



## ***Covenant Presbyterian Church***

*...a spiritual home where 'God's love has the run of the house'...*

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Rev. Alex Becker, *Lead Pastor*

Jennifer V.M. Langlois, *Director of Family & Children's Ministries*

Amy McLoughlin, *Director of Music*

Bonnie Sumerfield, *Pianist* Patti Mann, *Bell Choir Director*

### ***Sunday Worship Service***

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 – Second Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 & 11 a.m.**

To our guests: Welcome! We invite you to respond with bolded words during prayers and readings.

\*All those who are able, please stand

### ***Assemble in God's Name***

*The church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus bids welcome to our Lord's house.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP .....*Carol of the Bells* by M. Leontovich, arr. Jeanine Yeager

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (8:30, Matt Quail & Rebecca Gustafson) (11, Billingsley Family)

Narrator: Today we light a candle for love, and a candle for peace.

Narrator: The Prince of Peace is coming!

**Congregation: Oh Lord, You are our Peace.**

Narrator: Guide our feet into the path of peace.

**Congregation: Oh Lord, You are our Peace.**

Narrator: Our hearts long for the Peace that Your arrival will bring.

**Congregation: Oh Lord, You are our Peace.**

Narrator: God's promises are true. We await the birth of Christ, the Promised Child, the Savior of the World. Peace is coming soon.

**All: Oh Lord, You are our Peace.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE..... **88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 4)*

A LITANY OF HOPE AND HEALING

In this season of Advent, we come before God from many different places, with different emotions and experiences, and different hopes for what the Christ child might mean for us this year. Embracing each other along our journeys, let us offer ourselves to God, opening ourselves to God's presence through speaking and silence, and seeking God's healing for ourselves and others.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

*Isaiah 9:2*

**Those who walked in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**

God, we hear these promises, but for some of us it feels as though the darkness is vast and the light is only a small, dim candle.

*(cont. on next page)*

**Give us hope, show us love, bring us light.**

In silence, God, we open our hearts to you, asking you to accompany us, even along darkened pathways.

*(Moment of silence)*

SONG OF RESPONSE.....144

*In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs 1)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God

*Isaiah 40:1-3,9*

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her term is served.

**A voice cries out, “in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.”**

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift up your voice, do not fear:

**Say to the cities of Judah, “here is your God!”**

God, help us to trust you to make a way where there is no way,

**Give us hope, show us love, bring us light.**

In silence, Holy Spirit, we come before you, asking you to show us signs of your presence and pathways to healing.

*(Moment of silence)*

SONG OF RESPONSE.....144

*In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs 2)

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**In the Word was life, and that life was the light of all humankind.**

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Christ child, we look towards you. You were present at the beginning of all things, and you will overcome in the end.

**Give us hope, show us love, bring us light.**

In silence, Christ, we offer ourselves to you. As the world swirls around us, we ask you to bring opportunities for peace and love into our lives.

*(Moment of silence)*

SONG OF RESPONSE.....144

*In the Bleak Midwinter* (vs 3)

May God bring us healing and hope in this Advent season. As we journey through joy or sadness, may we remember that Jesus came into a world that was not already saved, but in need of a savior. So we, too, in admitting our need before God, can trust that we will find Christ already by our side and surrounding us with love through the Holy Spirit.

Know that you are loved, and receive the peace of Christ.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

***Proclaim God’s Word***

*The God who speaks in Scripture addresses us now*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE .....**Jennifer Langlois**

*On communion Sundays, children are welcome to remain in worship with their parents for worship and communion or children ages 3 through grade 5 are invited:*

- *to the nursery for SermonTime StoryTime during the 8:30 worship service. They will return to worship following the sermon.*
- *upstairs for Children’s Church during the 11:00 worship service. Please pick up your children after the benediction.*

SCRIPTURE..... **John 1:1-9**

SERMON..... **Rev. Alex Becker**

***Go Tell: Breaking the News***

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION .. **Choir Quartet (8:30) Chanel Choir (11) *The Yearning*** arr. C. Courtney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE .... ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** by Wesley/Prichard, arr. Vaughan Williams

*Covenant’s Deacons ministry is one of compassion, witness, and service in the name of Jesus.*

*In this service of communion, we invite you to use the yellow envelopes to give a gift in support of this ministry.*

*Offerings may also be given online at [www.covenantfrazier.org/give](http://www.covenantfrazier.org/give)*

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

RESPONDING SONG ..... **144**

***In The Bleak Midwinter*** (v. 4)

\*BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

***A Service of Word, Table, and Renewal***

*We hear the Word read and proclaimed, and prayerfully renew our covenant with God.  
At the table, we are reminded that the new covenant was sealed with the blood of Christ.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who seek to meet Christ at this table are welcome to participate in the sacrament. Communion is served using grape juice instead of wine and a gluten-free option is available.*

***Go in God's Name***

*The Holy Spirit sends us forth to be instruments of God's peace:  
To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.*

SENDING HYMN..... **136**

***Go, Tell it on the Mountain***

RESPONSIVE SENDING

Go, tell it on the mountain:

**Over the hills and everywhere!**

Go, tell it on the mountain:

**Jesus came to live among us.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE..... ***God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*** - Traditional English Carol, arr. Glenda Austin

\* The 11 a.m. service is livestreamed and recorded ([covenantfrazier.org/live](http://covenantfrazier.org/live))

**Worship with us! We are working together to create comfortable worship spaces for all our members and visitors.**

- Join us in the sanctuary. A worship table with children's activities for the pew is located through the back doors of the sanctuary.
- Adults and children are also invited to the Gathering Space for worship. A children's table with quiet activities and a rack with children's books are available for little ones.
- If you need a quieter worship space, the parlor is available at 11:00 a.m.
- The nursery is open for children birth through age 3 during both services.
- A mother's nursing room is available at the end of the hallway past the bathrooms (Rm. 108).

**The flowers** gracing the chancel were given by Frank and Jane Resides in honor, and appreciation, of all veterans and active military personnel and especially of our WWII Veterans.

**Please check out the children's posters** on the wall alongside the ramp as you exit the sanctuary through the left front door. On November 20, we concluded a four-week series on Practicing Generosity through our resources, knowledge, justice, and power. In Children's Church, the children heard Esther's story and learned about Greta Thunberg, a teen exerting her power via her voice to educate people about climate change. Children have the power to share their words generously, too. These posters reflect their experiences in caring for God's creation. Hear the children!

Our congregation's **Stephen Ministry** equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing a challenging time in their life. If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, please contact any of our Stephen Ministers. Just look for the **blue** Stephen Ministry badges. If you are experiencing a challenging life event and can use a Christian partner, please contact Rev. Alex Becker ([abecker@covenantfrazer.org](mailto:abecker@covenantfrazer.org)) at the church.

**Adult Sunday School** will meet on **Dec. 11 at 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. on the Lower Level.** The class will study Lesson TWO, "Break the Good News", in the Advent unit, GO TELL. All are welcome! Prior attendance is not required. Contact Jim Godbold ([JHGodbold@gmail.com](mailto:JHGodbold@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

**Lighting the Advent wreath** is our opportunity to anticipate the coming of Jesus at Christmas in worship. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up to light the wreath Sundays during Advent and at Christmas Eve services. **Sign up at [covenantfrazer.org/adventwreath](http://covenantfrazer.org/adventwreath).**

All women are invited to the LIFT (Living in Faith Together) Christmas brunch on **Mon., Dec. 5th at 10 a.m.** Please RSVP to Barbara Rhinehart at 610-763-1079 if you can attend.

Please join us for an open house for all ages: **Advent Make It – Take It Gifts & Soup Supper on Wed. Dec. 7, 5:30 – 7 p.m.** Create gifts for family and friends. Share a soup supper. Please sign up to help at [tinyurl.com/CPCAdvent](http://tinyurl.com/CPCAdvent).

All women are invited to the **Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon on Thurs. Dec. 8th, 11:30 a.m.** Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift for our gift exchange and join us for lunch and some holiday fun! Contact Mary Decker ([marydecker02@comcast.net](mailto:marydecker02@comcast.net)) with any questions.

If you would like to purchase a **poinsettia for our Christmas Eve services** in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form at [covenantfrazer.org/poinsettias](http://covenantfrazer.org/poinsettias) or call the church office to order. The cost is \$8.50 per 6" pot. Orders and payment are **due by December 15**. Poinsettias may be taken home after any of the Christmas Eve Services or on Sunday, December 25th.

**Children's Ministry** needs helpers for **SermonTime/StoryTime** (8:30 – 2 helpers) and **Children's Church** (11:00 – 4 helpers). Sign up to help for a week at [tinyurl.com/CovSunHelpers](http://tinyurl.com/CovSunHelpers).

The **People's Pantry** is now collecting hams and ham coupons. They may be brought to the church during office hours or placed in the lower-level kitchen freezer on Sundays. The pantry is also in need of tuna fish this week.

The next **Broad Street Ministry** trip is **Thurs. Dec. 15th**. Please RSVP to Barbara Rhinehart at 610-763-1079 by Dec. 8th. We take the 8:51 a.m. train from Malvern and return by 3 p.m. It is a wonderful day serving the poor and homeless of Philadelphia a nice lunch.

**Christmas Dinners:** We are looking for families or groups to put together a Christmas meal complete with turkey and all the fixings, for our Coatesville families. We need 12 complete meals. Meals need to be delivered to the church on Thurs., Dec. 15th. Drivers are needed to deliver the meals on Sat., Dec. 17th at 9 a.m. If you are willing to provide a meal for a family or can help deliver meals, please contact Dolly Hatton (610-716-3141); [hellodollyhatton@verizon.net](mailto:hellodollyhatton@verizon.net).

**The Christmas Eve Services** at Covenant are a special time of worship. The feeling is amazing and begins with the greeting that people receive at the door. **We are looking for ushers** to assist in welcoming our visitors and friends and family into our sanctuary. No previous experience necessary. Contact Kurt Moyer ([kmoyer721@gmail.com](mailto:kmoyer721@gmail.com)) or sign up through the link in Wednesday's email blast.

Barb Rhinehart is **collecting winter coats, gloves, hats and scarves for men, women & children for a shelter in Coatesville**. Drop off in the Broad Street Ministry box at the side door. She is also willing to pick up donations. Contact Barb at 610-763-1079.

**Year-end Extra Gifts** to Covenant's ministries and programs are so appreciated and valued. Thank you for making a positive impact on the lives of others. Give online or utilize the pew envelopes and mark "year-end extra gifts". For year-end tax planning purposes, contributions must be received online or in the church office or postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2022 (church office is open until noon on Dec. 31) in order to qualify as an income tax deduction for the 2022 tax year.

Sermons from Sunday mornings are now available as a podcast! Search for Covenant Presbyterian Church on Apple podcasts to listen (or re-listen) to each Sunday's sermon.

### **This Week at Covenant!**

#### **Sun. Dec. 4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

##### **Holiday Hope/Communion**

**8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** - Nursery Open

**8:30 a.m.** – Worship Service/  
SermonTime/StoryTime

**9:45 a.m.** – Congregational Meeting

**10:30 a.m.** – Children's Choir

**11:00 a.m.** – Worship Service/Children's  
Church

**4:30 p.m.** – Youth Group

#### **Mon. Dec. 5**

**10 a.m.** – LIFT Christmas Brunch

**6:30 p.m.** – Promise Keepers

**7 p.m.** – Covenant Strings

**7 p.m.** – Deacon Ministry

#### **Tue. Dec. 6**

**10 a.m.** – Covenant Quilters

**6:45 p.m.** – Unity Handbells

#### **Wed. Dec. 7**

**5:30 p.m.** - Advent Make-it/Take-It &  
Dinner

#### **Thurs. Dec. 8**

**11:30 a.m.** – Presbyterian Women  
Christmas Luncheon

**7 p.m.** – Rehearsal for Concert

**7 p.m.** – Women's Bible Study

#### **Fri. Dec. 9**

**6:30 a.m.** – Promise Keepers

#### **Sun. Dec. 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:15 a.m. – 12 noon** – Nursery Open

**8:30 & 11 a.m.** – Concert for the Christ  
Child

**9:30 a.m.** – Covenant Connect

**9:45 a.m.** – Adult Sunday School

**11:00 a.m.** – Worship Service/Children's  
Church



**Happy Birthday!**

Dorothy Jommersbach – 12/16

Joe Ippolito – 12/29



**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 – 7 p.m. - Advent Make-it/Take-it Gifts & Soup Supper

Please sign up to help at [tinyurl.com/CPCAdvent](http://tinyurl.com/CPCAdvent).

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 & 11 a.m. – Concert for the Christ Child

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services**

**5 & 7 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Story Service, shorter and ideal for children

**9 p.m.** – Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Communion

**11 p.m.** – Acoustic Christmas Eve with Communion

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10 – 10:30 a.m.** – A Service of Christmas Joy – PJ's welcome!

Join us for our new Worship time at **10 a.m.** beginning on Christmas Day!