

THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Carol of the Bells McChesney

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:1, 15, 24

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: his love endures forever!

Leader: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

People: the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: This is the day the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INVOCATION

*HYMN 218 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison: Our Father, we confess that despite the many preparations we make during Advent, we often fail to prepare our hearts. We concern ourselves with many things, while often neglecting to engage in reflection, confession, repentance, a renewed focus on your grace, and practical steps toward growing in obedience and godliness. Forgive us, we pray. Prepare our hearts to bask in the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that we might rejoice to live for His glory. For we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 Timothy 1:15–17

Leader: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him

and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI 734

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1–11 (p. 599)

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Emmanuel, to Thee We Sing Purify

*DOXOLOGY 731

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:26–38 (p. 855)

**HYMN 211 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

SERMON LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Luke 19:1–10 (p. 878)
Dr. John Muhlfeld

*HYMN 195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Leatherman

**Please stand if able*

***Children may proceed to Jr. Church (age 5–grade 1: Room 112; grades 2–3: Room 110)*

*Kindly silence all electronic devices
Activity bags for young children are available in the narthex
Please see an usher if you would like to utilize an assisted listening device*

*Welcome to everyone worshiping with us today.
We trust the Lord will strengthen and encourage you
through our fellowship together.*

*If you are a visitor, please complete the attendance register in full.
Upon exiting the main lobby doors,
please accept a gift of welcome bread.*

Serving this morning:

Worship Leaders – Jeff Carrier, John Rohrman

Musicians – Jr. Bell Choir, Adult Choir, Covenant Musicians, Helen Ro

Audio/Visual Technicians – Steve Bikle, Jeff Carrier, Tyler Delk,

Greg Fisher, Jaron Riggall, Peter & Rebecca Wells

Covenant Church Office: (215) 256-1007

Angels, from the Realms of Glory 218

They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Matt. 2:11

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
• seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

REFRAIN

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

James Montgomery, 1816, 1825

REGENT SQUARE 6.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Smart, 1867

Hymns from Trinity Hymnal used by permission of
Great Commission Publications

195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
poy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heav'n and na - ture sing.

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M. rap.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

211 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Luke 2:10

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind:

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might,"
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

REFRAIN

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy.

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

English carol, 18th cent.

GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.
English melody, 18th cent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lighting the third Advent candle this morning and reading from God's Word is the Moyer family.

We rejoice this morning as Thomas Potgieter is ordained and installed to the office of ruling elder. In addition, elders Steve Bikle, Bob McIntyre, and Jim Nagy and deacons Dan Benoit, Tom Buhay, Rick Castor, Byron Childs, and George Schmidt will once again be installed to active service. Thank you for your prayers for all of our officers as they seek to serve with grace, humility, and dependence on the Lord.

Everyone is invited tonight to an evening of Christmas caroling and fellowship. Please meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. to carpool to the homes of various members, followed by refreshments back at Covenant around 6:30 p.m.

Today is the last day to sign up in the narthex for our annual Christmas breakfast which will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up to bring a "family size" breakfast dish, fruit salad, or pastry as we celebrate our Lord's birth together.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The service will feature hymns, Scripture readings, and special music selections performed to the glory of God. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you as we worship Christ, our newborn King—invitation postcards may be found in the narthex.

The Senior Fellowship will begin the new year with a breakfast at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant on Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 a.m. Please sign up in the narthex by December 29 or call or email the office with your response. Contact Gay Opdyke with questions.

A sign-up sheet for the next adult membership class with Pastor Muhlfield is available in the narthex. Attending the class does not obligate one to apply for membership, but is a requirement before meeting with the Session for a membership interview. The class will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:15–10:00 a.m.) and will meet February 9 to March 23 in the far narthex.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday 12/15	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Heart Hiders
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:45 a.m.	Adult Choir Practice
	3:30 p.m.	Junior Choir Practice
	4:30 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Monday 12/16		
Tuesday 12/17	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday 12/18		
Thursday 12/19		
Friday 12/20		
Saturday 12/21	9:00 a.m.	Women in Prayer
	9:30 a.m.	Officers' Wives Brunch at the Muhlfield's
Sunday 12/22	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

For a complete listing of events at Covenant, or for more information on ministries, please visit www.covpreschurch.org



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

310 Covenant Lane, Harleysville, PA 19438
information@covpreschurch.org
www.covpreschurch.org
(215) 256-1007

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE

Health Related

Mark Childs

Jean Daniels

Rita Hageman

Joan Keyt

Barbara Kolbe

David Wynn

Expecting

Cheryl Burger (Due February 1)

Sarah Walsh (Due March 18)

Rebecca Childs (Due May 3)

Joy Mahysz (Due June 3)

Missions

Philip and Joy Kirkland serve as missionaries in Greece where they have been involved in the launching of a Greek intercultural church. Philip is also serving as a Mission to the World (MTW) Regional Director for Southeast Europe.

Last month, their church plant marked five years since the initial launch service. Since that first service, they have seen God sustain them through a pandemic, a move to a new building, and multiple changes to their leadership team. It has been a joy for Philip to watch the Spirit build His church from a small prayer group to a beautiful multi-cultural community!

In October Philip attended MTW's Europe Leadership Forum where he was able to meet in person with leaders he oversees in his region. The following month he and Joy traveled to Edinburgh for a City to City Europe church planting conference. While there, Joy had a chance to teach on the topic of grief and its connection to burnout in ministry. In the coming months she will be leading several webinars on this topic with European church planters.

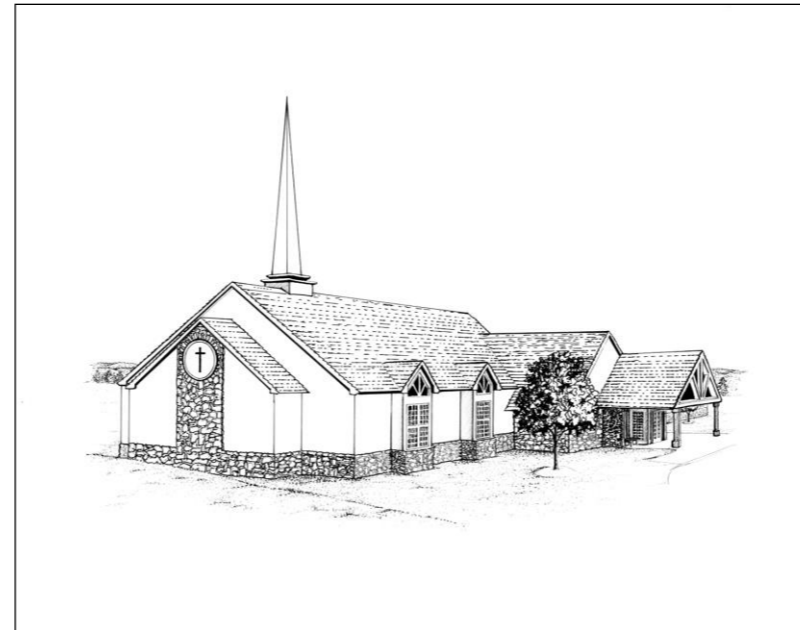
This fall was a time of adjustment for their family, now having only one child at home. They look forward to having both daughters come home from college for Christmas.

Philip would appreciate prayers for wisdom as they navigate many new changes in 2025. This includes organizing as a church within their local Greek synod, installing official members, and continuing to mentor their intern through his ordination process.

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	December 15	December 22	December 29	January 5
Sunday School Nursery Room 120	Abigail English	Christmas Breakfast	Ella Clement	Becky Snyder
Heart Hiders	Diana Lowery	Christmas Breakfast	No Heart Hiders	Sharon Muhlfeld
Worship Service Infants Room 120	Mary Riggall	C. Rutkowski	TBD	Sarah Walsh
Worship Service 1s-2s Room 123	Nicole Yates Sarah Rutkowski	Diane Dietterich Jasmine Muhlfeld	Kristen Jones Ruth Clement	Caroline Smith
Worship Service 3s-4s Room 122	Angela Tippett Luke Snyder	Ashley Benoit Lydia Moyer	Yvonne Marshall Makayla Marshall	Alexa Sparks Amy Muhlfeld
Junior Church 5s – grade 1 Room 112	A. McMillan	A. McMillan	David & Joy Schmidt	Pam Taylor
Junior Church Grades 2-3 Room 110	Steve Rutkowski	Steve Rutkowski	J. English	Phil & Kerri Hoogenhuis
Welcome Bread Bakers	Debbie Schultz	Debbie Schultz	Debbie Schultz	Debbie Schultz
Greeters	Andy & Carolyn Ford	Bob & Betty Peterson	Bob & Kim Kenderdine	Jason & Ella Clement
Ushers	Mark Kleeman Ken Markwalter Charles Freed Brandon Jones Jeremy Riggall George Schmidt Henry Schultz	Dan Benoit Tom Buhay Jake Barbadoro Noah Keating Jack Kane John Kane Shahil Patel George Schmidt	Rick Castor Bob Lagonegro Frank Evans M. McMillan J. Medendorp Paul Wichert	Steve Rutkowski George Schmidt Charlie Burger Sam Kleeman Jim Lowery Bill Propsner D. Rutkowski

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The mission of Covenant Presbyterian Church
is to help people know Christ,
grow together in the grace of Christ,
and advance the kingdom of Christ,
all to the glory and worship of God forever.*