

# Covenant Church

Morning Worship — December 17, 2023

## Welcome

Dr. Edward L. Dalcour

## Announcements

### GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

## Call to Worship

Psalm 36:5-9

**\*Sing: Psalm #100**

**\*Invocation**

**\*Confession of Faith (Unison)**

The Apostles' Creed

(Copied from *The Reformation Study Bible, 2015*)

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the virgin Mary;  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose 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 Ghost;  
The holy catholic\* church; the communion of saints;  
The forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body;  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

\* The word "catholic" refers to the universal church

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We're very glad to worship with you this morning. Covenant Church is a church of **Prayer, Worship, and Love for Our City**, while rejoicing and resting in God — to his glory.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tonight — Evening Worship.**

You're invited to return here at 6:00 PM for the *Evening Worship* service. The sermon text this evening is 1 Peter 5:1-14.

**Next Sunday (12/24) —**

***Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.***

6:00 PM. Hot chocolate and dessert to follow.

**Sunday (12/31) —**

***Last Sunday Lunch.***

On the last Sunday of each month, Covenant Church enjoys a fellowship lunch immediately following the conclusion of *Morning Worship*. The Lord's Supper is celebrated in *Evening Worship* on these Sundays.

**Thursday (1/4 + 1/11) —**

***Women's Study and Fellowship.***

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM at Brooks/  
Amanda's home in Burbank,  
620 E. Angeleno Ave.

### COMING SOON

***Monthly Men's Study and Fellowship starting in January.***

## GOD CLEANSSES US

### Confession of Sin (*Unison*)

Psalm 51:1-4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.”

### \*Scriptural Assurance of Pardon

Romans 8:1 (ESV)

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

**\*Sing: Hymn#211, *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen***  
(Children Come Forward on Last Stanza)

### Children’s Message

## GOD CONSECRATES US

### Worship of God with Tithes & Offerings

Jeffrey Kusumi

**\*Sing: Hymn #731, *The Doxology***

### Pastoral Prayer (& *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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

### Reading of Scripture

Luke 2:1-21 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and

wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup>And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**Sermon, Rev. Brooks Pipher**

“The Savior: Peace on Earth”

**\*Sing: Hymn#195, Joy to the World!**

**GOD COMMUNES WITH US AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

**The Invitation and Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Giving of the Bread and the Cup**

*The bread is vegan and gluten-free. The cup is grape juice. It is our custom to hold the elements, and partake together. Please leave your glass cup at your seat.*

**GOD COMMISSIONS US**

**\*Sing: Hymn #214, Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanzas 1 & 3)**

**\*Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

**\*Sing: Psalter #179**



