
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

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

**** 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: We are gathered here to behold the Lord our God. Awesome and mighty is he.

** 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.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is your power, and your wisdom is infinite. We praise you without ceasing. You call us to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our hearts find no rest until we rest in you; to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit all glory, praise, and honor be ascribed, both now and forevermore. Amen.

—Augustine (adapted)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
The Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church*,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Here, "catholic" means "universal," and refers to the Christian church in all places

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by; born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn. 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.

– John 3:19

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 our light has come,
Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light.
Expose our sin that we might confess it, despise it, and finally deny it.
Gracious God, forgive our sins
And remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives.
Illumine us by your Word
So we may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

– Psalm 116:8-9_{ESV}

All: **Thanks be to God!**

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: ST. ANNE, attr. to William Croft. Public domain.

Leader: Jeremiah 31:31-34
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. 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 | “The Point of Our Piety”

December 31, 2023

Luke 2:22-40 ^{ESV} | 22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** gospel charge**

Leader: In response to the Gospel of grace, how shall we then live?

All: **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**

– 1 John 2:1-3_{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.*

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.

communion reflection & song

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste! Haste! to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail! Hail! the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy! Joy! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th century English melody. 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.

HIS LOVE CAN NEVER FAIL

I do not ask to see the way my feet will have to tread;
But only that my soul may feed upon the living Bread.
'Tis better far that I should walk by faith close to his side;
I may not know the way I go, but oh, I know my Guide. *

** Chorus:*

His love can never fail, his love can never fail,
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray, they cannot, for I know
That Jesus guides my faltering steps, as joyfully I go.
And tho' I may not see his face, my faith is strong and clear,
That in each hour of sore distress my Savior will be near. *

I will not fear, tho' darkness come abroad o'er all the land,
If I may only feel the touch of his own loving hand.
And tho' I tremble when I think how weak I am, and frail,
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail. *

"His Love Can Never Fail," Words: E. S. Hall, Public Domain. Music: Christopher Miner.
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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

All Sunday school classes resume **Sunday, January 14, 915a**. Adults – This winter/spring semester, our one adult class will be located in the sanctuary and have two 8-week sections. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Regular, frequent, and repeated exposure to God's word is crucial for growing up into maturity in Christ, and the exposure and discussion that takes place in adult Sunday School partly facilitates this growth into maturity.

- ***Ecclesiastes*** – Vanity of vanities! Striving after the wind! One big question prompted by the message in Ecclesiastes is 'What are we, and what should we be, aiming at in life?' Led by Lane Joffrion, this class section will discuss Ecclesiastes and the writer's answer to this question. The class will also discuss one faithful approach to understanding Ecclesiastes' wisdom, and the major themes of wisdom in this wonderful counsel of God to us today. January 14 – March 3.
- ***Spiritual Disciplines of Growing, Godly Christians*** – Do you ever feel like Lucille Ball standing at the conveyor belt in the chocolate factory? Like life is happening WAY too fast! The goal of all spiritual discipline is to shift our focus from ourselves to God. Oh, to know and follow the admonition of Psalm 46:10 – "Be still and know that I am God." If your expressway life has you frazzled (and even if not), explore the Spiritual Disciplines with us in the second 8-week section of adult Sunday School later in the spring. Larry Lorimor will be leading this discussion, not as an expert he says, but as a fellow student. March 17 – May 12.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | JANUARY 14

The Session of CPC is calling a congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 14**, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of re-electing men to the offices of elder and deacon. We are pleased to announce that the following men were nominated by the congregation, have been trained and examined by the Session, and are eligible for election by the congregation: **Elder** – David Moore
Deacon – Van Henry, Kevin Tanner

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER BBQ FUNDRAISER | JANUARY 21

Please plan to attend a barbecue fundraiser benefiting the Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County after the worship service until 2p (or until they sell out) **Sunday, January 21**, at the Georgetown Community Center located in San Gabriel Park (445 E. Morrow St.), serving Pok-e-Jo's and all the fixings! You are invited to come & go, dine-in or take it home!

SIGN UP FOR THE CHILI COOKOFF

We need at least twelve chili chefs with crock pots, as well as others to provide salads, cornbread, desserts, and drinks for our 6th Annual Chili Cookoff on **Sunday, January 28**, following the worship service. Kellam McQuitty took home the 1st place trophy in 2023 – do you have what it takes to take home the trophy this year? Please sign up to compete or to bring sides /drinks /desserts in the lobby. The sign-up link can also be found in the weekly email newsletter. **Email Suzanne Joffrion** (hospitality@cpcgeorgetown.org) with questions.

officer nominations

Members – One of the great ways you can love CPC is by helping us identify godly men to serve our church as elders or deacons. Pick up a nomination card from the designated table in the lobby and submit your completed form to the collection box by **Sunday, January 28**. Descriptions of qualifications and responsibilities for officers of the church can be found on the same table. If you attend via Zoom, you may email your nomination (office@cpcgeorgetown.org).

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.

thank you

January marks the beginning of a new term for church officers, which means that it also marks the end of a term for some who have served faithfully and either need a break from service or have completed their three-year commitment. Please extend great gratitude to **Bryan Herron** and **Jeff Montoney** (deacons) who are rolling off active duty in January. Please also extend thanks to these men and their families for their service to the Lord's church.