

Everlasting  
Father

# *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 **[tc pca.org/connect](https://tc pca.org/connect)** or scan this QR code.



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

**Elders on duty:**

Justin Hubbard and Chris Lee

**Deacons on duty:**

Ben Commerford and Josh Ellis

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

“When I am able to pray with the mind in the heart,  
I am joyfully able to affirm the irrationality of Christmas.”

- **Madeleine L'Engle**

**COVER ARTWORK:**

Photo by Helena Hertz

# Order of Worship

December 17, 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 Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter,

**And our tongues with shouts of joy!**

Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

**The LORD has done great things for us; and we are filled with joy!**

**ALL: Those who sow in tears, will reap with shouts of joy!**

### Hymn

*Angels From The Realms Of Glory*

James Montgomery | Henry T. Smart  
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Angels, from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth

### REFRAIN:

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding  
Watching o’er your flocks by night  
God with man is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant Light **(REFRAIN)**

Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen his natal star

**(continue on next page)**

## **REFRAIN:**

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord, descending  
In his temple shall appear **(REFRAIN)**

All creation join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One **(REFRAIN)**

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Membership Vows**

11:15 - Tyler & Ashley Kleppe and Caitlin Wallace

### **Special Music** *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Handbell Choir | Arr. Ron Mallory

### **Choir Anthem** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS', traditional German Carol

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 13th c.

Arr. Jay Rouse

© Lorenz 2015

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night. Of the father's love begotten, ere the world 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!*

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

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### **Scripture Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (Pew Bible p. 952)

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 From the Valley of Vision

### 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.

**O Father, we are gathered before You, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite, to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we have not loved You with all our heart and soul, we have not loved You with all our mind and strength; we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. In Your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred. But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow. With You, O Lord, there is forgiveness. In Your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation; so that we may love You with a holy love.**

- *Silent Prayers of 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.

## 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 Psalm 103:13 and 17

As a Father has compassion on His children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him; from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children.

### 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 the Peace of Christ

### Hymn *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

Unknown

©Public Domain

God rest you merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray

#### **REFRAIN:**

*O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name **(REFRAIN)**

"Fear not, then," said the angel "let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." **(REFRAIN)**

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find **(REFRAIN)**

### 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."

## Confession of Faith Heidelberg Catechism Q35 and Q36

What does it mean that He “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?”

**That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that He might become David’s true descendant, like His brother in every way except for sin.**

How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

**He is our mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness He removes from God’s sight my sin - mine since I was conceived.**

## 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 *Good Christian Men Rejoice (Music on Page 9)*

Text: Latin Carol, Tr. John Neale

Music: In Dulci Jubilo

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Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Give ye heed to what we say  
Jesus Christ is born today  
Earth and heav’n before Him bow  
And He is in the manger now  
Christ is born today  
Christ is born today

Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Now ye hear of endless bliss  
Jesus Christ was born for this  
He hath opened heaven’s door  
And man is blessed evermore  
Christ was born for this  
Christ was born for this

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## 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.

Good Christian men rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice  
Now ye need not fear the grave  
Jesus Christ was born to save  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain His everlasting hall  
Christ was born to save  
Christ was born to save

### **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** Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 573) and Isaiah 40:9-11 (p. 599)

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

### **Sermon** Rev. Mark Randle

**“Jesus Our Everlasting Father”**

### **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**

### **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 *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick  
©Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

## **REFRAIN:**

*Gloria*  
*In excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria*  
*In excelsis Deo*

Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song **(REFRAIN)**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King **(REFRAIN)**

## Benediction

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



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



## 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)



# Good Christian Men Rejoice

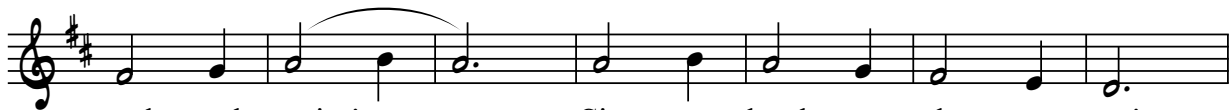
Text: Latin Carol, Tr. John Neale

Music: In Dulci Jubilo

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1. Good Chris - tian men re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ with heart and  
2. Good Chris - tian men re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ with heart and  
3. Good Chris - tian men re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ with heart and



soul and voice! \_\_\_\_\_ Give ye heed to what we say!  
soul and voice! \_\_\_\_\_ Now ye hear of end - less bliss:  
soul and voice! \_\_\_\_\_ Now ye need not fear the grave,



Je - sus Christ is born to - day! Earth and heav'n be - fore Him  
Je - sus Christ was born for this! He has op - ened heav - en's  
Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you



bow, and He is in the man - ger now. Christ is born to -  
door, and man is blessed for - ev - er - more. Christ was born for  
all to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall, Christ was born to



day! \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is born to - day!  
this! \_\_\_\_\_ Christ was born for this!  
save! \_\_\_\_\_ Christ was born to save!

## Ministries and Sunday School Classes Taking a Break During Winter Break

Most ministries and Sunday School Classes will not be meeting on December 24 and 31 or during Winter Break. This includes the Student Ministry, Women's Ministry, our Sunday morning Nursery, all Children's Sunday School classes, and Adult Sunday School Classes (unless the leader of the class has announced otherwise). The Nursery, Children's Sunday School, and Student Ministry will start up again on January 7.

## 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. New participants can learn more, register for the study, and register for childcare online at [tcpca.org/women](http://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. New participants can register online at [tcpca.org/women](http://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.

## Next Senior Ministry Luncheon on Sunday, January 14

The next Senior Luncheon will be January 14th. Since this is a free luncheon, please RSVP by January 10th so that we have sufficient food for everyone. You can RSVP by sending an email to Susan Sylvester Kerfoot ([msscat94@yahoo.com](mailto:msscat94@yahoo.com)). We hope to see you there!

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

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