

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

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.

– Isaiah 9:2 ESV

** call to worship

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

All: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Leader: Let us sing praises to God,

All: Let us sing praises to our King!

– Based on Psalm 95:1-6 ESV

** Please stand if you are able

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend: Come and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To the great One in Three, eternal praises be,
Hence evermore. His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

Words: Anonymous; Music: TRINITY (ITALIAN HYMN), Felice de Giardini. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly, thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Let me find thy light in my darkness, thy life in my death, thy joy in my sorrow, thy grace in my sin, thy riches in my poverty, thy glory in my valley. Amen.

– A Puritan Prayer from *The Valley of Vision*

The candle color for the first week of Advent is purple, symbolizing repentance. This week's candle is called the Candle of Hope. It is the light that burned within the Prophets who longed for God's Messiah.

The Readings | Isaiah 7:14 and Revelation 21:1-5 ESV

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**** hymn of praise**

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul; to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul. Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am;

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing. While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be

And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And through eternity, I'll sing on.

Words: Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

– Isaiah 57:15 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
And to put on the armor of light.
We confess our sins to you and hide our lives in Christ,
Who visited us in great humility, to redeem us from our sin and shame,
That in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
To judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal.
Through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God,
Now and forever. 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.**

Words: Latin hymn, trans. John Mason Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

– Romans 8:1 ESV

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THY MERCY, MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through thy free goodness, my spirits revive,
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by thy goodness, I fall to the ground,
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own,
And the covenant love of thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

“Thy Mercy, My God,” Words: John Stocker, Public Domain. Music: Sandra McCracken.
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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. 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 | “Waiting for the Coming King”

December 3, 2023

Luke 1:26-38 ^{ESV} | 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** 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 hymns.

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.

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.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-wingèd seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

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

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man.
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him; praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

"Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery," Words & Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, & Michael Bleecker.
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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 our gifts are freely returned, and in no way add to but are only a response to the supremely adequate work of Christ's atonement.

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.

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.

sunday school

Sunday School is on break for the holidays. We can't wait to welcome you back to class on **Sunday, January 14!**

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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | TODAY

Members - please stay to elect new officers immediately after the service today! See page 18 for more information about the candidates.

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG | DECEMBER 15

Join us for an informal Christmas carol sing-along on **Friday, December 15, 6p** in the church lobby. We'll have an evening of singing over hot drinks and cookies. Invite family and friends to spread the good cheer and festive spirit of the season. **Contact Rose Castro** (roseandmimi@gmail.com) with questions.

CPC KIDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

CPC Kids in preschool to 5th grade have been diligently practicing and preparing a Christmas song to share with our congregation and the residents at the Delaney on **Sunday, December 17**. There will be a practice on **Sunday, December 10, 930a** in the Elementary classroom. Please continue to practice the song with your kids at home; you can find the song link in the weekly email. If you would like your child to participate, please sign them up by **emailing Kathy Lorimor and Korina Slabach** (kids@cpcgeorgetown.org).

intro to cpc class

We will be offering another Intro to CPC Class on **January 21 and February 4**. 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.

advent devotionals

If you are interested in a devotional for the Advent season you can pick up a copy of *The Weary World Rejoices* by Melissa Kruger in the lobby. There is a limited supply so pick yours up today! Suggested donation \$10.

advent and christmas eve services

Join us and invite others for Advent and Christmas Eve at CPC! Advent services are **December 10, 17, 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).

About the Candidates

CPC Officer Election | DECEMBER 2023

The Session of Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) has approved the following men for election to the office of deacon.

Larry Brown and wife Molly are 36-year residents of Georgetown. They have been members of CPC since 2019, transferring from another local church. They have three daughters and nine grandchildren. Larry is also a business owner with experience serving on various boards, commissions, and committees. Larry has served as an Assistant Deacon for the past year and feels blessed to be nominated for service as a Deacon.



Jacob Jennings and his family became members of CPC in the fall of 2019 after a transfer of membership from another church. Growing up, Jacob was baptized and active in the Southern Baptist church where his father served in the ministry there. After graduating high school, Jacob served in the United States Army Reserves while also attending Texas A&M University where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Jacob and his wife, Abbey, have been married since December 2009. They have been blessed with three children: Reid, Cullen (9), and Georgia (7).

Donald Wilcox and wife, Katie, both honored Army retirees, united in marriage in 2020. Together, they've embarked on a profound spiritual journey, culminating in their Public Profession of Faith at CPC in 2021. As Donald, a devoted stepfather to Thalia (9), contemplates the role of Deacon, his dedication to continuous learning shines through his pursuit of a business degree and human resources advisory services. Their combined legacy of service, Donald's sincere commitment to Christ, and his leadership qualities make him a distinguished candidate for the role of Deacon.



Chris Windsor and his wife, Jan, are founding members of CPC, going back to 2008 when it first started meeting in the RunTex store on the Georgetown square. Prior to that, he and Jan had been members of CrossPointe PCA with Pastor Whit when he was called to plant a PCA church in Georgetown, the church we now call Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) of Georgetown. Chris has served CPC as a community group leader and has performed numerous

logistics duties over the years. He and Jan have three grown children and five grandchildren.