



# *Welcome to our church!*

We're glad you're here! We hope you experience the warmth and welcome of Christ our Savior in this community.

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**If this is your first time visiting**, please fill out a **Visitor's Card**. We would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit **[tc pca.org/visitor](https://tc pca.org/visitor)** or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone camera, or fill out the Visitor Card in your pew and place it in the Offering bowl.

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## *Preparing Our Hearts for Worship...*

“Isaac Watts wrote the last stanza of ‘Joy To The World’ in anticipation of Christ’s future reign, a time when Jesus will indeed rule directly in this world. The curse of sin will be broken; gone will be war, plagues and natural disasters. He will not be an elected ruler, but He will reign by virtue of who He is; ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’ Today He brings peace to individuals, but the day is coming when He will bring peace to the nations.”

- Dr. Erwin Lutzer

## **COVER ARTWORK**

Photo by KaLisa Veer

## Liturgy Notes

Do you have questions about how we worship? This column answers the “what” and “why” of each element of our liturgy.

### Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is traditionally the first element in a Christian liturgy, serving as the moment of consecration. God’s Word is used to invite us into the sacred time of corporate worship, and we respond with our voices as an answer to His call.

### Congregational Singing

A unique aspect of Christian worship is that we sing together. Our singing is an expression of love for God and joy in His gospel. Singing strong hymns grounded in the truths of our theology raises our eyes from awe of the created to awe of the Creator. Scripture commands us to sing. Beautiful voices are not required, but a community joining together to sing truth and to sing it with passion and conviction is beautiful to our God.

# Order of Worship

December 4, 2022 at 9:00AM and 11:15AM

**REJOICE** Declare the praises of God

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## Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

### Call to Worship

LEADER: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**PEOPLE: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great King over all the earth.**

LEADER: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**PEOPLE: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

### Hymn of Rejoicing *Joy To The World*

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts  
©Public Domain

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

#### ***(unison melody)***

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

# Welcome & Announcements

## Ordination & Installation of Elders

LEADER: What do you ask of your elders?

**PEOPLE: The office of elder is set forth in the Scriptures as one of authority and guidance, after the example of the Lord Jesus. It is your duty as elder to watch diligently over the flock committed to your charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. You are to exercise government and discipline, and take oversight of the spiritual interests of our church. You are to instruct the uninformed, train the unequipped, comfort the mournful, nourish and guard the children of the covenant, and pray for the people under your care. You are to set an example by your zeal to evangelize the unconverted and make disciples. You are to love as you have been loved, to serve as you have been served, and in all things maintain the peace and purity of Christ's Church. May God grant you grace for your failures, and strength to be faithful.**

### ORDINATION & INSTALLATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

### QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive these brothers as ruling elders, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

## Choir Anthem *Brightest And Best*

Text: Reginald Heber  
Tune: Southern Harmony  
Arr. Shawn Kirchner  
©2016 Boosey & Hawkes

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for His guard the bright angels attend. *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid; Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.* Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining; low lies His head with the beasts of the stall; angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all! Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and off'rings divine, gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

## RENEW Receive the grace of God

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### Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-14 (Pew Bible p. 857)

LEADER: All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall...

**PEOPLE: ...but the Word of the Lord stands forever.**

### Confession of God's People

**UNISON: Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow You without question. In this Advent season, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by Your grace, assist us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as You have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus.**

- *Silent Prayers of Confession* -

### Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Has Christ come?

**PEOPLE: He has.**

LEADER: Will he return?

**PEOPLE: He will.**

LEADER: Is your trust in Him alone?

**PEOPLE: It is.**

### Confession of God's People

In the Confession of Sin we humbly agree with Scripture's claim that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This is the most honest moment of our week, as we confess our sin and shame together. We do this corporately through a unison litany or prayer and individually through a moment of silence for private confession.

### Repentance of God's People

Our time of confession becomes a time of fresh commitment through corporate repentance. Together we boldly turn from all evil and offer our lives again to God. Only say these words if you are indeed willing to repent of your sins.

## Assurance of God's Pardon from John 15:11

LEADER: These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

## Greeting of the Peace of Christ

### Hymn of Renewal *The King Shall Come* (Music on Page 10)

Words: Early Greek Hymn, Trans. John Brownlie, 1907

Music: Trad. American, KENTUCKY HARMONY, 1816

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The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

O brighter than the rising morn when He, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.

O brighter than that glorious morn shall this fair morning be,  
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes, and we His face shall see!

And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,  
When right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy people pray: "Come quickly, King of Kings."

## RESPOND Embrace the call of God

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### Confession of Faith The Apostles Creed

**UNISON: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic<sup>†</sup> Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

<sup>†</sup> *Worldwide communion of faith, past, present, and future.*

### Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

### Offertory Prayer

### Assurance of God's Pardon

Confession and repentance is always met with the surety of God's grace. The minister proclaims to the penitent community words of pardon from Scripture, assuring our hearts of the grace that is already ours in Christ Jesus.

### Confession of Faith

We confess together the convictional truths of orthodoxy by reciting the ancient creeds of our faith. We share these words with saints throughout the centuries as well as those throughout the world today. This also serves as a bold proclamation to the watching world of what we believe is true.

### Offering

The offering is received, not merely as a way to pay the bills, but as an act of worship. In response to the God from whom all blessings flow, we give freely, joyfully, and sacrificially to His beloved bride, the Church.



## Hymn of Preparation *Joy Has Dawned* (Music on Page 11)

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

© 2004 Thankyou Music

CCLI #247013

### *(solo verse 1)*

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love, Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place shaped the earth in darkness  
Rest within a mother's arms, vulnerable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story  
Gold a King is born today, incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam Son of heaven, given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Savior what a Friend, what a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history

### **GOSPEL STORYTIME**

*At this time, children ages 4 - Kindergarten may be dismissed to Room 103 for prayer, singing, and a lesson from the Gospel Story Bible. They will return to the Sanctuary at the end of the sermon to be with their families during Communion.*

## Scripture Reading Zephaniah 3:14-17 (Pew Bible p. 790)

LEADER: The Word of the Lord. **PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Rev. Luke Rakestraw, Assistant Pastor

### **"Trusting God's Joy"**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

You will be released from your pew to come forward and receive the communion elements, and we will take the elements together once everyone has been served.

## Words of Institution

MINISTER: Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

**UNISON: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!**

### Sermon

The preaching of God's Word in the context of holy worship is the primary means of God's voice to His people. Our trust is not in the ability of the preacher, but in the promise that God, by His Spirit working in and through His word, is speaking to us in exceptional ways. Therefore, we open our minds and hearts to the uniquely formative power of ordained preaching.

MINISTER: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, He took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

## Holy Communion

### Hymn of Response *What Child Is This?*

Tune: GREENSLEAVES  
Words: William Chatterton Dix  
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» ***The Mercy Fund offering will be collected at the beginning of this hymn.***

What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.

This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, King, to own Him.  
The King of kings, salvation brings, let loving arms enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.  
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

Nails, spears shall pierce Him through, the cross He bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.

## Benediction

MINISTER: Go love your God; **PEOPLE: Go love your neighbor.**



### Giving Report For more information, visit [tcpca.org/give](http://tcpca.org/give).

October Giving: \$180,932	Total FY Giving Goal: \$2,728,820
October Goal: \$218,306	(October 2022 - September 2023)
<b>Difference: -\$37,374</b>	

### Communion

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a holy ordinance, wherein Christ and his gospel are represented and applied to His people. Though the bread and wine are not literally the body and blood of Jesus, this meal is far more than a sentimental reminder. It is spiritual nourishment to our souls and a means of growth in His grace. Communion is the family meal of Christians, and all followers of Jesus who are in good standing with His Church are invited to partake.

### Prayer Chain

If you would like to share prayer requests with our church prayer chain, we would love to pray for you. Please feel free to send an email to:

Kathryn Lyon  
[KRL40502@aol.com](mailto:KRL40502@aol.com)

Janet Whitley  
[janetjwhitley@gmail.com](mailto:janetjwhitley@gmail.com)



# Announcements

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## Christmas Cantata on December 18 at 6:00 PM

Mark your calendars for our first Christmas Cantata since 2019! “Come and worship” with choir and musicians on Sunday, December 18 at 6 pm. This will be an Advent celebration in scripture and song. Also, *if you are planning to use the nursery* during the Cantata, please help us plan well for workers by scanning this QR code to fill out the RSVP form for your child(ren).



## Combined Breakfast for Vine & Bridge Sunday School on December 11

If you've been attending either the Vine or Bridge Class over the past few months, please join us for a combined potluck breakfast during the Sunday School hour on December 11. Everyone is invited to bring a breakfast item to share with the group.

## Giving Back at Christmas

Advent is a wonderful time to glorify God for the gifts of grace, health, and joy He has given us. It's also the perfect time to look around our neighborhood and community for ways to help those who are in need. Our Pastor of Mercy & Outreach, Luke Rakestraw, has put together two easy ways to do just that.

### Sunrise Children and Foster Care

TCPC partners with Sunrise each year at Christmas to help provide a shopping spree and fun for the Christmas Season. There is no financial obligation. Just show up to help the boys and girls shop for gifts on their wish list and have fun with them at Malibu Jack's afterward. If you are interested in helping out please email Luke Rakestraw ([lrakestraw@tcpca.org](mailto:lrakestraw@tcpca.org)) and see the dates below:

12/6 - Shopping with the Sunrise Boys and Fun at Malibu Jacks (starting at 9:00 am at Fayette Mall)

12/12 - Shopping with the Sunrise Girls and Fun at Malibu Jacks (starting at 9:00 am at Fayette Mall)

### Millcreek Elementary & Tates Creek Community Center

Every year TCPC partners with neighborhood schools to help out with Christmas presents for families in need, and as of this week, we have 10 kids remaining to be sponsored! If you have interest in sponsoring a neighborhood family for Christmas please email Luke Rakestraw ([lrakestraw@tcpca.org](mailto:lrakestraw@tcpca.org)).

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## Upcoming Events

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DECEMBER 18 • 6:00 PM

### Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER 24 • 5:00 & 11:00 PM

### Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 25 • 9:00 AM ONLY

### Christmas Sunday Worship

JANUARY 1 • 9:00 AM ONLY

### New Year's Sunday Worship

# The King Shall Come

Words: Early Greek Hymn, Trans. John Brownlie, 1907

Music: Trad. American, KENTUCKY HARMONY, 1816

© Public Domain



1. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri-umph-ant breaks,
2. O bright-er than the\_\_ ris-ing morn when He, vic-to-rious, rose
3. O bright-er than that\_\_ glo-rious morn shall this fair morn-ing be,
4. And let the end-less\_\_ bliss be-gin, by wear-y saints fore-told,
5. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns, and light and beau-ty brings;



when beau-ty\_\_ gilds the east-ern hills, and life to joy a-wakes.  
and\_\_ left the lone-some place of death, de-spite the rage of foes.  
when Christ, our King, in beau-ty\_\_ comes, and we His faceshall see.  
when right shall tri-umph o-ver wrong, and truth shall be ex-tolled.  
Hail! Christ the Lord; Thy peo-ple pray, "Come quick-ly King of kings."


# Joy Has Dawned

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend


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CCLI #247013


V.1 Solo




1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, pro - mised from cre - a - tion:  
2. Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels;  
3. Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry;  
4. Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som,



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
As the might - y Prince of Life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry.  
rec - on cil - ing God and man, Christ our might - y Cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness.  
Gold, a King is born to - day; In - cense, God is with us;  
What a Sav - ior, what a Friend, what a glo - rious mys - 'try:



but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of Ma - ry.  
rest with - in a moth er's arms vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
Myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He'll win\_\_ us.  
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - 'try.

# Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

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Learn more about our church online at [tcpca.org](http://tcpca.org)