

Covenant Presbyterian Church

8:30 & 11:00 am ORDER OF WORSHIP December 27, 2009
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP

- Covenant Church welcomes children in worship. There is a nursery for infants through age two in Room 101 of the Educational wing of the church. Worship bags full of quiet activities for children to use during our services are available inside the cart that holds our name tags.
- Hearing devices and large print bulletins, bibles and hymn books are available on the credenza in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Luke 2:48-49

THE GATHERING

*GREETINGS and PASSING OF THE PEACE

8:30 Jim Mehler; 11:00 Katie Kinnison

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE "Chorale Prelude on *Vom Himmel hoch*" Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN NO. 23 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Gloria

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess our distractions.

We allow the clamor to drown out your voice.

Holy God, we confess our possessions.

We allow the clutter to crowd out your call.

Holy God, we confess our distortions.

We allow our biases to diminish our love.

Forgive us, we pray. Help us to prune away all that prevents us from basking in your Light, from being nourished by your Spirit, and from loving with your Love. In Christ we pray. Amen.

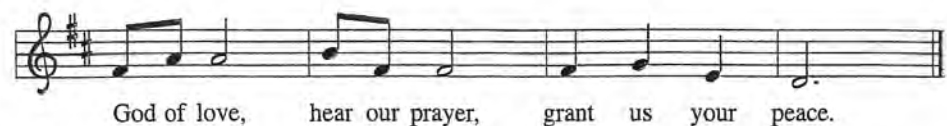
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.



*PRAYER RESPONSE “God of Love, Hear Our Prayer” John Helgen



TALK WITH CHILDREN (11:00) Karen Ware Jackson

We encourage children to stay with us in worship and we try to keep the worship experience engaging and participatory for all ages. At the same time, some little ones are too restless to remain in the Sanctuary for the full hour so, with their grown-ups’ permission, they may go to Room 112 for Wiggle Worship at this time.

FELLOWSHIP MOMENTS

- Prayer request cards will be collected at this point.
- Please sign the fellowship pad and pass it to your neighbor.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT Samuel 2:18-20, 26 OT Page 246
Lay Readers: 8:30 Tom Billman; 11:00 Janet Gross

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 2:41-52 NT Page 59

EXPLORING THE WORD Karen Ware Jackson

PSALM 148 “Praise the Lord from the Heavens” Hal Hopson
Meredith Hoffman, Cantor



Praise the Lord from the heavens; give praise in the heights.
Praise the Lord, all angels above; give praise, all hosts.
Praise the Lord, sun and moon; give praise, shining stars.
Praise the Lord, highest heavens, all waters above the heavens. (R)

Praise the Lord, you heavens above, for God spoke and you were created.
You were established forever; your courses shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, creatures of the sea and all oceans,
Fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy winds that yield to God’s command. (R)

All mountains and hill, all fruit trees and cedars,
Beasts and all cattle, reptiles and flying birds,
All rulers and peoples, you that govern the nations,
Children and older one, too, join to praise the Lord. (R)

Praise the name of the Lord, for God alone is exalted.
The splendor of God’s name reaches beyond heaven and earth.
God gives strength to the people. God be praised by all the saints,
By the children of Israel who are near to the Lord. (R)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: “Our Father who art in heaven...” (Hymnal p. 16. We say debts and debtors.)

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD “Teenage Angst or Holy Passion?”

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “Chorale Prelude on Vom Himmel hoch” Johann Pachelbel

*Offertory Response Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God the Father, God the Son, Praise God the Spirit, Three in One.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Prayer of Dedication

WALKING WITH THE WORD Karen Ware Jackson

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 48 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Est ist ein’ Ros’

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Amen” Danish

POSTLUDE “Chorale Fantasy on Vom Himmel hoch” Max Drischner
(You are invited to stay and listen)

HYMN NOTES

The French original of “Angels We Have Heard on High” probably comes from the 1700’s although it was first published a century later. As with all carols, the popular folk melody carries equal weight and importance for the success of the work, and half the fun is singing the “Gloria” refrain.

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” a German carol probably dates from the fifteenth century, but the earliest source of the text is a manuscript from St. Alban’s Carthusian Monastery preserved in the municipal library of Trier. John Julian reports on two forms of the hymn. The first contains twenty-three stanzas and was published in “Alte Catholische Geitsliche Kirchengesang” (1599), the second containing six stanzas was in “Andernach Gesangbuch” (1608). The hymn is based on Isaiah 11:1, but originally referred to Mary as the rose. Sixteenth-century reformers sought to change the emphasis of the hymn to refer to Jesus. Theodore Baker, American scholar and editor, translated the hymn around the turn of the century. The source of the present alteration is “Rejoice in the Lord” (1985). “Es ist ein ‘Ros’ is a tune believed to be from the fourteenth or fifteenth century and was first published in “Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang” (Cologne, 1599). The present arrangement is that of Michael Praetorius, from his collection “Musae Sioniae, VI” of 1609. Michael Schulze (1571-1621) was born at Kreutzberg, Thuringia, Germany. After completing his education at the University of Frankfurt an der Oder, he Latinized his name “Praetorius.” He was honorary prior of Ringelheim Monastery (1604). A serious student of music, he published three major works: “Musae Sioniae” (1605-1612), “Syntagma Musicum” (1615-1619, and “Musa Aonia” (1619).

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Ushers: 8:30 Terry Kennedy Mancini, Bob Turrell, Gerald Annis, Dianne Annis
11:00 Dana Rudmose, Tom Hoover, Robert Gross, Pete McGeoch

Greeters: 8:30 Mike Hayes, Terri Hayes, Gail Griffin

11:00 Esther Curtis, Linda Hoffman, Rusty Miller, Bonnie Roussey

Musicians: 8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir; Meredith Hoffman, Soloist, is a senior political science and anthropology major at Ohio University. She spent five weeks this summer living in Botswana and interning at a women’s shelter.

TODAY AT COVENANT

The flowers in the chancel are given by
Trent and Sandy Sickles in memory and honor of their parents.

Adults

- The Forum: Brainstorm-Future Forums, Learning for Adults, Spiritual Development
- Wired Word: Connecting Life & Faith, Room 120
- New Sunday Morning Bible Study, Room 121
- Parents share their lives and faith, Room 102

Youth - “Gospel according to Joan of Arcadia,” Karen’s office

Treasure Finders - Children three years through fifth grade gather in Room 104

Sunday Morning Bible Study **9:45 am, Room 121**

We’ll pray, read the Gospel according to Luke, talk and listen. Come to a community Bible study where we find the meaning of God’s Word for our lives. Lay leaders (Marsha Martin, Steve St. Martin, Nancy Ludowise, Martin Spencer, Mike Martin, Cora Kuyvenhoven) will guide the discussion, but everyone teaches and learns.

Covenant Music Discernment Group:

Our music program is extremely important: It infuses our worship, lifts our hearts, and speaks to the deepest parts of our souls. Weldon Adams, our beloved Minister of Music for these past 41 years, will be retiring next September, and we need to plan for this transition with great care. We are looking for folks of various ages and backgrounds who are committed to meeting every Sunday morning from Jan. 10 - Feb. 21 (seven weeks) from 9:45-10:45 to pray for God’s guidance, explore the possibilities, and finally provide some direction for Covenant’s search for staff person to direct our music ministries. Would you be interested in being a part of a prayerful group seeking to understand God’s call to Covenant in terms of the future of our music program? Please contact Trac (tracykeenan@covenantpcusa.org).

Flower Vases Needed

The deacons are collecting vases to use to distribute unclaimed chancel flowers to members who are shut ins or hospitalized. Place your donations in the plastic bin outside the pastoral offices next to the deacon filing cabinets.

THIS WEEK Jan. 4-9

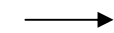
No PiYo Classes on Dec. 28.

Mission Sewing Change of Time

The mission sewing group will be meeting the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1 pm. We are starting a 9-square quilt and will work on other projects too. If you like to sew or would like to learn to quilt, join us. Call Diana Sanders, 847-4431.

Read the Bible on Katie’s Blog Each Thursday

Go to www.readwithkatie.blogspot.com and read my reflection on a passage from the bible. New blogs are up by Thursday mornings each week.



Honduras Mission Trip Rescheduled: Jan. 6-13

Donations are still needed. Contact Karen.

COMPASS needs full-size toiletries: soap, shampoo, tooth brushes/paste, deodorant, razors. Place in the laundry baskets in the narthex for deacons to deliver.

Open Shelter needs plastic containers with lids for food for our homeless friends. Place in the Open Shelter kitchen cupboard. It's good for recycling.

Cross-Stitch Art Exhibit

Lounge

See beautiful angel art lovingly stitched by Frieda A. Bennett. The show is dedicated to her late husband, Cy, who supported her projects for the past 40 years.

If you wish to receive updates about Covenant happenings add covenant@covenantpcusa.org to your email address book so that our messages don't end up in your spam folder.

NEXT WEEK Jan. 3-9

The Church Office is closed through January 2. The Church Office will reopen Mon., Jan 4.

Those making end of year gifts can still drop them off.

Wed. Prayer Nights in the Lounge Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3, 10

Come pray with us. No special training needed, and you don't have to be good with words. It's OK if your mind tends to stray and if you have questions about how this praying thing works. We are in this together; we pray as God's people, the body of Christ. We'll find words together. We'll trust the silent spaces to God. Pray for those we love, for the people of Covenant, for our ministry together, for our neighborhood, for this world which is so beloved by God.

LOOKING AHEAD Jan. 10+

Play Bridge

Sun, Jan. 10, 2 pm, Lounge

Bridge players meet once a month except December. Come as pairs or as individuals who will pair up there. Reservations not needed. Bring a snack to share and a cold drink for yourself. Hot drinks and ice provided. To pay for prizes and incidentals, \$1 per person is collected each week. Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 14, April 11, May 23. Questions? Call Anne or Dick Rorapough, 740-881-9934.

Martin Luther King Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Mon., Jan. 18

Martin Luther King Day Peace School

Mon., Jan. 18

Join us on our quest for peace as we learn and play together! The youth and adults will be volunteering at this Vacation Bible School style 'school for children and families of all faiths. Co-sponsored by the Interfaith Center for Peace.

January Spiritual Cinema Group

Mon., Jan. 18, Lounge

"The Namesake," a movie about the struggles of an American son of immigrants to fit in. Beth Askue will lead a short discussion following the film. For information about the Spiritual Cinema group, contact Beth Askue, askue.1@osu.edu, or Susan Imel, susanimel1@gmail.com, 262-7444.

Connecting With God: Men And Our Relationships

Sat., Jan. 30, 8-9 am, Lounge

"A Man In Friendship With Himself" - Sometimes the hardest friendship involves making peace with ourselves. What does it mean to befriend ourselves? What gets in the way? How should we care for ourselves in a healthy way? Our outward friendships with God and other men will suffer unless we cultivate an inward friendship. We will consider David as a man in friendship with himself. If you wish to prepare, you may read 1 Samuel 24 and Psalm 139:13-18. Come join the conversation. Eggs or pancakes, oatmeal, hot beverage provided. If you can, bring a breakfast treat to share. Questions/Information: jimmebler@covenantpcusa.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bob Bartels	Bob Basford	Dan Belville	Marie Bernays
Chuck Boyer	Katherine Davis	Charlene Evans	Susan Fromkes
Mildred Furney	Hazel Ginther	Mary Jane Greigor	Pauline Grehl
Blake Haxton	Jane Jackson	Birdine Lint	Evan Lockhart
Mary Marshall	Sandy McCloud	Marion Sanford	Jean Scherr
Judy Sechler	Richard Smathers	Phyllis Tate	Vera Tongue
Chuck Veverka	Whitney Von Voigt	Jean Ware	Linda Yohn

Compiled last week. For current information, check the list on the office bulletin board. Call the church, 451-6677, if you know of those who need prayers of concern or celebration. Hospitals do not automatically contact us, so we rely on you. Also pray for Covenant's mission workers; the list of their names is on the hall bulletin board.

Pastoral Leadership Team

Tracy Keenan, Senior Pastor

Karen Ware Jackson, Associate Pastor

Weldon Adams, Minister of Music

Katie Kinnison, Director of Christian Education

Jim Mehler, Parish Associate

Covenant Presbyterian Church

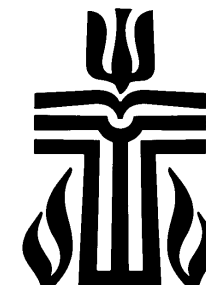
2070 Ridgecliff Road • Columbus, OH 43221

(614) 451-6677 • Fax: (614) 451-1326 • www.covenantpcusa.org

Our Vision Statement

Covenant Presbyterian Church glorifies God and builds relationships with Christ and each other through:

- worship that inspires,
- nurture that embraces,
- education that challenges,
- fellowship that energizes,
- ministry that responds.



Our Mission Statement

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a dynamic congregation

- led by Christ,
- active in the world,
- inspired by the word,
- open to the future.