



What Are
We Waiting For?

CONCERT FOR
THE CHRIST CHILD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
10:00 AM

Sunday Worship Service with Concert for the Christ Child

Sunday, December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday in Advent

10 a.m.

To our guests: Welcome! We invite you to respond with the bolded words during prayers and readings.

Assemble in God's Name

The church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus bids welcome to our Lord's house.

PRELUDE..... *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* arr. Hess

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Covenant, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

*GATHERING SONG..... 140

Once in Royal David's City

Prayer of Anticipation

God, today we offer our celebration of the Christ of Christmas.

Soften the hearts that are too busy to be pliable.

Prepare the minds that are too overwhelmed to focus.

Inhabit our bodies to strengthen us for the work of worship and service.

Gather our souls to this moment.

Christ, you are what we long for and await. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God's Word Proclaimed in Music

Please hold your applause to the end of the service where we will all applaud to thank our musicians for leading us in worship. Please silence your cell phones and refrain from flash photography. Thank you.

This Is What We're Waiting For!

INTRODUCTION AND SCRIPTURE READING..... Titus 3:4-7

To Thee My Heart I Offer..... Worship Choir

Angels from the Realms of Glory..... Unity Handbell Choir

Emmanuel..... Worship Choir

O Holy Night..... Unity Handbell Choir

Blessing of the Offering

Today's offering supports our Deacon's Ministries, the Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Faith Ministries in Mexico, and the ministries of Covenant Church. You may give online at covenantfrazer.org/give or use one of the offering plates located near the exits of the sanctuary.

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman..... Orchestra

The First Noel.....Worship Choir

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence..... Unity Handbell Choir

The World Awaits Your Coming Worship Choir, Unity Handbell Choir, Chamber Orchestra

Go in God's Name

*The Holy Spirit sends us forth to be instruments of God's peace:
To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Behold, That Star* arr. Hayes

*All those who are able, please stand

* This worship service is livestreamed and recorded (covenantfrazer.org/live)

WORSHIP CHOIR

Director: Amy McLoughlin

Rocky Avvento
Adam Baldoni
Corinna Becker
Duane Billingsley
Stephanie Callaro
Judy Culeman
Alec Hayes

Janis Hayes
Tamar Miller
Kurt Moyer
Karen Smith
Lee Paylor
Maria Pennington
Carolyn Reardon

Nancy Reynolds
Judith Rosen
Liz Stewart
Steve Trubey
Les Waxler
Colleen Widergren
Sue Zlogar

UNITY HANDBELL CHOIR

Director: Patti Mann

Michel Bentley
Kathy Brackin
Jim Godbold
Dottie Graham

Meg Hauler
Penny Hidell
Colleen Myers
Scott Pelton

Sandy Ritchie
Carolyn Unkel
Sue Zlogar
Al Zlogar

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Dawn Catteau, flute
Peter Culeman, horn
Will Einhorn, viola
Junnan Jin, violin
Heather Looney, trumpet
Jeanmarie Loss, oboe
Emily Lucas, cello

Ian McLoughlin, trumpet
Kim McNamara, bass
Amanda Nagler, clarinet
Giovanni Pannone, trombone
Bonnie Summerfield, piano
Al Zlogar, percussion

Thank you for worshipping us! We are working together to create comfortable worship spaces for all our members and visitors.

- Join us in the sanctuary. Children's activities for the pew are located through the back doors of the sanctuary or on the windowsill near the front of the sanctuary.
- Adults and children are also invited to the Gathering Space for worship. A children's table with quiet activities and a rack with children's books are available for little ones.
- If you need a quieter worship space, the parlor is available.
- The nursery/preschool (Rm. 114) is open for children birth through age 4 during the service.
- A mother's nursing room is available at the end of the hallway past the bathrooms (Rm. 108).
- Please join us in the Gathering Space following the service for Covenant Connect, a time of food & fellowship.

Tonight - As the daylight grows shorter in December, it reminds us of the long, dark nights of the soul that we have had to endure at various times in our lives. Join with other churches in the Exton/Lionville area for a **Longest Night Service** to acknowledge and honor the laments and losses that come to mind during the season of Advent, and to seek healing, peace, and comfort together before God. **This service will be held tonight, Sunday, December 22nd at Marsh Creek Community Church (101 Crump Rd, Exton) at 5 p.m.**

The People's Pantry thanks you for your support with the adopt-a-family program. We helped 117 Great Valley, People's Pantry & Coatesville families plus 49 children at the Iglesia Central Church in Norristown. **Thank you also** for all the donations of turkeys, hams, lasagnas, & food that will help make the holidays brighter for many people.

Year-end extra gifts to Covenant's ministries and programs are so appreciated and valued. Give online or utilize the pew envelopes. For year-end tax planning purposes, contributions must be received online or in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2024 (church office is open 10 - noon on Dec. 31) to qualify as an income tax deduction for the 2024 tax year.

Vacation Bible School will be taking place July 14 - 18, 2025! Contact Dara Harris at dharris@covenantfrazer.org if you are interested in volunteering to help. Many hands are needed to provide this event to the community.

Please contact Barbara Rhinehart (brhinehart@gmail.com) by **January 1st** if you would like to participate at **Broad Street Love** on **Wednesday, January 15th** to serve lunch to guests who are food insecure in Philadelphia.

You are invited to a **Mental Health Worship Service** here at the church on **Wed., January 15th at 7 p.m.** hosted by Pastor Maggie Niles with professional therapist and author Dr. Taunya Tinsley. This will be a contemplative service where we engage our spirituality and mental health. We will be exploring the role grief plays in our lives.

In January, the Covenant Book Club will be celebrating 25 years! Join them on **Tuesday, January 21st at 5 p.m.** on the upper level to discuss the book *"Mystic Tea"* and celebrate with high tea! Please let Elizabeth Young (here1990@gmail.com) know if you can attend by **January 14th**.

Registration is now open for our **youth summer retreats of 2025!** Middle Schoolers are invited to join us at Massanetta Springs Camp in Harrisonburg, VA, while High Schoolers can attend Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. These retreats are held in collaboration with St. John's Presbyterian. **For more details and to register, visit covenantfrazer.org/youth.**

This Week at Covenant

Sunday, December 22– 4th Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. - Adult Christian Education
10 a.m. - Worship with Concert for the Christ Child
11:15 a.m. - Covenant Connect
5 p.m. - Longest Night Service at Marsh Creek Community Church

Monday, December 23

6:30 p.m. - Promise Keepers
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 24

5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Story Service
7 & 9 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 25 – Merry Christmas!

December 24 – January 1 – Office closed

Sunday, December 29

10 a.m. – Service of Christmas Joy

See more events at covenantfrazier.org/events and subscribe to our emails at covenantfrazier.org/newsletter. For more information, call the church office at 610-648-0707, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Story Service, shorter and ideal for children

7 & 9 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Communion

note: The nursery room will be open but not staffed

Sunday, December 29th

10 a.m. - Service of Christmas Joy!

PJs welcome for this shorter, casual service to celebrate the joy of the Christ Child.

note: The nursery room will be open but not staffed