



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8:30 & 11:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 29, 2009

- 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

"...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:9-20

THE GATHERING

*GREETINGS and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Tracy Keenan

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

People: **And also with you.**

PRELUDE "Chorale Prelude on *Prepare the Royal Highway*" David Cherwien

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 Steve St. Martin, Sandy St. Martin; 11:00 Martin Spencer, Bob Tannehill
(Candle lighters represent the Spiritual Development and Adult Learning Commission)

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

Cast your cares on God, who will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

Cast your cares on God, who will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

Cast your cares on God, who will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

Cast your cares on God, who will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

Today we light the first candle. This candle reminds us that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor who brings hope to a hurting world. As our counselor, Jesus brings hope in times of despair, compassion in times of sorrow, and healing in times of brokenness. As we begin the season of Advent, let our hope reside in the One who cares about our needs and sustains our faith.

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

“God With Us, Emmanuel” Joel Raney
Congregational refrain

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

***OPENING HYMN NO. 13** “Prepare the Way” Bereden vag för Herran

FELLOWSHIP MOMENTS

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

COVENANT IN MISSION “Sunday Morning Bible Study”

(11:00 am) TALK WITH CHILDREN Jim Mehler
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

Colossians 1:9-20 NT Page 199
 Lay Readers: 8:30 John Harder; 11:00 Rusty Miller
 Colossians 1:9-20 (The Message) Katie Kinnison

“WRESTLING WITH THE WORD”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison) Tracy Keenan
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.

“PLAYING IN THE WORD” Katie Kinnison
 (We use the word “play” not to trivialize, but to invite a childlike openness to God’s word.)

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS Jim Mehler

Offertory 8:30 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” Anne Krentz Organ
 Early Birds
 11:00 “Prepare Ye” Marc Robinson
 Chancel Choir; Soloists: Scott Henning, Lisa Swartz, Susan Westberg

*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

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

“WALKING WITH THE WORD” Katie Kinnison

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 11** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”
 Valet will ich dir geben

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** “Amen” Danish

POSTLUDE “Chorale Prelude on *Prepare the Royal Highway*” Robert Hobby
 (You are invited to stay and listen.)

ANTHEM TEXTS

There’s a Voice in the Wilderness
Text: Lewis Milligan Music: Henry Hugh Bancroft, Arr. by Anne Krentz Organ
 There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go! O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay; the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away. But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O God, is strong; you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong. You will feed your flock like a shepherd, the lambs you’ll gently hold; in pastures of peace you’ll lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Prepare Ye

Text: Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:30, Luke 3:40 Music: Marc Robinson
 Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying? Saying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord. First came the prophet crying in the wilderness, speaking to the people, saying, “One is coming both to judge and save, you must prepare the way of the Lord.” Then came the Baptist crying in the wilderness: “I baptize you with water, O, but one is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Now we join the crying in the wilderness, Let us lift up our voices saying, “Come Lord Jesus now into our lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord.”

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Ushers: 8:30 Emogene Andrews, John Emrick, Jay Armstrong, Gerlinde Lott
 11:00 Phil Hall, Beth Askue, Ed Lazear, Katy Nowels
Greeters: 8:30 Mike Hayes, Terri Hayes, Gail Griffin
 11:00 Cora Kuyvenhoven, Carmina Spencer, Benjamin Spencer, Martin Spencer
Musicians: Soloists: Scott Henning, Lisa Swartz, Susan Westberg; 8:30 Early Birds;
 11:00 Chancel Choir

TODAY AT COVENANT

The flowers in the chancel are given by Dick and Anne Rorapaugh in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.

Adults

- The Forum: “Christmas Carols” Weldon Adams
- 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

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

We’ll pray, read some of the Gospel according to Luke together, and talk and listen to one another. Come to a good community Bible study where, together, 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 when it’s helpful, but everyone in the room teaches and everyone learns.

Hanging of the Greens **5 pm, Fellowship Hall**

We will be decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons beginning the evening with pizza and hot, mulled cider. There will be bows to tie, wreaths to hang, crèche scenes to set up, garlands to hang, trees to assemble, and tasks for many hands. Join us as we prepare the way of the Lord.

Middle School and High School Youth **5 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Hanging of the Greens.

Sunday Evening Bible Study **6:30, Room 120**

Mission Report

John Michael, our mission connection in the Czech Republic had successful surgery on Oct. 23 and is feeling better.

Volunteers Needed

- We have bags that need to be stuffed with Covenant goodies that will be hung on doorknobs in surrounding neighborhoods. If you can help, see Garrett Dill today.
- If you have a place to post a poster advertising the Respighi mini-opera, please take one.

Cross-Stitch Art Exhibit **Lounge**

Stop in to see the beautiful angel art lovingly stitched by Frieda A. Bennett. The show is dedicated to her late husband, Cy, who untiringly and unselfishly supported her projects throughout the past 40 years.

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.

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Communicator On Line: www.covenantpcusa.org

You are encouraged to view and print issues from our web site or pick up a printed copy at the church. To access past and current Communicators from our web page, click on "Publications and Form" which will take you to another page where you can click and view any issue. Please call the church office or email ingridbrooker@covenantpcusa.org if you need *Your Communicator* mailed to your house.

Habitat for Humanity House Complete!

This year's house built by Covenant is a beautiful, two-story, four-bedroom home built for a single mom with four children. Many thanks go to the volunteers who helped with the construction and with the lunches.

THIS WEEK

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.

Support COMPASS through the United Way

COMPASS is an approved agency for the United Way of Central Ohio's donor Choice Program for the '09 campaign. Those choosing to designate COMPASS on the UW pledge card need to write in COMPASS, 760 E. Broad St., 43205, 221-6552, and use "99" as the agency code.

Peanut Brittle (\$6) and Cashew Brittle (\$7.50) for Sale... from Covenant Presbyterian Women. 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

New Members Classes **Sundays, Dec. 6 & 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.

The Wordy Shipmates **Sun. Dec. 6, noonish, Lounge**

Join us for our rescheduled discussion of *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell. If you'd like lunch, RSVP Katie, katherinekinnison@covenantpcusa.org, or call the church office.

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 con-



tribute 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

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 Greegor	Pauline Grehl
Blake Haxton	Jane Jackson	Birdine Lint	Evan Lockhart
Mary Marshall	Sandy McCloud	Lauren Mitchell	Claire Patterson
Marion Sanford	Jean Scherr	Judy Sechler	Richard Smathers
Phyllis Tate	Vera Tongue	Chuck Veverka	Whitney Von
Voigt	Jean Ware	Linda Yohn	

Compiled Tues., Nov. 24. 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
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(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.