

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please sign the attendance pads at the end of the pew and turn off/silence cell phones.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME Mary O'Keefe

MINUTE FOR MISSION Anne Smith

GREETING

Advent means coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

PRELUDE "Away In A Manger" arr. M. Hayes

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 80:1-7; 16-18

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
People: **you who lead Joseph like a flock!**

Leader: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
People: **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Leader: Stir up your might
People: **and come to save us!**

All: **Restore us, O God;
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: O Lord God of hosts,
People: **how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

Leader: You have fed them with the bread of tears,
People: **and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

Leader: You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
People: **our enemies laugh among themselves.**

All: **Restore us, O God of hosts,
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Leader: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
People: **the one whom you make strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you;
People: **give us life, and we will call on your name.**

All: **Restore us, O God of hosts,
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

***Congregation (still standing):**

**"O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."**

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

(The candle is lit.)

Reader: The Lord will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child.
She shall bear a son,
and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

All: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

Congregation (seated):

**"O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."**

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 119** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
**We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.**
**We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.**
In your mercy, forgive us.
**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new!
People: **Thanks be to God!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 152, vs. 4**
"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"
**O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.**

*THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God,
we are at peace with God,
and we are called to live in peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ
with those near you.

****Gateway to Worship** *(Children can meet the Gateway leader in the back of the sanctuary near the entrance doors.)*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING (p. 636—OT) Isaiah 7:10-16

GOSPEL READING (p. 1—NT) Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON She said Yes! Rev. Daniel Kreiss

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 101** "No Wind at the Window"

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of love, you come to us in the smile of a baby
who had only a manger for a bed.**
We see you in the joyful play of children.
**We hear you in the retelling of the stories
of Mary, Joseph and the baby,
and the community of believers who followed them.**
**We feel your awesome presence as we sing carols,
walk through the stillness of winter snow,
and experience the smells of love
in the baking of special Christmas confections.**

(continued)

**Thank you, glorious God, for coming to us,
taking on our limitations and humanity,
so that we may learn more fully
about your wondrous love for us. Amen.**

Nan Jenkins found in *Reformed Worship*, 2001, p 124.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God:
who welcomes our laughter and moves us to wonder...**
**We believe in Christ:
who welcomes our questions and loves us to trust...**
**We believe in Spirit:
who welcomes our doubts and inspires us to faith.**
This we believe! Amen!

Jeffrey S. Gaines found in *Reformed Worship*, 2001, p 90.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

Offertory Solo "Mary, Did You Know?" arr. J. Schraeder

***Doxology # 606** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF SENDING # 110** "Love Has Come"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

Notes: All music reprinted under CCLI license

Words on front of bulletin are from Jan L. Richardson in her book, *In Wisdom's Path*

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year-olds through second graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Congregational Response.

Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

*Please join us in the library immediately following worship
for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

*The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Bill & Erma Hyers
in the death of Bill's sister, Alice Schmitz, on December 14, 2019.*

Please note that the church office will be closed on Christmas Day.

This morning we again welcome the Rev. Daniel Kreiss to the pulpit. Dan has served as the director of the Youth Ministry degree and the Dean of the Peeke School of Christian mission at King University from January 2005 – May 2019. He was ordained in the Holston Presbytery in March of 2018 after completing his M Div at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan College. He is currently completing his D Min at Portland Seminary in Leadership in Global Perspectives and anticipates graduating in May 2020. Dan is the father of 4 amazing children and the husband of Cindy for nearly 30 years. They currently reside in Bristol, TN, but with the completion of his time at King are open to see what God has in store for this next season of their lives.

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. As we celebrate the good news of great joy and open our hearts to God's love in Jesus, may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love. This Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Join us for this special service on **Tuesday, December 24.** There will be a time of **refreshments at 4:45 PM,** with the **service starting at 5:30 PM.**

2020 PLEDGES

If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card for 2020, you may leave it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office Monday between 1 & 4 PM or Tuesday thru Thursday between 9:00a and 4:00p. Remember that it is from your pledges that our Admin & Budget Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year.

Remember that as year-end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your **2019 Statement of Giving if made before December 31st.** If you have questions, please contact Gary Smith or the church office. Thank you for your commitment and generosity in all that we do together at Covenant.

THE ELDERS FUND

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the **Elders Fund,** the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for the people on our fine staff. Their names and positions are listed in each Sunday's bulletin. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation. Just mark "Elders Fund" on your checks and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have. Thanks so much.

2019 ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

It's not too late! The **2019 Alternative Christmas Giving Guide** can be found on the table in the Narthex and gives you a chance to learn more about worthy organizations and how we as a Christian community can become partners in the work of the church. You can still participate by filling out the enclosed **Giving Form** (green) and dropping it in the offering plate along with your check (*made out to "Covenant Presbyterian Church"*).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



ONLINE GIVING!

Online Giving is available through our website at **cpcjc.org.** Getting started is easy—just click on the **Online Giving** link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tag to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!**

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr
Liturgy prepared and arranged by:	the Rev. Pat Willard
Liturgist:	Dr. David Wood
Section Leader/Soloist:	Shawn Hale
Nursery:	David/Sharon Miller
Gateway:	Gina Long

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:	Jessica Siple
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
Administrative Assistant:	Anne Webb
Custodian:	Marie Britt
Nursery Worker:	Jeanne Gamble

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of December 22—28, 2019.

Cynthia Erdei, who is recovering from surgery.
Elaine Warehime, who is also recovering from surgery.
CB Willis, who is back home!
Steve Jones, a dear friend of Sharon Fuhrman, who has been diagnosed with kidney cancer.
Bob & Betty Thompson, Phyllis' parents.
Michael & Karen, missionaries who are stationed in Afghanistan.

Please remember those in our congregation who are homebound and unable to join us regularly in worship:

Vi Block, Jeter Collins, Lattie Collins, Mary Derouen,
Helen Fletcher, Glay Hood, Barbara Quisenberry

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan † Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe

and Ministries of the Presbytery:

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) † Holston Presbytery Camp



In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

DECEMBER 22, 2019



**4th Sunday
in Advent**

in the cave of our hearts

in the fabric of our lives

in the soul of our earth

you continue, O God, to be born!

THE MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree, which is set up in the hallway across from the church office, will stay up through Christmas. Our goal is to provide hats, scarves, and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. You are invited to continue to “decorate” the Mitten Tree throughout the Advent season. The Mission committee will distribute the items to Rise Up! for Kids before the end of the year.



MEMBERS & REGULAR VISITORS: Please pick up your **2020 Offering Envelopes**, which are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like envelopes for 2020, but don't see your name, please call Tina in the church office at 282-5324!

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Dec. 22

9:30a – 9:55a	Weekly Prayer Group
9:45a/10:00a	Sunday School
11:00a	Worship Service
12:30p	Local & World Mission Committee Meeting (?)
7:00p	N.A. Meeting

Monday, Dec. 23

5:00p	UKirk Meal
7:00p	NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

2:00p – 4:00p	Games in the Library (?)
4:45p	Time of Refreshments
5:30p	Service of Lessons & Carols
7:00p	Al-Anon Meeting (classroom)

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

7:00p	N.A. Meeting
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Thursday, Dec. 26

8:00a	Men's Bible Study
Noon	Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, Dec. 27

Noon	CoDA Meeting
1:30p	N.A. Meeting
6:30p	Al-Anon Meeting