

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021 • 7 PM



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202
covfirstchurch.org • covfirstoffice@gmail.com • 513-621-4144

Please note: Before the worship service begins, please turn off all cell phones or set them to silent mode. Thank you.

Welcome to Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Whether you attend Covenant-First Presbyterian Church on a regular basis or are here for the first time, we are glad you are here. Covenant-First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1790, and has been a part of downtown Cincinnati ever since. Our building was completed in 1875, and the Austin Pipe Organ dates to 1915, with its approximately 3,500 pipes. We have traditional worship with Bible-based preaching each week. Our music program is enhanced by our Music Scholar program and we are excited to have them lead in worship most Sundays.

Parking

Validated parking is available in the adjacent garage for all worship services. Please pick up a validation sticker and apply the sticker to your parking ticket to use for validation. Then simply scan your ticket with the sticker at the parking gate on your way out of the garage. If you are unsure how to obtain your parking sticker, any greeter or our security personnel will be happy to assist you.

About us

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1790, and has been a part of downtown Cincinnati ever since. Our building was completed in 1875, and the Austin Pipe Organ, with its approximately 3,500 pipes, dates to 1915. We invite you to join us for worship any Sunday at 10:30 AM.

If you are interested in learning more about Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, please pick up any of the literature located on the back tables, see an usher, contact the church office at 513-621-4144, or visit our website at www.covfirstchurch.org.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Pre-Service Music

- Away in a Manger
Andrew Hackett, Organ
arr. Andrew Hackett
- I Wonder as I Wander
Still, Still, Still
Evelina Konaniah, Piano
Audrey Assad
Austrian Carol
- O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam/Placide Cappeau
- Mary Did you Know?
Jordan Krack, Baritone
Mark Lowry/Buddy Green
- Go Tell it on the Mountain
Covenant Handbell Trio
Spiritual/arr. Sanders
- And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah*
Covenant Choir
G.F. Handel
- Silent Night
Andrew Hackett, Organ
arr. Andrew Hackett

* * * * *

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

***Opening Carol #109** Once in Royal David's City Bulletin page 7

***Call to Worship** Isaiah 9:1-5 Randy Page

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

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

One: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice;

All: Let all of creation sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming.

One: He is coming to judge the earth and he will judge with righteousness and truth.

All: And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

***Carol #100** O Come, O Come Emmanuel Bulletin page 8

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Marney Weis

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

*Carol #103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Bulletin page 9

Evelina Konaniah, piano

Prayer for Christmas Eve

All: Most Loving Father, thank you for this night and for all it represents. Thank you for the hope you bestow, the peace you bring, the love you pour out, and the joy you give. We praise you most of all for Jesus, your Word made flesh. May he light our way as the holy star lights the way for us to prepare for Christ's birth in our lives today. Amen.

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst/

The Covenant Choir

Arr. Albin Witworth

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God heav'n cannot behold him, nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, the Lord God Almighty, Jesus, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; What I can I give him; give him my heart. What I can I give him; give him my heart.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Kelly Millhaem

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

*Carol #106

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Bulletin page 10

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Patricia Kimbrel

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

*Carol #104

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Bulletin page 11

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Aaron Bell

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Anthem Love Came Down at Christmas John Rutter
The Covenant Choir

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign. Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus. But where-with for sacred sign? But where with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign; Love for plea and gift and sign.

Scripture Lesson John 3:16 Rev. Dr. Robert C. Anderson
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Meditation A Love Story Rev. Dr. Robert C. Anderson

Christmas Offering

*Our special Christmas Offering will be shared between **Justin & Krista Clermont**, ministering with **AIM in Chad**, and **Pat Durst**, ministering with **International Friendships** at the University of Cincinnati. Both are long-time partners with our congregation. Please write “Christmas” on a pew envelope or on your check’s memo line to designate your offering to these ministry partners. All loose or undesignated gifts will be used to support the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Thank you for being generous!*

Offertory
The Covenant Choir

Christmas Sanctus

Susan and Lee Dengler

See the weary pair, nestled in a stable bare, gazing at their baby boy, filled with love and praise. Earth and heaven sing, worshipping the newborn king, who has come to change the world. Join in songs and praise.

Holy, holy, holy is the blessed one. Heav'n and earth are filled with your glory.
Holy, holy, holy is the promised Son. Glory be to God in the highest!

See the shepherds run, searching for God's precious son; kneeling at his manger bed, filled with love and praise. Every knee will bow. Ev'ry tongue confessing now, Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Join in songs of praise.

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Robert C. Anderson

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

Pat Durst

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***Carol #110**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Bulletin page 12

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Adams Family

All: Almighty God, we thank you for Jesus' gift of your love born among us that we may know the light of eternal life. Help us to carry this light in our hearts, shining in the world to show the way of God's life and love. Amen.

***We Welcome the Light of Christ**

Our service of candle lighting will conclude our worship this evening. The ushers will come forward and light the candles for the people seated at the ends of the pews. As your candle is lit, please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Remember the person with the unlit candle should tilt theirs toward the lit candle to prevent the hot wax from dripping. Keep passing the light until all candles are lit.

Once in Royal David's City 109

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior . . . Luke 2:11

IRBY 878777

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and Lord of
3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us He
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Thro' His own re - deem - ing

shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and
love; For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our

man - ger for His bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and
smiles like us He knew: And He feel - eth for our
Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child,
low - ly Lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, And He shar - eth in our glad - ness.
on To the place where He is gone.

HIS BIRTH

100 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Behold a virgin shall . . . bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel. Isa. 7:14

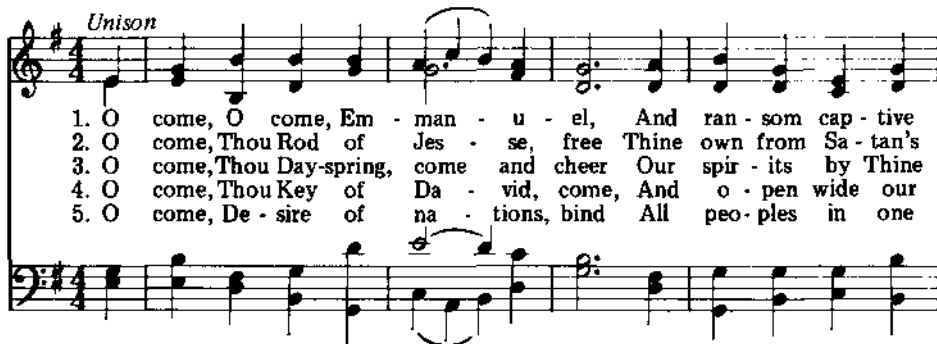
Latin hymn.

Trans. by John M. Neale, 1851
St. 5 Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

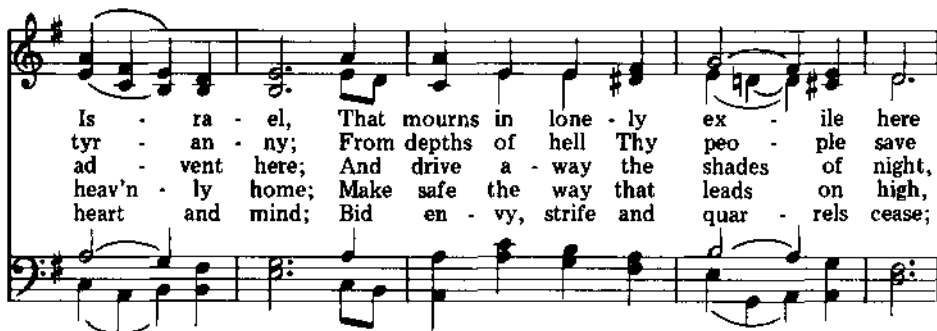
VENI EMMANUEL 8 8 8 8 8 8

Thomas Helmore, 1854
Based on plainsong phrases

Unison



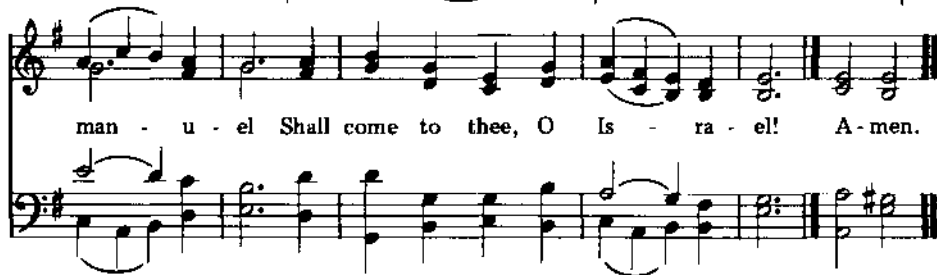
1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
3. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
4. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our
5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save
ad - vent here; And drive a - way the shades of night,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
And pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re-joyce! re-joyce! Em-
And close the path to mis - er - y.
Fill all the world with heav - en's peace.



man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

O Come, All Ye Faithful 103

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem . . . Luke 2:15

Latin hymn
Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751
Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg. Ref.
John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord. A-men.

HIS BIRTH

106 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D. Ref.

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King." A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

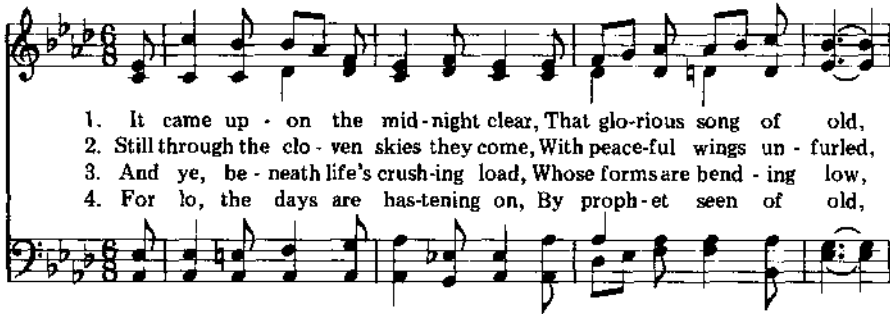
104 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . . Luke 2:14

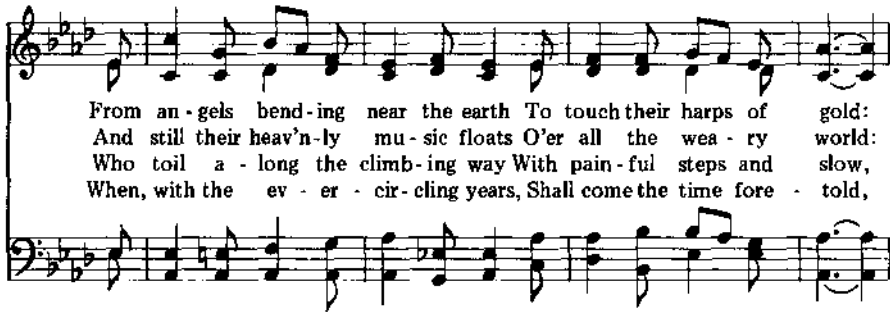
Edmund H. Sears, 1849

CAROL C.M.D.

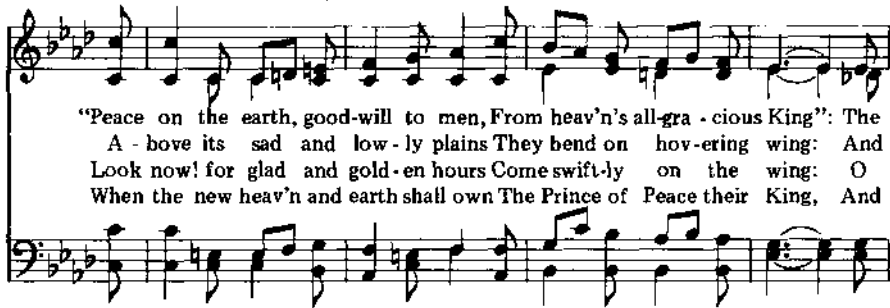
Richard S. Willis, 1850



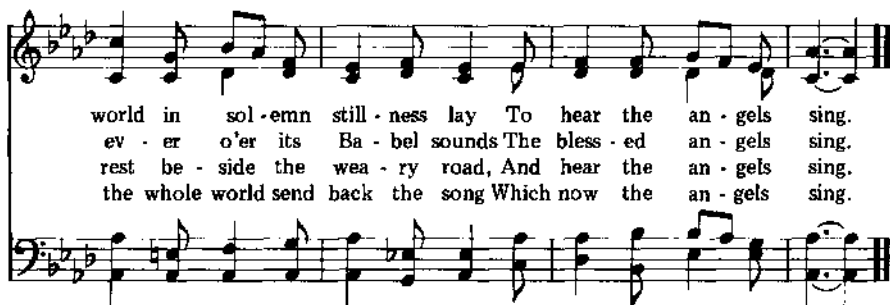
1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, By proph-et seen of old,



From an - gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world:
Who toil a - long the climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and slow,
When, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, Shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heav'n's all-gra - cious King": The
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-ering wing: And
Look now! for glad and gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing: O
When the new heav'n and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King, And



world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
the whole world send back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

JESUS CHRIST


110 Angels from the Realms of Glory

We ... are come to worship Him. Matt. 2:2



REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

Henry T. Smart, 1867


James Montgomery, 1816



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.



This tune in a lower key. No. 185

117 Silent Night! Holy Night!

And they . . . found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Trans. by John F. Young, 1863

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Grüber, 1818



1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'Round you vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth. A - men.



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



Watercolor and poem by
Bob Anderson , 12/21/2009

Christmas Presence

Our holiday tree is centered, glittering,
evergreen with hope filled possibilities;
green fronds folded, hands raised in prayer,
climbing clouds toward
heaven above.

Our presents scatter about the tree,
a colorful riot of paper, bows, and surprise-
presents waiting to be unwrapped, untied
to reveal
God's Presence – Emmanuel.

God's Gift of Presence - Emmanuel –
God with us in this day's complexities
guiding, nudging, a helper beside us
when we are
beside ourselves.

Emmanuel – a gift of eternity's light
dispelling darkness in our time-worn lives,
light now safely lodged in our frail shells -
God with us,
Christmas Presence.

* * * * *

Merry Christmas, Covenant-First congregation! Be assured that God is with us and at work within us and among us. In the new year, let's make room for Jesus to teach us, heal us, grow us and be joyfully aware that he is with us!

Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson

Thank you for your contribution of poinsettias

The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are given by members and friends of the congregation. Donors may take their plants home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Given by:

Lisa and Meredith Allgood

Pat Beckman

Pat Durst

Genita and Rob Heidenreich

Nancy Hobstetter

Rick and Patricia Kimbrel

René and Reagan McPhedran

Marjeane Sallada

Jack and Marney Weis

Given in honor of:

To the glory of God and in honor of loved ones

Children, Grandchildren and Laurie

With thanks and glory to God

Al and Lil Richert

John and Helen Hobstetter, Phil and Susan Cameron, loved ones

Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ

Lt. Col. Donald William Thomas (retired)

Paul Sallada

Our Covenant-First musicians



Given by:

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson

Pat Beckman

Becky Bell

Dan and Ginsel Bell

Carol Carhartt

Rod and Amy Crousey

Charlotte and Bob Goering

Hackett Family

Rob and Genita Heidenreich

Rick and Patricia Kimbrel

Al and Addie Landis

Joan McAlonan

René and Reagan McPhedran

Don, Carl, David and Ruth Ross

Marjeane Sallada

Scott Smith

Jeff and Cindy Standen

Ann Thinnes

Joan Van Epps

Jack and Marney Weis

Given in memory of:

Anderson Family

Jeff Beckman and Family

G.W. and Barbara H. Bell

Ken and Jeanne McCoy

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Larson

Nancy Magnusson

Mary Ann and Robert Williamson,
Ruth Goering

Gloria Jacob (Mema)

Russ and Edie Heidenreich

Our parents: Emmett and Ethlyn Matthews,
B.J. and Dorthy Kimbrel

Our loving parents

Kay McAlonan

Lorraine Thomas, Adam A. McPhedran,

Our parents Don and Laura Ross, Loved ones

Jane Sallada

E. Donald Smith

Arthur and Lois Standen

Tom Thinnes

Mom, Dad and David

Our parents



CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Choir Director: Yolanda Ortiz-Parker
Organist: Andrew Hackett
Church Administrator: Genita Heidenreich
Interim Sexton: Jason Harmon

Organ Scholar: Hayden Glasgow
Choral Scholars: Zach Burnham, Lucy
Evans, Jarrett Hazelton, Georgia Jacobsen,
Madeline Jentsch, Jordan Krack, Clara
Reeves, Emilio Vasquez.

COVENANT-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
717 ELM STREET * CINCINNATI, OH * 45202
WWW.COVFIRSTCHURCH.ORG

Church Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM;
other hours are available by appointment