



**\*Moments of Silent Confession**

**\*Assurance of Pardon** Romans 5:1

*One: Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through the forgiveness of our sin by the washing of the blood of Christ. This is our Good News*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gloria Patri #575** Glory Be to the Father

**Reading** Celeste Hackett, Brynne Hackett,  
Autumn Hackett, Heidi Balz, Reagan McPhedran

**\*Anthem** Away in a Manger

Covenant Children

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** Josephine Balz

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Readings** King 1 Paul Kramer  
King 2 Josephine Balz  
King 3 Reagan McPhedran

**Special Music** Prince of Peace Monica Scott

Peace be still, still, still, on this night, heaven's light.  
(Josephine Balz, Reagan McPhedran, Sophie Horst)

Peace, peace, prince of peace. Healer of men. Peace again peace.

Peace is here, angels near, shepherds meek, wise men seek.  
(Celeste Hackett)

Peace, peace, prince of peace. Healer of men. Peace again, peace.

Peace on earth, Savior's birth, heavenly peace, we will keep.  
(Covenant Young Men)

Peace, peace, prince of peace. Healer of men. Peace again, peace.

**Offertory**

Little Drummer Boy

Covenant Children

Come, they told me, a newborn King to see; our finest gifts we bring  
to lay before the king. So, to honor him when we come.

Baby Gesu, I am a poor boy too. I have no gift to bring that's  
fit to give our king. Shall I play for you on my drum?

Mary nodded, the ox and lamb kept time; I played my drum for him;  
I played my best for him. Then he smiled at me; me and my drum.

**\*Doxology #572** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn** see bulletin page 8 vs. 3,4 We Three Kings

**Readings**

Sophie Horst, Josephine Balz

**Special Music**

Silent Night

Covenant Girls

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, 'round yon virgin, mother and child  
holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht, Alles schläft; einsam wacht, Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia, Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38

Paul Kramer

Pew Bible pg. 723 Large Print Bible pg. 1588

*One: This is God's Word for God's People.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Expect! Miracles!

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

**\*Hymn** see bulletin page 8 vs. 5

We Three Kings

**\*Benediction**

**\*Hymn #108**

Joy to the World

**Postlude**

Partita on *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*, var. 12

Georg Böhm

Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand

The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are given by members and friends of the congregation to the glory of God. Donors may take their plants home after the Christmas Eve Service. See pages 14 and 15.

**Looking ahead to Sunday, December 26**

Next Sunday, December 26 we will gather on the day following Christmas. This will be a joyful celebration of Christ's birth and we will fellowship in the love given to us as God's gift. We will have a Carol Sing in the midst of the service and Pastor Bob will lead a Children's Time – so bring the children, grandchildren and neighbors with children. The sermon is about Jesus – “What will we name the baby?” We will explore the many names of Jesus in the Bible and their meanings. One or more of those names will help you to know Jesus more fully!

# We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.44.6 with refrain

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.

John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; alt.  
Intro. Robert Stigall, 1988

*All:* 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are,  
*Opt. solo:* 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain,  
*Opt. solo:* 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:  
*Opt. solo:* 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume  
*All:* 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise,

*Optional Introduction*

Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing  
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
King and God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,

moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.  
we are rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia Sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,  
Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,  
still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!

The image shows a musical score for a three-line refrain. Each line consists of a vocal melody on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!". The first line ends with a fermata over the final note. The second and third lines end with double bar lines.

# 120 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . . Psa. 98:4*

Isaac Watts, 1719  
Based on Psalm 98

ANTIOCH C.M.  
George Frederick Handel, 1742  
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -  
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. And  
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.  
heav'n and na - ture sing,

JESUS CHRIST

**This Week at Covenant-First**

**Sunday, December 19**

9 AM — Choir Rehearsal  
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School  
9:30 AM — Pageant Rehearsal  
10:30 AM — Worship with Children's Christmas Pageant  
11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

**Wednesday, December 22**

12 PM — Brown Bag Bible Study

**Friday, December 24**

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve pre-service music begins  
7 PM — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**The Christmas Eve Service this year will be a traditional Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service. We will have 30 minutes of pre-service music beginning at 6:30 PM. The service will begin at 7 PM. Plan to attend and invite your friends!**

**Saturday, December 25**

Merry Christmas!

**Planning Ahead**

**Sunday, December 26**

9:15 AM — Adult Bible Study  
10:30 AM — Worship  
11:30 AM — Fellowship Time

**Wednesday, December 29**

No Brown Bag Bible Study

**Friday, December 30**

*Courier* Deadline

**Saturday, December 31**

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study in Chapel