

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

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

– John 1:14_{ESV}

choral anthem

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – Children's Choir

** call to worship

REV. DR. DANIEL J. MCDOWELL

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light: upon those who live in the land of the shadow of death, a light has shined.

All: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.**

Leader: And his name will be Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

All: **Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne forever and will establish his kingdom with judgment and justice forever.**

– From Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a

** Please stand if you are able

CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES

The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness.
 Luke 1:78, 79

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the
 2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -
 3. Vis - it, then, this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of

on - ly Light, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise,
 nied by thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn
 sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine;

tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day - spring from on
 till thy mer - cy's beams I see; till they in - ward
 scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy -

high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: LUX PRIMA, Charles F. Gounod. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

REV. WILLIAMS

advent reading

The Readings | John 1:1-5 and Revelation 22:22-26^{ESV}

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

candle lighting

THE BOSTWICK FAMILY

The candle color for the second week of Advent is purple, symbolizing royalty and the sovereignty of Christ. This week's candle is called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation. It demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King that is celebrated during Advent.

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. This is he whom heav'n taught sing - gers sang of old with one ac - cord,
 4. O ye heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing:
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga he the Source, the End - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 whom the Scrip-tures of the proph - ets prom-ised in their faith - ful word;
 all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: DIVINE MYSTERIUM, Plainsong, Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

– 1 John 1:9-10^{ESV}

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us,**
Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us,
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.
Amen.

– Agnus Dei, the oldest known Christian prayer

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,

All: **and we will find rest for our souls. For his yoke is easy and his burden light.**

– From Matthew 11:28-30^{ESV}

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way,
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bo - dy and the blood,
as the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
that the pow'rs of hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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

scripture reading

REV. DR. MCDOWELL

Leader: Psalm 130:1-8
This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

RULING ELDER JONATHAN WELLS

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.

about our guest speaker | Dr. Paul Wells

Paul Wells is emeritus Professor at the Faculté Jean Calvin in Aix-en-Provence, France, where he taught for 40 years. He has recently published the first of a two-volume theology in French. English publications include *Cross Words* and *Taking the Bible at its Word* (Christian Focus Publishing). He is editor in chief of *Unio cum Christo* for Westminster Seminary, PA (which can be read online at uniocc.com). He also recently completed a new book titled, *Growing In Christ: 5 Biblical Steps for Enduring Growth*. Paul and his wife Alison live in Liverpool, England. Please greet Dr. Wells and Alison if you have an opportunity, and thank Paul for preaching to us today.

Sermon | “Zechariah’s Song - Redemption Fulfilled and Accomplished” December 7, 2025

Luke 1:67-79 ESV | 67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has visited and redeemed his people
 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David,
 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
 71 that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear,
 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 in the forgiveness of their sins,
 78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**** affirmation of faith**

RULING ELDER WELLS

Leader: What is the meaning of: conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary?

All: That the eternal Son of God, who is and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; so that he also might be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.

Leader: What benefit does one receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

All: That he is our Mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, wherein I was conceived.

– *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Questions 35-36

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.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - mer, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (vv. 1&4), Mark Hunt (vv. 2&3); Music: HYFRYDOL, R. H. Pritchard. Public Domain.

announcements

REV. DR. MCDOWELL

** benediction

DR. WELLS

** 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.

INSTALLATION & ORDINATION OF OFFICERS | DECEMBER 14

God is good, and we are grateful for His continual provision for CPC. On November 30, Aldo Tumolin Neto was elected to the office of ruling elder, Jonathan Wells and Larry Lorimor were re-elected as ruling elders, and Ethan Hoke was re-elected as deacon by congregational vote. Please join us in thanking God for these men. They will be ordained and installed during our Sunday worship service on **December 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!

advent and christmas eve services

Join us and invite others for Advent and Christmas Eve at CPC! Advent services are **December 14 and 21**. 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).