



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 **tcpca.org/visitor** or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone camera.

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

Christmas Tree in the Hall of Kilo Mansion

Magnus Enckell, 1919

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 5, 2021 at 9:00AM and 11:15AM

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Call to Worship

LEADER: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

PEOPLE: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

LEADER: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

PEOPLE: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!

LEADER: Come, let us see what God has brought us! Let us see what the Lord has done! Glory to God in the highest!

PEOPLE: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

Hymn of Rejoicing *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 **(REFRAIN)**

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

(continue on next page)

All creation join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One
**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Welcome & Announcements

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

9:00 - Baptism of Kathryn Elizabeth Biery, daughter of Jordan & Jordyn

Declaration to Our Covenant Children from the Church of Scotland

UNISON: 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, Kathryn, though you do not know it yet.

Special Music *The Angels Sing*

Arr. Alan Lohr
The Handbell Choir

RENEW Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

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

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.

Confession of God's People

UNISON:

**Lord, we have lived far too long in dark places of our own making.
We have walled ourselves in, shut the world out,
and held ourselves captive to our fear and failings.
Free us from this place, Lord.**

**Return us to a life in Your presence,
where we may face the trials of this world
with You by our side. Restore Your light to our eyes,
that we may behold anew**

Your love in our lives.

Hear us and help us, we pray.

**We wait in eager anticipation, for the glory of Your salvation this morning.
Amen.**

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Have your idols failed you?

PEOPLE: Always

LEADER: Has Jesus failed you?

PEOPLE: Never

LEADER: Are you willing and eager to turn from that which can never satisfy and return to Jesus, the rightful end of every longing?

PEOPLE: We are.

Assurance of God's Pardon from Isaiah 9 and Luke 2

LEADER: Rejoice and be glad: Your burdens are lifted, your captivity is ended! The Lord's great light pierces the darkness, breaching the walls of our prisons, revealing the way of true freedom.

Hymn of Renewal *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (Sheet Music on Page 10)

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**

(continue on next page)

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

In a manger He is lying
Who will greet Him as He sleeps
Baby Jesus infant Christ child
Who will greet Him as He sleeps
Angels winging praises singing
Noels ringing tidings bringing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all
Christ the Babe is Lord of all

RESPOND Embrace the call of God

Confession of Faith The Apostles Creed

UNISON: 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[†] Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

[†] 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

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.

Hymn of Preparation *Come Quickly Lord* (Sheet Music on Page 11)

Sarah Majorins
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CCLI #247013

We walk in the shadows of the valley of death.
We weep by the willows as we hunger for bread.
And our silent voices echo through a foreign land.
Waiting for our crying to be dancing once again.

REFRAIN:

**We will lift up our eyes to the Maker of the heavens,
For He is our help; let the saints all sing together:
“Holy Lord, Holy Lord, Holy Lord, we wait for Your kingdom come!
Come Quickly Lord, Jesus come!
We long for the marriage of the Lamb!”**

And He'll come in brightness so there will be no night.
To build a new city where all wrong will be right.
Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom us from sin.
Give us songs of angels, O help us lift our praise. (**REFRAIN**)

Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
Come, Lord Jesus. (4X)
(**REFRAIN**)

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 9:2-6a

- 2**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
- 3**You have multiplied the nation;
You have increased its joy;
they rejoice before You
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- 4**For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
You have broken as on the day of Midian.

(continue on next page)

5For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;

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.**

Sermon Rev. Robert Cunningham

“Unto Us”

Musical Reflection

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

Mercy Offering

Hymn of Response *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;

8 *(continue on next page)*

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.

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!

Benediction

MINISTER: Go love your God; **PEOPLE: 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

Giving Report: For more information, visit tcpca.org/give.

November Giving:	\$171,985	Total FY Giving (Oct-Nov):	\$372,255
November Goal:	\$195,523	Giving Goal (Oct-Nov):	\$397,218
Difference:	-\$23,538	Difference:	-\$24,963

December Goal: \$423,035 (see back for update from Finance Committee)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol

Tr. Edith M. G. Reed

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1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for His bed a cat - tle
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing
3. In a man - ger He is ly - ing who will greet Him as He


4. stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of
new saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel
sleeps Ba - by Je - sus in - fant Christ child who will greet Him as He

8. all. Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings
true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing greet the
sleeps? An - gels wing - ing prais - es sing - ing no - els bring - ing tid - ings


12. bring - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
mor - row Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you.
bring - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Come Quickly Lord

Sarah Majorins
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1. We walk in the shad-ows of the val-ley of death. We
2. And He'll come in bright-ness so there will be no night. To



weep by the wil-lows as we hung-er for bread.
build a new cit-y where all wrong will be right.



And our si-lent voi-ces ech-o through a for-eign land.
Come, O Come, Em-man-u-el and ran-som us from sin.




wai-ting for our cry-ing to be danc-ing once a-gain.
Give us songs of an-gels, O help us lift our praise.

Refrain



We will lift up our eyes to the Mak-er of the heav-ens, for



He is our help; let the saints all sing to-geth-er: "Ho-ly



Lord, Ho-ly Lord, Ho-ly Lord, we wait for Your king-dom



come! Come Quick-ly Lord, Je-sus come! We long for the mar-riage of the Lamb!"



Come, Lord Je-sus, quick-ly come, come, Lord Je-sus.

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399

Email: contact@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org

Announcements

Combined Sunday School with the Garrisons

Mark and Marcela Garrison, along with their four children, spent two years building a surgical wing on the regional hospital in Mukinge, Zambia. They will be sharing many of their adventures and powerful stories during a combined adult Sunday School class today, in between services in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and donuts will be provided, and regular Children's Sunday School classes will be happening as well.

December Sunday School Classes

Here is the schedule for Sunday School for the next few weeks:

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 5: Combined Sunday School: Update from the Garrison Family
(with coffee & donuts in the Fellowship Hall)

December 12: Bridge Class & Vine Class Combined Fellowship Brunch

December 19: No Sunday School

December 26: No Sunday School

Christmas Eve Service

We are excited to share some details with you about this year's Christmas Eve service! It will take place on December 24th at 5:00 PM in the TCPC Sanctuary (with overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall and Lower Level). A wide selection of Christmas music will be sung together and performed by a host of instrumentalists, singers, and our amazing choir. We would love for you to invite your family and friends to this wonderful night!

Year-End Giving Information

As we approach the end of the calendar year and 1st quarter of the fiscal year the finance committee would like to communicate some important details about year-end giving. December historically is our largest month of giving. This year our goal is \$423,035 for the month of December. Please join us in prayer towards this goal. If you are praying about making a year-end gift, please consider giving to what the Lord is doing in and through the movement of TCPC. All 2021 gifts need to be postmarked or given online by 11:59 pm on December 31st. All contributions received after December 31st will count towards your 2021 giving.

You can give online at tcpca.org/give. If you are mailing a check, please make the check out to "TCPC" and mail it to Tates Creek Presbyterian Church, 3900 Rapid Run Drive, Lexington, KY 40515.