



# *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 **Visitor's Card**, we would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit **[tcpca.org/visitor](http://tcpca.org/visitor)** or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone camera.

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

“If God’s presence in saving mercy is so powerful in weakness at the cross, so active in the very moment it looks as if nobody is up there, surely we can trust God to be most present in our own lives when everything within us would convince us that He is the least present: when we are suffering, when we are being treated unfairly, when we fail God miserably, and when we are tired and lonely in the world.”

- Michael Horton

## 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 26, 2021 at 9:00AM and 11:15AM

## REJOICE Declare the praises of God

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### Call to Worship

**LEADER:** The Word is near us in this place. God’s presence is everywhere.

**PEOPLE: We come to God’s house to praise His name!**

**LEADER:** The Word is near us in this place. God’s glory is everywhere.

**PEOPLE: We come to God’s house to confess His name!**

**LEADER:** The Word is near us in this place. God’s power is everywhere.

**PEOPLE: We come to God’s house to believe in His name!**

**LEADER:** The Word is near us in this place. God’s grace is everywhere.

**PEOPLE: We come to God’s house to rejoice and delight in His name!**

### Hymn of Rejoicing *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Edward Shippen Barnes | James Chadwick

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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**)

### Welcome & Announcements

## Scripture Reading 2 Peter 3:8-13

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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

## Confession of God's People

**UNISON:**

**We have strayed, O God, from Your will and Your way.**

**Like the brothers of Joseph, we have betrayed family and friends for our own vainglory;**

**We have enslaved others to suit our purposes;**

**We have lied to cover our tracks;**

**We have forgotten our faith when it is convenient;**

**We have failed You and each other so many times.**

**Heal us, O God. Amen.**

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

## Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Do you turn from the vanity of your fears?

**PEOPLE: We do.**

LEADER: Do you return to the surety of your God?

**PEOPLE: We do.**

## Assurance of God's Pardon From Genesis 37

LEADER: Here is proof that God's faithfulness never ends: that while we were yet sinners, God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His blood for our sins, that we might not be cast down into the pit, but rise with Him to everlasting life.

### 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.

## Hymn of Renewal *God Rest Ye 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)**

## **RESPOND** Embrace the call of God

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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.

### **Confession of Faith** from Westminster Catechism

LEADER: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

**PEOPLE: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

LEADER: What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

**PEOPLE: The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

LEADER: How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

**PEOPLE: In revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

LEADER: How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

**PEOPLE: In His once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.**

LEADER: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

**PEOPLE: In subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.**

## 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 of Preparation *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear*

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis  
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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

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the 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

## 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.

## **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** Psalm 37:1-7

- 1**Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
be not envious of wrongdoers!
- 2**For they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.
- 3**Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- 4**Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5**Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.
- 6**He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.
- 7**Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!

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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**

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.

### **Sermon** Rev. Will Witherington

#### **"Hurry Up and Wait"**

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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### 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

### Hymn of Response *Angels From The Realms Of Glory*

Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery  
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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)***

### 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.



**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)**

**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](http://tcpca.org/give).

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

December Goal: \$423,035 (see next page)

# Announcements

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## Sunday School Schedule for December & January

Here is the schedule for Sunday School for the next two months:

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**December 26: No Sunday School**

**January 2: No Sunday School**

January 9: Celebration of the Ordination of Chelcent Fuad

January 16: Congregational Meeting

January 23: Regular Sunday School classes resume

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**December 26: No Sunday School**

**January 2: No Sunday School**

January 9: Regular Sunday School classes

January 16: Regular Sunday School classes

January 23: Regular Sunday School classes

## Year-End Giving Information

As we approach the end of the calendar year, the finance committee would like to communicate some important details about year-end giving. December is historically our largest month of giving, and this year, our goal for the month is \$423,035. 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 in order to be counted towards your 2021 giving.

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

For **online giving**, please go to [tcpca.org/give](https://tcpca.org/give) or scan this QR code:



If you would like to make a **stock donation**, please allow enough time for the transaction to process before December 31st. For more information about stock giving, please visit [tcpca.org/give](https://tcpca.org/give) or send an email to Bobby Pepiot at [bpepiot@tcpca.org](mailto:bpepiot@tcpca.org).

Finally, this is a perfect time to log in to TouchPoint and review your 2021 giving history. This will help us prepare year-end statements and identify any concerns. To see your giving history:

1. Log in to TouchPoint at [tcpca.org/login](https://tcpca.org/login)
2. The first thing you should see is your profile. Click on the "Giving" tab.
3. You should see a summary of your giving under "Giving Summary" as well as a list of individual gifts under "Giving Detail." If you see anything that does not match your records please email Bobby Pepiot at [bpepiot@tcpca.org](mailto:bpepiot@tcpca.org).



# Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

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