


Mighty  
God



# *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 Connect Form. We would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit **[tcpc.org/connect](https://tcpc.org/connect)** or scan this QR code.



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

**Elder on duty:**

Andy Waters

**Deacons on duty:**

Jordan Ellis

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## *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 Helena Hertz

# Order of Worship

December 10, 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

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Call to Worship from Isaiah 2

Many people will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob.”

**“He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.”**

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.**

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

**Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for way anymore.**

**ALL: Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

### Hymn *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

#### **REFRAIN**

*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 **(REFRAIN)**

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

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

# Welcome & Announcements

## Hymn *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

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

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## **RENEW** Receive the grace of God

### **Scripture Reading** Jeremiah 23:5-6 (Pew Bible p. 650)

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 Adapted from the Book of Common Order

### 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 litaney 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."

**Merciful God, we humble ourselves in Your presence, confessing our unworthiness and our sinfulness in Your sight. We have broken Your holy law. We have not sought first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. We have been anxious and troubled about many things, and have neglected the things of peace. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, or done to others as we would that they should do to us. Most gracious God, forgive us we pray; cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us; through the grace of Jesus Christ we pray.**

- *Silent Prayers of Confession* -

## Repentance of God's People

Do you turn from your sin of doubting the goodness of God? **We do.**

Do you turn from your sin of questioning the power of God? **We do.**

Do you recommit yourself today to trusting in God's grace in your life? **We do.**

## Assurance of God's Pardon from Galatians 4:4-6

But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

**ALL: Thank You God our Father!**

## Greeting of the Peace of Christ

### Hymn *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 The Apostles Creed

**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

### Offertory Solo *Peace*

Michael McDonald  
Beth Nielsen Chapman  
©2001 Hal Leonard Music Publishing

I have come from so far away, down the road of my own mistakes in the hope you could hear me pray, "Oh Lord, keep me in Your reach." How I've longed through these wasted years to outrun all the pain and fear turned to stone from my uncried tears and now it's Your grace I seek. Love won't compromise. It's a gift, it's a sacrifice. My soul renewed, and my heart released, in You I'll find my peace. Wondrous Child of whom the angels sing, know my joy, feel my suffering. Shining star, make this love You bring so bright that I may believe that my way will not be lost; from now on, 'til that river's crossed, my soul renewed, and my spirit free. In You I'll find my peace.

### 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 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.

## **Scripture Reading** Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 573) and Luke 1:46-55 (p. 856)

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

## **Sermon** Rev. Mark Randle

**“Jesus Our Mighty God”**

## **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.

## **Baptism Upon Confession of Faith**

9:00 - Cooper Willoughby, son of McKenzie & Kirby

## **Confession of Faith**

11:15 - Aaden Crowley, son of Andy & Lily

## **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 *I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day* (Music on Page 9)

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

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](mailto:KRL40502@aol.com)

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



# My Heart Is Filled

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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CCLI# 247013

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!*

## Christmas Cantata TONIGHT at 6:00 PM

Join us tonight 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.

## Women's Bible Study Announcements

Join the Morning or Evening Women's Bible Studies in the new year! Both will be studying Matthew using Jen Wilkin's study. These are great opportunities to deepen your understanding of Scripture and get to know other women in our church.

For new and returning participants in both groups, there is a \$10 fee to cover the cost of the study materials. We will gladly cover that for anyone for whom that is a challenge. Those who are able, scan this QR code to pay online or pay by check (include "Women's Bible Study" in the memo line).



### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will start meeting again on January 10th from 9:00 - 11:00 AM. The Morning Bible Study is a great option if you prefer the daytime, want to participate virtually (there is one small group that meets virtually), or need childcare for your child ages newborn to 4. We will be studying the second half of Matthew. New participants can register for the study and for childcare online at [tcpca.org/women](https://tcpca.org/women)

### MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Monday Evening Bible Study will start meeting again on January 8th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM and go through May. The Evening Bible Study is a great option if you work during the day, prefer evenings, or like to study at a slower pace (we divide each week of work in the study into two weeks). As we begin a new study, this is a particularly great time to join. We will be starting at the beginning of Matthew. New participants can register online at [tcpca.org/women](https://tcpca.org/women)

## Be Still And Know: A Different Kind of Holiday Event Hosted by Women's Ministry on 12/27

Longing for still, quiet time with the Lord in the busyness of this season and entering the new year? Join the Women's Ministry for "Be Still and Know" on December 27th from 5:30-6:30 pm in the sanctuary. This will be time for middle school and older ladies of our church to have an hour of quiet with the Lord in the beauty of our decorated sanctuary. We will start promptly at 5:30 and move quickly to times of silent reflection so please be seated in the sanctuary by 5:30. Bring a journal to capture what you hear from the Lord in your time together.

## Giving Report

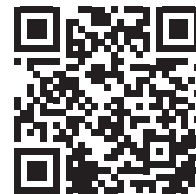
For more information, visit [tcpca.org/give](https://tcpca.org/give).

November Giving:	\$162,732	Total Giving for Oct-Nov:	\$343,547
November Goal:	\$223,000	Giving Goal for Oct-Nov:	\$446,000
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$60,268</b>	<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$102,453</b>

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

## Year-End Giving

An email letter was sent out last week with information about year-end giving to TCPC, as well as instructions about how to check your 2023 giving history for accuracy. If you did not receive that letter, please scan this QR code to read the email, but here are some bullet points:



- If you are led to give, you can do so online at [tcpca.org/give](https://tcpca.org/give) or by mailing a check to 3900 Rapid Run Drive, Lexington, KY 40515
- If you would like your gift to count towards the 2023 tax year, make sure it is postmarked or received by the church by 11:59 PM on December 31st.
- If you are interested in stock giving, email Bobby Pepiot at [bpepiot@tcpca.org](mailto:bpepiot@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 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@tcpc.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

There are only 11 children remaining for our neighborhood Christmas gift giving! If you are interested in sponsoring a child in the neighborhood around TCPC for Christmas gifts please send an email to Luke Rakestraw (lrakestraw@tcpc.org).

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<b>December 3</b> <b>9:00 &amp; 11:15 AM</b> 1st Sunday of Advent	<b>December 10</b> <b>9:00 &amp; 11:15 AM</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>December 10</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Christmas Cantata	<b>December 17</b> <b>9:00 &amp; 11:15 AM</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent
<b>December 24</b> <b>9:00 &amp; 11:15 AM</b> 4th Sunday of Advent	<b>December 24</b> <b>5:00 &amp; 11:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Services	<b>December 31</b> <b>9:00 &amp; 11:15 AM</b> Typical Sunday Worship	<i>Childcare will not be offered at these services</i>

# Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

**Phone:** 859-272-4399

**Email:** [contact@tcpca.org](mailto:contact@tcpca.org)

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