



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, or fill out the Visitor Card in your pew and place it in the Offering bowl.

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 Milada Vigerova

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 25, 2022 at 9:00AM

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Call to Worship from Revelation 12 and Isaiah 9

LEADER: Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come.

PEOPLE: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

UNISON: And His name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace!

Hymn of Rejoicing *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Unknown
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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)**

Welcome & Announcements

Baptism

9:00 - Elias Jay Hogan, son of Hayden & Stacey

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61 (Pew Bible p. 620)

LEADER: All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall...

PEOPLE: ...but the Word of the Lord stands forever.

Confession of God's People

LEADER: God our Father, You sent Your Son full of the grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive Him.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

LEADER: Jesus our Savior, You were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of Your ways.

PEOPLE: Christ, have mercy.

LEADER: Spirit of Love, Your servant Mary responded joyfully to Your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Do you turn from your sin of failing to love God and others with your whole heart?

PEOPLE: We do.

Assurance of God's Pardon from Galatians 4:4-7

LEADER: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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.

Hymn of Renewal *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*

Phillips Brooks | Lewis Redner

Tune: ST. LOUIS

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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!

Confession of Faith Westminster Shorter Catechism #46

LEADER: What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

UNISON: The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein He for our sakes, emptying Himself of His glory, took upon Him the form of a servant, in His conception and birth, life, death, and after His death, until His resurrection.

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 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Polish Carol
Tr. Edith M. G. Reed
©Public Domain

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

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible p. 807)

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

Sermon Rev. Mark Randle, Associate Pastor

"Seeing Jesus"

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.

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.

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

Hymn of Response *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

Benediction

MINISTER: Go love your God; **PEOPLE: Go love your neighbor.**

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.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting on January 8 at 6:00 PM

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 8, at 6:00 PM to present and vote upon two options for choosing a pulpit committee. If you did not receive the email sent this past Thursday, which outlines both options in detail, please let us know by emailing contact@tcpca.org.

Annual Congregational Meeting on January 15

Join us in-between services on January 15 for a presentation about this past ministry year, including membership and giving statistics as well as ministry highlights.

Office Hours Between Christmas and New Years

The office will be closed from December 26-29. On December 30, the office will be open from 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

Giving Report

For more information, visit tcpca.org/give.

November Giving:	\$221,379	Total FY Giving (Oct-Nov):	\$402,310
November Goal:	\$191,017	Giving Goal (Oct-Nov):	\$409,323
Difference:	+ 30,362	Difference:	-\$7,013

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 \$463,900. 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 2022 gifts need to be postmarked or given online by 11:59 pm on December 31st in order to be counted towards your 2022 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 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 or send an email to Bobby Pepiot at bpepiot@tcpca.org.

Finally, this is a perfect time to log in to TouchPoint and review your 2022 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
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.