915a** in the youth room. The students' service is valued, and we want to help equip them to setup, assist, teach, and minister as they grow in practical service to our church family. If you have any questions, **please contact 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**.

**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).