

Worship

Joyce Courtois and Casey Gambill helped plan this service. Miller Kress is the acolyte.

The photo on the cover was taken by Laura Mayo.

Nancy Henry and Pamela Jones made the Advent banners.

The Call to Worship is by Jeremy Rutledge.

The Worship Leaders and Readers are: Jeremy Rutledge, Laura Mayo, Kay Duncan, Paul Wilson, Judy Hughes, Ron Sandberg, Lois Guehring, Eric Avera, David Ramsey, Virginia Wells, Jeannie Gambill, Anne Greene, Sue Schwaller, and Moses Mason.

Opening Sentences are from Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153).

Casey Gambill directs the Children and Youth Choir.

Nita Lindley and Linda Phenix decorated the worship space.

Helpful Information

Childcare Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Communication Cards If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue Communication Card and drop it in the Offering basket.

We will have Education Hour on Dec. 27 and Jan 3 at 9:30 a.m.
We will have one service each of those Sundays at 11 a.m.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.

Covenant Church
an ecumenical liberal baptist
congregation

Members of Covenant
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge
Minister

Laura Mayo
Associate Minister

Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Pat Long
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo
Office Administrator



A Service of Worship for Christmas Eve December 24, 2009

In the dark, a child might ask,
What is the world?
just to hear his sister promise,
An unfinished wing of heaven,
just to hear his brother say,
A house inside a house,
but most of all to hear his mother answer,
One more song, then you go to sleep.

How could anyone in that bed guess
the question finds its beginning
in the answer long growing
inside the one who asked, that restless boy,
the night's darling?

Later, a man lying awake,
he might ask it again,
just to hear the silence charge him,
This night arching over your sleepless wondering,

*this night, the near ground
every reaching-out-to overreaches,*

just to remind himself
out of what little earth and duration,
out of what immense good-bye,
each must make a safe place of his heart,
before so strange and wild a guest
as God approaches.

"Nativity"
Li-Young Lee

please enter for worship in silence

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Prelude	Denis Bédard	Poem	"Ambiguous Advent"	Vassar Miller	Poem	"The Turtle Toward Bethlehem"	Norma Farber
	Variations on "Noël Huron" and "In Dulci Jubilo"						
Introit	German carol/ arr. Jüngst	Carol 48	"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"	Es ist ein' Ros'	Music	"A Christmas Carol" Jim Avera, bass baritone	Charles Ives
	"While by My Sheep"						
	Echo: Casey Gambill, Jeannie Gambill, Beth Braun, Eric Avera, Jim Avera						
Call to Worship		Music	"Song of Mary" Covenant Singers	Morning Song	Music	"Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling"	Hector Berlioz
Carol	Cradle Song	The Christmas Story - Part 2			Prayer		
	"One Candle Is Lit" (remain seated)	Carol 24	"Away in a Manger"	Mueller	Poem	Dr. Maya Angelou from "Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem"	
	<i>Come, surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light, Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage One candle is lit for the hope of the age.</i>	Music	African American Spiritual "Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow" Covenant Singers Eric Avera, solo		Passing of the Peace		
	<i>Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare For a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.</i>						
	<i>Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.</i>	The Christmas Story - Part 3					
	<i>Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play Where evil is banished and faith takes the day, A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.</i>	Carol 23	"Angels We Have Heard on High" (stanzas 1 & 2)	Gloria		Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.	
Lighting the Christ Candle		Music	"O Holy Night" Casey Gambill, soprano	Adolph Adam		Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.	
	Ashley, Hugh, Miller, Blakely and Byron Kress	Gathering at the Manger (children come forward) Poem: "The Lady Bug"			Carol	Antioch	
Response:	Cradle Song	The Christmas Story - Part 4				"Joy to the World"	
	<i>Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, And signs of a cross in the distance appear. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.</i>	Music	"Do You Hear What I Hear" Chidren & Youth Choir Eric Avera, solo Reagan Miller, guitar	Regney / Baker		Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her King Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	
Opening Sentences		Music	trad. American/Schalk "Jesus, Jesus Rest your head" Eric Avera, solo		Benediction		
	You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.	The Christmas Story - Part 5			Postlude	Johann Pachelbel "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"	
Carol 9	Veni Emmanuel	Carol 56	"The First Nowell" (stanzas 1 & 2)	The First Nowell		<i>Please join us in the narthex for Christmas wassail and fellowship.</i>	
	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"						