



Wonderful
Counselor

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 Connect Form. We would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit **tcpc.org/connect** or scan this QR code.



Officers On Duty Today's points of contact for spiritual or physical needs.

Elder on duty:

Deacons on duty:

James Veldhorst

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 Helena Hertz

Order of Worship

December 3, 2023 at 9:00 and 11:15 AM

Liturgy Notes

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

PLEASE NOTE:

During responsive readings, the part of the Leader will be in plain text, **and the part of the People will be in bold.**

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.

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Call to Worship from John 1

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.

ALL: And that life was the light of men.

Hymn *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

(continue on next page)

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 of His love

Welcome & Announcements

Baptism

9:00 - Simon and Aileen Godbold, children of Cliff & Lindsay

Declaration to Our Covenant Children

 from the Church of Scotland

For you Jesus Christ came into the world. For you He lived and showed God's love. For you He suffered the darkness of Calvary. For you He triumphed over death and rose to new life. For you He reigns at God's right hand. All this He did for you, Simon and Aileen, though you do not know it yet.

Choir Anthem *Manger Carol*

Traditional, arr. Marty Parks
Copyright Lorenz 2015

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger. There He lay, the undefined, to the world a stranger. Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior? Ask the saved of every race, who have found his favor. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger; He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger: Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory! Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall. Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging, angels singing, noels singing, tidings bringing, Christ the babe is Lord of all!

RENEW

 Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading

 Proverbs 4:1-9 (Pew Bible p. 529)

All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, **but the Word of the Lord stands forever.**

Confession of God's People

Lord Jesus, we have not kept watch for You. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns and not Yours. We have not waited for Your will for us. We have neglected the needs of others. We have not been grateful for the acts of love shown to us. Forgive our consumption with ourselves. As we await Your return, help us to see the needs of others and to be constantly grateful for Your goodness to us. Lord Jesus, help us to watch for Your coming.

4 - *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.

Greeting of Peace

We extend to others the grace that God has extended to us, greeting each other with the peace of Christ. In the midst of a fractured world filled with prejudice, hatred, and violence, we are a demonstration of God's reconciliation. Worshipers greeted one another with the words of Christ after His resurrection, which became the customary greeting of the early Church: "Peace be with you."

Repentance of God's People

Are you weary from your sinful wanderings? **We are.**

Do you return again to the Shepherd of your souls? **We do.**

Assurance of God's Pardon

 from Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Greeting of the Peace of Christ

Hymn *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Text: Latin Carol, Tr. John Neale

Music: Veni Emmanuel

©Public Domain

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

O come Thou Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

REFRAIN:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go. **(REFRAIN)**

O come, Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **(REFRAIN)**

Confession of Faith Westminster Larger Catechism 36

Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?

The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, for ever.

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

Offertory Solo *Advent Hymn*

Lyrics adapted from "Morning Hymn" by CHARLES WESLEY
New Words and Music by CHRISTY NOCKELS
©2016 Sweater Weather Music
CCLI #247013

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the everlasting Light, the Sun of Righteousness arise, and triumph o'er the shades night. Come, Thou long-awaited One, in the fullness of Your love; and loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same. *So, here I wait in hope of You, all my soul's longing through and through. Dayspring from on high, be near, and Daystar in my heart appear.* Dark and cheerless is the morn, until Your love in me is born; and joyless is the ev'ning song, until Emmanuel has come.

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.

Confession of Faith

We confess together the convicting 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.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 573) and Colossians 2:1-5 (p. 983)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Mark Randle

“Christ Our Wonderful Counselor”

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.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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

Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!

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

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 *What Child Is This?*

Tune: GREENSLEAVES

Words: William Chatterton Dix

©Public Domain

» *The **Mercy Fund offering** will be collected at the beginning of this hymn. If you would also like to contribute your time and talents, please visit tcpca.org/mercy to fill out an Interest Form or Gifting Survey.*

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

Go love your God. **Go love your neighbor.**



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

ACCESS Prayer Group

The Access Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 12:30 PM to pray for our church and our community. Send prayer requests to:

Mary Beth Moore
mdmoorefamily@gmail.com

Giving Report

 For more information, visit tcpca.org/give.

October Giving: \$180,814

October Goal: \$223,000

Difference: -\$42,186

FY Giving Goal (Oct-Sep): \$2,900,000

Fellowship Dinner on December 6

You're invited to the church wide Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday, December 6! A catered meal will be served starting at 6pm, with Cajun food from Bourbon n' Toulouse. All are welcome, but please RSVP for food planning purposes by scanning this QR code. A donation of \$8 per person and \$30 a family is suggested. For your convenience you may text "Fellowship" to 859-287-1144 to pay online.



Christmas Cantata on December 10

Join us on December 10th at 6:00 PM for a wonderful night celebrating the sounds and stories of Christmas! Childcare will be provided during the Cantata in the Nursery.

Visit with Macklann Basse on December 9

Our Global Missions partner from Togo, Macklann Basse, will be in town this week! Will & Danielle Witherington will be hosting an open house on Saturday, December 9th from 6:00-9:00pm for anyone to drop by and visit Macklann. Please email Will (wwitherington@tcpca.org) for more information if you would like to drop by.

Mexico Missions Trip Fundraising

Several young men are participating in the upcoming missions trip to Mexico, and as part of their fundraising efforts for this trip, they are available to help with manual labor jobs in exchange for a donation to their trip! If there are any jobs around the house that include heavy lifting, yard work, or other manual labor, please contact Marcela Garrison so that she can put you in touch with them! You can reach Marcela at 859-475-7716 or at marcelagarrison@gmail.com.

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) and see the dates below:

- Dec. 11th: Shopping with the Sunrise Girls and fun at Malibu Jacks (starts at 9:30 am at Fayette Mall)
- Dec. 13th: Shopping with the Sunrise Boys and fun at Malibu Jacks (starts at 9:30 am at Fayette Mall)

Christmas Gifts for Families In Our Neighborhood

If you are interested in sponsoring a child in the neighborhood around TCPC for Christmas gifts please send an email to Luke Rakestraw (lrakestraw@tcpca.org).

Advent & Christmas Services

December 3

9:00 & 11:15 AM

1st Sunday
of Advent

December 10

9:00 & 11:15 AM

2nd Sunday
of Advent

December 10

6:00 PM

Christmas
Cantata

December 17

9:00 & 11:15 AM

3rd Sunday
of Advent

December 24

9:00 & 11:15 AM

4th Sunday
of Advent

December 24

5:00 & 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve
Services

December 31

9:00 & 11:15 AM

Typical Sunday
Worship

*Childcare will not be
offered at these services*

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399

Email: contact@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org