



CHRIST
Presbyterian Church

BURKE

Lord's Day Worship
December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

*During Christian worship we cross the threshold
of the secular to the sacred,
from the common to the uncommon,
from the profane to the holy.
Our contact with the holy is not merely an encounter
with a different dimension of reality;
it is the meeting with Absolute Reality.
Christianity is not about involvement with religious experience as a tangent.
It involves a meeting with a holy God.¹*

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude: *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*, Matt Boswell, Keith Getty, Stuart Townend (2015)

*Sing we the song of Emmanuel;
this, the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem,
promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High, in a manger laid.
Lift your voices and now proclaim, "
Great and glorious, Love has come to us."
Join now with the hosts of heaven.*

*Come we to welcome Emmanuel,
King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless he lay, the Invincible,
Maker of Mary, now Mary's Son.
Oh, what wisdom to save us all!
Shepherds, sages before him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility!
Come, on bended knee adore him.*

CALL TO WORSHIP: JOHN 1:1–5, 9

Minister: ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Church: ⁹ **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

¹ R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2010), 144, 146.

HYMN OF ADORATION

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, Light of Light;
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; come and be - hold him
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels;
got - ten not cre - at - ed; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est;
late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: CREED OF CHALCEDON²

**All: We, then, following the holy fathers,
teach people to confess One and the same Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
the same perfect in Godhead
and also perfect in manhood;
truly God and truly man,
of a rational soul and body;
of one substance with the Father according to his Godhead,
and of one substance with us according to his manhood;
like us in all things, without sin;
begotten before all ages of the Father, according to his Godhead;
and in these latter days,
for us and for our salvation,
born of the Virgin Mary, the God-bearer, according to his manhood;
one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten,
to be acknowledged in two natures,
without confusion, without change,
without division, without separation;
the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union,
but rather the property of each nature being preserved,
and concurring in one person and one subsistence,
not parted or divided into two persons,
but one and the same Son,
the Only-begotten,
God the Word,
the Lord Jesus Christ,
as the prophets from the beginning declared concerning him,
and the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us,
and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.
Amen.**

² The Creed of Chalcedon was established by a Council of the early church that met in October of the year 451. Its purpose was to provide an orthodox definition of Christ as fully God (in response to the heresy of Arianism), fully man (in response to the heresy of Docetism), indivisibly united (against Nestorianism), without confusion as a third kind of being (against Eutyches). The Creed of Chalcedon, also known as the Definition of Chalcedon, is accepted among the 4 ecumenical creeds (alongside the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed) by most churches. By confessing the same faith as the early church, we believe that the Reformation was not the beginning of a new church but a continuation of Christ's church until He returns.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

**All: Almighty and All-Holy Father,
we confess ourselves unworthy of Your unspeakable Gift.
We have not loved You as we ought;
nor have we been loving or forgiving to one another;
even as You have forgiven us.
We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride;
and the good gifts You have bestowed upon us;
we have not used to relieve the burdens of others.
Pardon and blot out our offenses, we beseech You;
through our incarnate Lord, Your holy Son, we pray. Amen.**

An Advent Confession, Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (1946)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 PETER 2:24–25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

³ In our prayer of confession, we are honest with God, with ourselves, and with each other about who God is and who we are, confessing to Him that He is holy, righteous, just, and loving; and that we are not; yet, we are trusting in His mercy and grace available in Jesus Christ. We then have the joy of hearing God's Word say that He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins when we confess (1 John 1:9). And we have the joy of responding in song.

HYMN OF CONFESSION

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Song of Mary

1. My soul doth mag - ni - fy the Lord; my spir - it
2. Be - hold, all gen - er - a - tions hence my bless - ed -
3. For gen - er - a - tions, fear - ing him, his mer - cy
4. He cast the might - y from their thrones, and lift - ed
5. He helped his ser - vant Is - ra - el, in mem - 'ry

doth re - joice in God, for he, my Sav - ior,
ness will e'er pro - claim. The Might - y One hath
• will on them a - bide. His might - y arm dis -
those of low es - tate. The hun - gry he hath
of his mer - cy sure, as told our fa - ther

did in grace his ser - vant's hum - ble state re - gard.
done great things for me, and ho - ly is his name.
• plays his strength; he scat - ters those who dwell in pride.
filled with good; the rich he emp - ty sent a - way.
A - bra - ham, and to his seed for - ev - er - more.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

As the Apostle Paul encouraged churches to "Greet one another" (Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26), please greet those around you, and please introduce yourself to anyone you do not know.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Christ intercedes for His church in prayer (John 17; Luke 23:34; Hebrews 7:25), and He gives His church the ministry of praying "with each other for each other" as well praying for the community in which our church is placed (1 Timothy 2:1–4). We also use this time to pray for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world (Matthew 6:10).

NEW TESTAMENT READING: LUKE 23:24–56

So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD

Born to Die Part II: In Darkness

J. Porter Harlow, Minister

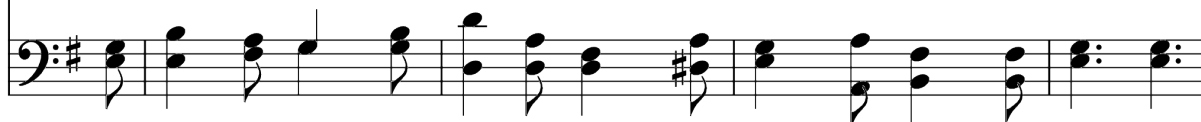
What Child Is This



1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.



SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord Jesus Christ invites all of His followers to commune with Him at His table. If you have publicly professed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and are a communing member in good standing with one of His faithful churches, then you are invited.

Each row will be invited to come forward. You may put your hands out, and the server will put the bread into your hands. Partake of the bread, then move to receive and partake of the cup.

If you have children who have not yet professed faith and been admitted as communing members of a Christian church, you are invited to bring them up with you, not to receive the Supper, but so that our officers may pray for the Lord's covenant blessings upon them as members of the household of God.

If you are not yet a follower of Christ, we are glad that you are here, but God's Word says in 1 Corinthians 11 that you should not partake of this meal until you become His follower and recognize what this meal represents: His sacrifice for the sins of those who follow him. Instead of receiving the meal, we invite you to remain in your seat during the meal and receive Christ as he has made come to you in the reading and preaching of His Word today. If you would like to become a member of this church and celebrate this meal with us in the future, please speak to our pastor or one of our elders. They would love to hear your story!

Meditation: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, words Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413 AD), translated by John Mason Neale (1854) set to the tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (12th Century)

*Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!*

*O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing:
all dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

During our prayer of thanksgiving, we express our thankfulness for what the Lord has provided, and we ask him to use our tithes and offerings to advance his kingdom and provide for those in need. Our church has three opportunities to give: (1) over the internet, (2) the collection box on the back table, or (3) by mail. Please see the announcements page for details.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

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Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Thomas Ken, 1674

OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

BENEDICTION: EPHESIANS 3:20–21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leadership. Christ Presbyterian is served by the following leaders:

- Teaching Elders: Porter Harlow and Robert Hasler
- Ruling Elders: Scott Hatch, Kevin Horrigan, David Hudak, and Philip Lee
- Deacons: Nathanael Achor, Gunnar Conrow, David Och, Wade Woo, Chuck Virts
- Women's Ministry Leadership Team: Bethany Fernandez, Kristy Hatch, and Lee Ann Hudak

Giving. You may support the work of the Lord by giving in the following ways.

- **Internet.** Go to <https://cpcburke.org/support> or you may scan this QR Code.
- **Offering Box.** You may place your offering in the wooden box on the back table. Offering boxes were used in Old Testament synagogues (Luke 21:1-4). The early church continued to use them. Most churches eliminated them when they made the collection part of the worship service. During the Reformation, some churches returned to the practice, and with the increasing use of electronic giving, many churches are returning to the Biblical precedent of offering boxes.



Recurring Events

- **First Sunday Fellowship Meals** on the first Sunday of the month after worship.
- **Sunday School.** We offer Sunday School after worship starting at 11:05 AM for children ages 0-3 in the nursery, Pre-K to K next to the nursery, 1st to 5th grades meet in the pod outside the nursery before breaking into their 2 classes, Middle and High School meet in the music room, and the adults meet in sanctuary.
- **Small Groups**
 - Wednesday Small Group meets weekly at 7:30 pm in the Hudak home.
 - Friday Small Group meets on 2d and 4th Fridays at 6:00 pm in a rotating home.
 - Sunday Small Group meets on 2d and 4th Sundays at 4:00 pm in a rotating home.
- **Men's Breakfast** meets on the second Saturday of each month.
- **Women's Fellowship.** The Women's Bible Study meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Missions We Support. Please pray for the missions we support.

- **Church Planting in DC Area.** One Voice Fellowship, pastored by Chris Sicks, is a multilingual church on mission to reach ethnic and religious minorities in Falls Church.
- **Church Planting in Dearborn, Michigan.** Jerry Riendeau is preparing to plant in Dearborn, Michigan, home to the largest Arabic speaking population outside the Middle East.
- **Church Planting in England.** Oxford Presbyterian Church is a church being planted in Oxford, England, by Andy Young.
- **Church Planting in Japan.** Jason & Ai Kueh are PCA missionaries planting in Shin-Urayasu, a Tokyo suburb. Jason is also ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Japan.
- **Church Planting in East Asia.** We support a PCA missionary who is training pastors in East Asia as part of a church planting movement underway there.
- **Reformed University Fellowship-International at GMU.** Pastor Matthew DeLong and staff member Janelle Grove are on mission to reach international students at GMU.
- **Reformed University Fellowship-International at University of Alabama, Birmingham.** Our own Joanna Woo is serving as an intern for RUF-I at UAB.

Mercy Ministries We Support

- **The Lamb Center** is a daytime homeless shelter sharing the love of Christ in Fairfax.
- **Assist Pregnancy Center.** Assist has a mission "to promote life through Christ to those vulnerable to abortion."
- **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO):** Local food pantry.

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