



Prince of
Peace



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.



Also, please join us today after each service in the Parlor for "**Coffee & Connect**" to meet TCPC staff and learn more about getting connected at TCPC.

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

Elders on duty:

Deacons on duty:

Mark Garrison and Luke McAnally

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship...

"I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

COVER ARTWORK:

Photo by Helena Hertz

Order of Worship

December 24, 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 3

Many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.”

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

I cried aloud to the Lord, and He answered me from His holy hill.

I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

I will not be afraid of many who have set themselves against me.

Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!

ALL: Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be on Your people!

Hymn *Joy To The World*

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

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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

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

RENEW Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 6:13-15 (Pew Bible p. 634)

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

In You we live and move and have our being. You have made us for Yourself so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in You. We attempt to find peace for ourselves and we come up short. But trying to let go and find Your peace in relationship with Your presence can be challenging at times. Bless the effort we make in faith to find Your peace, so that we might know your faith within ourselves. In Your Son Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- *Silent Prayers of Confession* -

Repentance of God's People

Does the Father truly love us? **He does.**

Has the Son truly saved us? **He has.**

Is the Spirit truly with us? **He is.**

Will you again repent and truly trust your God, the only source of your peace and rest? **We will.**

Assurance of God's Pardon From 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Greeting of the Peace of Christ

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."

Hymn *Once In Royal David's City*

Text: C.F. Alexander
Music: H.J. Gauntlett

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild Jesus Christ her little Child

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable and His cradle was a stall
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy

For He is our childhood's pattern day by day like us He grew
He was little weak and helpless tears and smiles like us He knew
And He feeleth for our sadness and He shareth in our gladness

And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone

RESPOND Embrace the call of God

Confession of Faith From New City Catechism

What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

One who is truly human and also truly God.

Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature He might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that He might sympathize with our weaknesses.

Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

That because of His divine nature His obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that He would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.

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

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.

Hymn *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

Phillips Brooks | Lewis Redner
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O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to all the earth

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Immanuel

GOSPEL STORYTIME

The Gospel Storytime group will not be meeting today.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 (p. 573) and Luke 2:8-14 (p. 857)

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

Sermon Rev. Will Witherington

“Prince of Peace”

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 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Polish Carol | Tr. Edith M. G. Reed
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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 ringing tidings bringing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all
Christ the Babe is Lord of all

Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory heard the story
Tidings of a gospel true
Thus rejoicing free from sorrow
Praises voicing greet the morrow
Christ the Babe was born for you
Christ the Babe was born for you

Benediction

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



Giving Report

 For more information, visit tcpc.org/give.

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

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

Year-End Giving

An email letter was sent out recently 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 tcpc.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@tcpc.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

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



Good Christian Men Rejoice

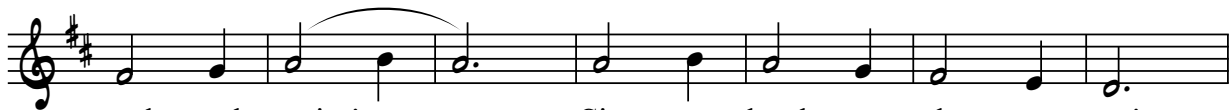
Text: Latin Carol, Tr. John Neale

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!

Congregational Meeting on January 14

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held in-between services on Sunday, January 14th in the Sanctuary.

Are you new to TCPC? Join us for Coffee & Connect!

Please join us today after each service in the Parlor for "Coffee & Connect" to meet TCPC staff and learn more about getting connected at TCPC.

TCPC Office Closed This Week

The TCPC office will be closed this week, and will be open again on January 2. We will periodically check the voicemail, so feel free to call us at 859-272-4399 should a need arise.

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 Bible Study, 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.

Sing With the Choir Tonight!

Join the TCPC Choir to sing on Christmas Eve, a special community choir event! Singers of all ages are invited to sing-children, family, friends and guests are welcome. We will meet at 4:20 in the choir room to prepare a simple anthem (we will be singing "Still, Still, Still") and participate in leading hymns for the service. Email Chelsea csteyn@tcpca.org with questions, or scan this QR code to volunteer:



New Year's Eve Prayer Time

Join us at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 31st for a time of prayer led by Mark Randlenot only to reflect on what God has done this year but also to pray for Him to bless the new year.

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). We hope to see you there!

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.

Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet

Pray and ask the Lord to give you a word, verse, or even name of Jesus on which to focus in 2024. Join the Women's Ministry January 13th from 9:30-11:00 AM for a time of fellowship and a simple craft to help you keep that word before your eyes. Cost to participate is \$10, however, if you are unable to pay we will gladly cover it for you. So we can prepare materials, please provide your word(s) of no more than 12 characters when you register by January 3rd. Scan this QR code to register.



Stephen Lynerd Group Concert on January 9

Join us on Tuesday, January 9th at 7pm for a FREE concert presented by The Stephen Lynerd Group. Old and new hymns, thoughtfully reimagined with jazz influences. Concert should last around 75 minutes.

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399

Email: contact@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org