

# THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Christmas Songs of Joy Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP From Isaiah 55:6,7

Leader: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near!

**People: Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.**

Leader: Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him,

**People: and to our God, for he will freely pardon!**

INVOCATION

\*HYMN 208 O Come, All Ye Faithful

\*PRAYER OF CONFSSION

**Unison: Our Father, we confess how often we think that our sins are not too bad, or at least not as bad as those of many others. We elevate ourselves in pride rather than lower ourselves in humility. We often think less of others and more of ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us to the feet of Jesus once again. Remind us of His great salvation, won at supreme cost, that has reconciled us to you. May we then show grace to others, even as we have been shown limitless grace at the cross. For we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON John 5:24

Leader: Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

\*GLORIA PATRI 734

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1–10 (p. 575)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS  
OFFERTORY Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Prichard

\*DOXOLOGY 731

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:1–21 (p. 857)

\*\*HYMN 213 What Child Is This

SERMON GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED  
Luke 7:36–50 (p. 864)  
Dr. John Muhlfeld

\*HYMN 203 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE He Is Born, Hallelujah! Stephenson

*\*Please stand if able*

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

*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 – Rob Barbadoro, Jim Nagy  
Musicians – Junior Choir, Adult Choir, Adult Bell Choir, Covenant Musicians,  
Helen Ro  
Audio/Visual Technicians – Steve Bikle, Jeff Currier, Tyler Delk,  
Greg Fisher, Jaron Riggall, Peter & Rebecca Wells

Covenant Church Office: (215) 256-1007

*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*

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

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*Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15*

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant,  
 2. God of God, Light of Light;  
 3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem; come and be-hold him lo, he ab-hors not the Vir-gin's womb: ver-y God, be-sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove; glo-ry to God Je-sus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,

**REFRAIN**  
 born the King of an-gels;  
 got-ten, not cre-a-ted; O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let  
 in the high-est;  
 late in flesh ap-pear-ing;

us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn  
 Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751  
 Tr. by Frederick Oakley, 1941; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.  
 John Francis Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

213

### What Child Is This

*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Matt. 2:2*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate, where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him;

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y.  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y.  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y.

Traditional English carol  
 Adapted by William C. Dix, ca. 1865

GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.ref.  
 English melody, 16th cent.

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### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14*

1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King;  
 2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord!  
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!"  
 Late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal-ing in his wings.

Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De-i-ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an-gel-ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el.  
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec-ond birth.

**REFRAIN**  
 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

HIS BIRTH

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D.ref.  
 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840  
 Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We rejoice with Charlie and Cheryl Burger following the birth of their covenant son, Caleb Charles. Caleb is 4 lbs 3 oz, healthy and well, but will be monitored in the NICU for a time. Thank you for your continued prayers for Caleb and Cheryl as they recover. A basket for gifts and cards may be found in the narthex.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this morning's Christmas breakfast! Please be sure to pick up any dishes you brought before leaving today.

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.

Mark your calendar for Covenant's performance of Dorothy Sayers' radio drama *Kings in Judaea* on Sunday, January 5 at 4:30 p.m. with refreshments and fellowship to follow.

The Senior Fellowship will begin the new year with breakfast at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant on Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 a.m. Please sign up in the narthex by December 29.

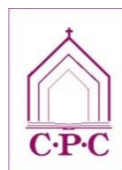
A sign-up sheet for the next adult membership class with Pastor Muhlfeld is available in the narthex. Attending the class does not obligate one to apply for membership, but is a requirement before meeting with the Session for a membership interview. The class will be held during the Sunday School hour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

In the unlikely event that a worship service needs to be canceled due to inclement weather, Covenant's website will reflect that information on the front page. As always, please use your judgment in deciding whether or not it is safe to travel from your particular location.

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday 12/22</b>	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
<b>Monday 12/23</b>		
<b>Tuesday 12/24</b>		Office closed
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Wednesday 12/25</b>		Office closed
<b>Thursday 12/26</b>		Office closed
<b>Friday 12/27</b>		Office closed
<b>Saturday 12/28</b>		
<b>Sunday 12/29</b>	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School and Year End Prayer and Praise
	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](http://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

<b>Health Related</b>	<b>Expecting</b>
<i>Mark Childs</i>	<i>Sarah Walsb (Due March 18)</i>
<i>Jean Daniels</i>	<i>Rebecca Childs (Due May 3)</i>
<i>Rita Hageman</i>	<i>Joy Mahysz (Due June 3)</i>
<i>Joan Keyt</i>	
<i>Barbara Kolbe</i>	
<i>David Wynn</i>	

## Missions

Bryan Stoudt is serving in Arizona with the Western Division of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). He and his wife, Sharon, are also working with the Paraclete Mission Group as they mentor young couples who are preparing for marriage.

Over the past four years God has been growing their CMDA ministry in stages. The first stage during COVID was a season of prayer as relationships developed over email, text, and Zoom. During stage two, God watered the relationships and formed a core leadership team. Campus visits began and they started holding regular events. Now, in stage three, their community has rapidly grown in size and depth. Each campus has solid student leaders and engaged professionals. The newest development is that several members of their community are leading mission trips this year.

One doctor just led a team of thirteen students and professionals to Rocky Point, Mexico. Another is planning student-focused medical humanitarian trips to Central America. A third doctor will be leading a trip to Malawi, East Africa, offering healthcare in a vastly underserved part of the world.

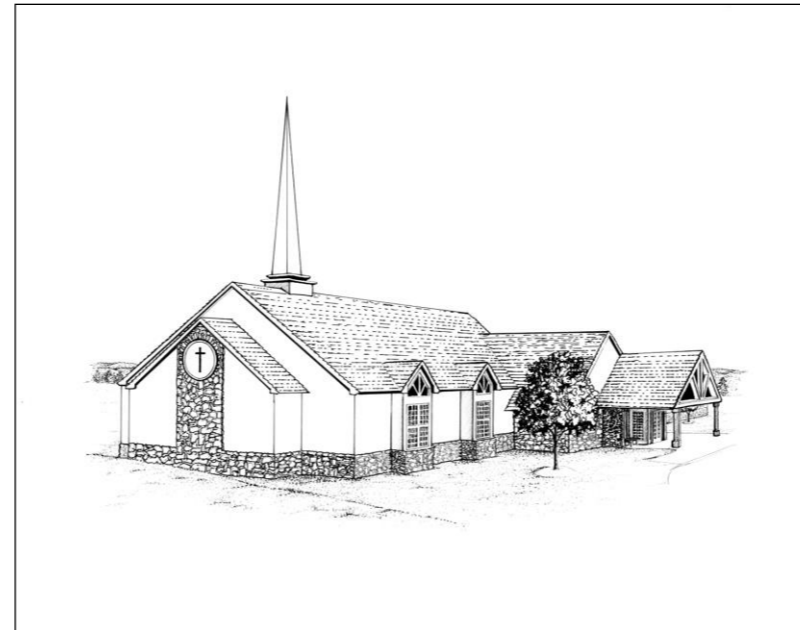
Bryan's hope is for God to send their community out on mission this year and to help students join these trips through creation of scholarships.

Please pray that they will be able to fulfill this exciting vision.

## SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	December 22	December 29	January 5	January 12
<b>Sunday School Nursery</b> Room 120	Christmas Breakfast	Ella Clement	Becky Snyder	A. Rohrman
<b>Heart Hiders</b>	Christmas Breakfast	No Heart Hiders	Sharon Muhlfield	Lydia Putnam
<b>Worship Service Infants</b> Room 120	C. Rutkowski	M. Medendorp	Sarah Walsh	C. Rutkowski
<b>Worship Service 1s-2s</b> Room 123	Diane Dietterich Jasmine Muhlfield	Kristen Jones Ruth Clement	Caroline Smith	Jill Buhay Jasmine Muhlfield
<b>Worship Service 3s-4s</b> Room 122	Ashley Benoit Lydia Moyer	Yvonne Marshall Makayla Marshall	Alexa Sparks Amy Muhlfield	Nicole Yates Jessica Fox
<b>Junior Church 5s – grade 1</b> Room 112	A. McMillan	David & Joy Schmidt	Pam Taylor	Laura Wambold
<b>Junior Church Grades 2-3</b> Room 110	Steve Rutkowski	J. English	Phil & Kerri Hoogenhuis	Jason Clement
<b>Welcome Bread Bakers</b>	Debbie Schultz	Debbie Schultz	Debbie Schultz	Erna Fenchel
<b>Greeters</b>	Bob & Betty Peterson	Bob & Kim Kenderdine	Jason & Ella Clement	Ken & Diane Dietterich
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Benoit Tom Buhay Jake Barbadoro Noah Keating Jack Kane John Kane Bob McClurken Shahil Patel	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	Byron Childs Andy Ford D. Dietterich Ed Gottschalk Dan Hillman Bob Kenderdine Ed Wilson

# 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.*