



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.



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 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.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship...

“This is the kind of peace we sing of during Advent. It is the kind of peace the Mother of Jesus must have had at the foot of the cross. While there is no absence of conflict (quite the opposite, actually), there is a strange presence here. A presence that, in the dead body of Jesus, is working resurrection. The peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of the promise she received from the angel thirty years before the cross.”

- Tim Keller

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

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Advent Reading & Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

LEADER: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

PEOPLE: We come to be inspired by stories of a Messiah who will change the world—and change us.

LEADER: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

PEOPLE: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts. We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

UNISON: Come! Let us worship our God— the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

Hymn of Rejoicing *O Come All Ye Faithful*

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade
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O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him born the King of angels

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

God of God, Light of light
Lo He abhors not the virgin’s womb
Very God, begotten not created

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing

Welcome & Announcements

Membership Vows

11:15 - Dusty Lashbrook

Choir Anthem *Hear the Angels Sing*

Pamela Martin | Lloyd Larson | Traditional French Carol
©2002 Lorenz Publishing Company

Hear the angels singing joyful news to all the earth. Tidings they are bringing of the Savior's birth. Hear the angels singing joyful news to all the earth. Tidings they are bringing of the Savior's birth. Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel!
Sing far and near! God's own Son is born on earth; God's own Son is born so dear. Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Sing far and near! God's own Son is born on earth; God's own Son is born so dear. Lying in a manger, in a humble cattle stall. Kings and nations worship; at His feet they fall. Let us then be joyful! Christ has come to bear our pain, comfort us in sorrow, make us glad again! Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Sing far and near! God's own Son is born on earth; God's own Son is born so dear. Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel! Sing far and near! God's own Son is born on earth; God's own Son is born so dear. Noel! Noel!
Noel!

RENEW Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 (Pew Bible p. 573)

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: O promised Christ, with eager hearts we await Your advent.

LEADER: We confess our fears, doubts, and discontent...

PEOPLE: Come, Lord Jesus, our hope depends upon Your advent.

LEADER: We confess our despondency, ingratitude, and grumbling...

PEOPLE: Come, Lord Jesus, our joy depends upon Your advent.

LEADER: We confess our bitterness, divisiveness, and hostility...

PEOPLE: Come, Lord Jesus, our love depends upon Your advent.

LEADER: We confess our restlessness, anxieties, and despair...

PEOPLE: Come, Lord Jesus, our peace depends upon Your advent.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

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

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.

Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Are you broken and sorrowful over your transgressions and sins?

PEOPLE: By grace, we are.

LEADER: Do you return again to the Lord your God, seeking to obey Him alone?

PEOPLE: By grace, we do.

Assurance of God's Pardon from John 3

LEADER: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be saved.

Greeting of the Peace of Christ

Hymn of Renewal *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
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Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism Question 1

LEADER: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

UNISON: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

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

Hymn of Preparation *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis
© Words: Public Domain

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

(continue on next page)

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.

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old.
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

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 Luke 2:8-14 (Pew Bible p. 857)

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

Sermon Rev. Will Witherington, Assistant Pastor

“An Invasion of Peace”

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!

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

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.

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.

Hymn of Response *I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day* (Music on Page 10)

Henry W. Longfellow | Jean Baptiste Calkin
Chorus inspired by Mark Hall
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I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

*Peace on Earth, peace on Earth
Peace on Earth, goodwill to men*

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor does He sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail
With peace on earth goodwill to men

*Peace on Earth, peace on Earth
Peace on Earth, goodwill to men*

Benediction

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



Giving Report

For more information, visit tcpca.org/give.

November Giving:	\$221,379	Total FY Giving (Oct-Nov):	\$402,310
November Goal:	\$191,017	Giving Goal (Oct-Nov):	\$409,323
Difference:	+ 30,362	Difference:	-\$7,013

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

Janet Whitley
janetjwhitley@gmail.com

Announcements

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 TODAY

If you've been attending either the Vine or Bridge Class over the past few months, please join us today for a combined potluck breakfast during the Sunday School hour.

Congregational Meeting on January 8 at 6:00 PM

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 8, at 6:00 PM to present and vote upon two options for choosing a pulpit committee. If you did not receive the email sent this past Thursday, which outlines both options in detail, please let us know by emailing contact@tcpca.org.

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 been putting together ways to do just that:

Neighborhood Party at Tates Creek Community Center

On December 15 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM, the Tates Creek Community Center is hosting a Holiday Party for families in our neighborhood, and they would love help pulling off this event! They are looking for volunteers who can:

- Help at the party with crafts and games, and/or
- Bring sides for the dinner such as mashed potatoes, stuffing/dressing, green beans, mac & cheese, gravy, and desserts like cookies or cake.

If you would like to be a part of this tangible way of serving our community, please scan this QR code to sign up to bring food, or email Luke Rakestraw at lrakestraw@tcpca.org with any questions.



Upcoming Events

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

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

Henry W. Longfellow | Jean Baptiste Calkin

Chorus inspired by Mark Hall

©Public Domain

I heard the bells on Christ - mas Day, their
I thought how as the day had come, the
And in des - pair I bowed my head There
Then pealed the bells more loud, and deep God
old fam - il - iar car - ols play and wild and sweet the
bel - fries of all Chris - ten - dom had rolled a - long th'un
is no peace on earth, I said For hate is strong and
is not dead, nor does He sleep! The wrong shall fail the
words re - peat of peace on earth, good will to men!
bro - ken song of peace on earth, good will to men.
mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.
right pre - vail with peace on earth good will to men!

After Verses 2 and 4

Peace on earth, Peace on earth Peace on earth good will to men!

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399 **Email:** contact@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org