

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8:30 & 11:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Dec. 6, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent / Communion

- 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.

THE GATHERING

*GREETINGS and PASSING OF THE PEACE Karen Ware Jackson
 Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

PRELUDE “Comfort Ye/Every Valley (Messiah)” George Frideric Handel
 Scott Henning, Soloist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Ginnie & Lisa Swartz
 (Candle lighters represent the Worship and Arts Commission)

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Mighty God.

You are mighty, O God, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One in whom we find redemption.

You are mighty, O God, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who forgives our sins.

You are mighty, O God, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who overcomes the darkness.

You are mighty, O God, and your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who has come to set us free.

You are mighty, O God, and your faithfulness endures forever.

Today we light two candles. The first candle reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The second candle reminds us of our joy, knowing that Jesus is our Mighty God Incarnate. As we light the second candle we remember that even when we face trials, hardships and difficulties – our strength is found in what Christ has done. As we continue our Advent journey, let us rejoice in the One who gives strength to the weary and power to the weak.

“God With Us, Emmanuel”

Joel Raney

Won-der - ful Coun - sel-or, Al-might - y God,
 Ever-las - ing Fa - ther, the Prince of Peace, Em-man-u - el,
 Em-man-u - el, God with us, Em - man - u - el.

**All who can comfortably do so, please stand.*

LET US WORSHIP GOD

*OPENING HYMN NO. 3 “Comfort, Comfort You My People” Psalm 42

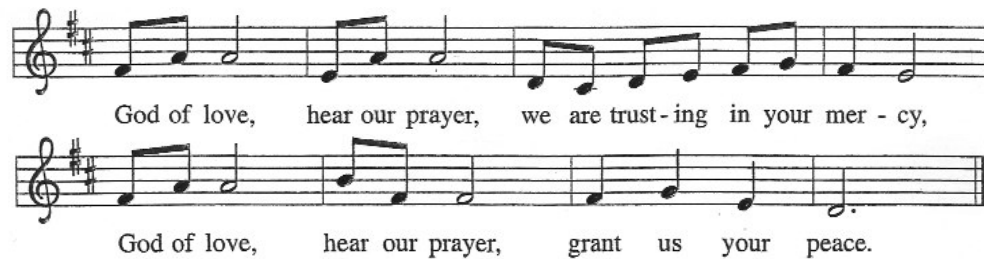
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**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 prepare the way for your presence.
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



God of love, hear our prayer, we are trust-ing in your mer-cy,
God of love, hear our prayer, grant us your peace.

FELLOWSHIP MOMENTS

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

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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT Malachi 3:1-3, 13-18 OT Page 889
Lay Readers: 8:30 Gail Griffin; 11:00 Beth Askue

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 1:76-79; 3:1-6 NT Page 58

SERMON “The Great Leveler” Tracy Keenan Preaching

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (See inside back cover of hymnal)

Music During Distribution “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion (Messiah)”
George Frideric Handel
Ryan Cremeans, Soloist

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

PRESENTATION OF OUT TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory 8:30 “Carol of the Word” Gary Daigle
Early Birds
11:00 “And the Glory of the Lord (Messiah)” George Frideric Handel
Chancel Choir

*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

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 40 “Joy to the World!” Antioch

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Amen” Danish

POSTLUDE “Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah)” George Frideric Handel
(You are invited to stay and listen) 11:00 Chancel Choir

ANTHEM TEXTS

Carol of the Word Text: Rory Cooney Music: Cary Daigle

Word of ransom, word of light, whispered to the crouching night, here beside death's
fearsome flood, build your house of hope and blood. All our plans are chains and dust.
Other gods take flesh in us. Tempted, torn, your people wait: Stretch the heart's bent
highway straight! Word of justice, word of peace, call your own from west and east.
Raise the valleys, mountains low'r, stun the tyrant, lift the poor. When in us this word
finds birth, hammer'd swords shall plow the earth. Songs shall spring from muted
tongues, crippled children dance and run. From your heart on wings of fire flies the
vow of your desire. Rush upon us, do not hide! Mary now this breathless bride! At
your word when time was born from the chaos leapt the morn. Now your word, by love
consumed, knits a man in woman's womb. Still the hungry have no bread, still our bat-
tlefields run red. Word of rescue, word of grace, rend the skies and show your face!
Who but you our hearts can warm? Who calm hist'ry's howling storm? Word of pres-
ence, word of power. Maranatha! Be here now!

Comfort Ye and Every Valley Text: Isaiah 40:1-4 Music: George Frideric Handel

Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry
unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of
him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the
desert a highway for our God. Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and
hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Rejoice Greatly Text: Zechariah 9:9-110 Music: George Frideric Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king
cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

And the Glory of the Lord Text: Isaiah 40:5 Music: George Frideric Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the
mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Hallelujah Chorus Text: Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16 Music: George Frideric Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is be-
come the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.
Kings of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

HYMN NOTES

Based on Isaiah 40:1-5, “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” is for Advent but is spe-
cially marked for St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24. The author, Johannes Olearius,
who was court chaplain at Halle and at one time a member of the philosophy faculty at
Wittenberg, included this hymn in his 1671 collection of hymns. The rhythm of the
tune suggests a dance for joy at the coming of Christ. The tune name, “Psalm 42,” indi-
cates that this was the tune used by Calvin in Geneva to sing Psalm 42. This is one of
the tunes that Queen Elizabeth I referred to disparagingly as “Genevan jigs” because of
their lively rhythm. This is original Presbyterian music.

Entitled “The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom” and based on the second half of
Psalm 98, “Joy to the World” is representative of Isaac Watts’ ability to Christianize
the psalms. While it is usually sung at Christmas, the text is actually appropriate to
the entire year whenever the theme of the “Kingdom” is observed. The early Ameri-
can church musician Lowell Mason arranged a melody from George Frideric Handel
(possibly from the “Messiah”) which expressed the joy of the text. This is indeed a
hymn. The term “carol,” which we use loosely today to mean any song for Christ-
mas, originally was an “English round dance” and the music associated with it. Car-
ols appropriate for all seasons of the year exist.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Ushers: 8:30 Andrea Eberhard, John Harder, Willem Kogeler
11:00 Rusty Miller, Rob Radcliff, Robin Schmidt, Jan Schmidt

Greeters: 8:30 Linda Billman, Betty Rupp, Joan Sanford
11:00 Jeff DuBois, Jo Elin DuBois, Hazel Ginther, Karen Hjelm

Musicians: String Ensemble: Violin 1- Olev Viro, Violin 2-Steve DeNiro,
Viola-Erin Broadhurst, Viola-Jill Valentine, Cello-Julia Castor,
Bass-James Faulkner; Scott Henning, Soloist; Ryan Cremeans,
Soloist; 8:30 Early Birds; 11:00 Chancel Choir

TODAY AT COVENANT

The flowers in the chancel are given by Linda Gabel
in loving memory of her father, Louis W. Gabel.

Adults

- The Forum: “Constantine’s Christmas” with Professor Jeff Jaynes
- Wired Word: Connecting Life & Faith, Room 120
- New Sunday Morning Bible Study, Room 121
- Parents share their lives and faith, Room 102

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

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

Christmas Ham Sale!

Today & Dec. 13

Support youth mission and order Honey Baked goodies. Last day to order hams
is Mon., Dec. 14! Pick-up Wed., Dec. 23, 9-11am. Write checks to “Covenant.”

Spirituality Center Sunday Mornings

8am-1pm, Chapel

A Spirituality Center will be open during the season of Advent. We’ll offer different
opportunities for prayer and reflection. Listen for God in new ways. Let this season
of waiting for Christ to come be a season of learning to welcome him when he does.

New Members Classes

Today & Dec. 13, 9:45 am, Chapel

If you are interested in membership or simply curious to learn more about
Covenant Presbyterian Church, there will be two consecutive classes held
during the Education Hour. Contact Tracy, tracykeenan@covenantpcusa.org.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:45 am, Room 121

We’ll pray, read some of the Gospel according to Luke, and talk and listen to one
another. 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 Ludo-
wise, Martin Spencer, Mike Martin, Cora Kuyvenhoven) will guide the discus-
sion when it’s helpful, but everyone in the room teaches and everyone learns.

Continued on back

Flower Dedications

See Anna Joe Beeson at the hall table to sign up for Christmas poinsettia dedications (\$8) well as 2010 worship service flower dedications (\$36). Please have your dedication information ready.

The Wordy Shipmates

Join us for a rescheduled discussion of *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowels.

Middle School and High School Youth

6 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sunday Evening Bible Study

7:00, Room 120

Covenant Cookbooks

Want to buy a special Christmas gift for friends, teachers, holiday hosts or for yourself? Consider getting a Covenant cookbook, *Piping Hot*, with 747 great recipes and lots of Covenant tidbits. Books are \$15. Call Roberta Adams, 876-2376.

THIS WEEK

“God Talk”

Tues., Dec. 8, 7 pm, Old Bag of Nails, Tremont, UA

Dec. Topic: Do the holidays help your faith or distract from it?

Covenant Night at the Zoo

Wed., Dec. 9, 5:30-7:30pm

Covenant staff will be stationed throughout the zoo in half hour shifts. Come during that half hour, connect with people of Covenant, and get a prize! For better parking come early, but come any time and have a blast. The animals are great; Santa and Mrs. Claus are there; the lights are spectacular, and you'll run into friends around every corner.

Laud to the Nativity by Respighi Sun., Dec. 13, Both Worship Services

We will celebrate the Christmas season through story, picture, movement, costume, choral, vocal and instrumental music. Come enjoy!

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.

Peanut Brittle (\$6) and Cashew Brittle (\$7.50) for Sale...from CPW. Buy

now before it is gone. Call Ruth Adams, 336-0194 or the church office.

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.

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

The Longest Night

Wed., Dec. 16, 7 pm

If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you. . . Psalm 139:11 The Longest Night service is designed for those feeling not so very merry this Christmas, or whose joy is inter-



persed with pockets of pain during these holidays. The nights can be very long when we wait for God to be made visible. Join us and we'll face the darkness together.

Adopt-A-Family – Christmas Ministry

Form groups to adopt a family and give wrapped new toys and clothing for children, and gifts for adults. The Salvation Army will identify needy families. Deacons contribute gift cards for Kroger's. Let us know if interested so we know how many families we can serve. Write checks to *Covenant* marked for Adopt-A-Family. Contact Jay McLean, 457-9177 (h), 209-7314 (c), or Ed Chung, 459-9011.

LOOKING AHEAD

PiYo Classes

There will be no PiYo classes on Dec. 21 or 28.

Primetimers' Christmas Party

Tues., Dec. 29, 6pm

Dick and Alice Ford will host the Primetimers' Christmas party at the Rittenhouse Square Party House, just south of Bethel Rd. on Reed Rd. Members are asked to bring a finger food and a gift of your choice. Call 451-1134.

PRAYER REQUESTS

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Bob Bartels | Bob Basford | Dan Belville | Marie Bernays |
| Chuck Boyer | Katherine Davis | Charlene Evans | Susan Fromkes |
| Mildred Furney | Hazel Ginther | Mary Jane Greeger | 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 |
| Ollie Yohn | | | |

Compiled Tues., Dec. 1. 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.