

WELCOME TO COVENANT COMMUNITY!

We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us and sincerely hope you get a blessing from the service. Some notes to help you be more comfortable during the service:

- † Please participate in congregational responses (bold)
- † Please stand as able, as marked with an asterisk *
- † Please fill out the Connection Card insert.
- † Feel free to use the Cry Room (you will be able to see & hear the service) and/or Nursery across from the sanctuary
- † Activity bags for children are available in the Narthex.
- † Please join us in the Bouldin Hall after worship for refreshments!

Ministers - All members of the congregation

STAFF

Pastor - Jim Gates

(757) 615-1799 or jim@covenantcommunitypc.org

Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

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Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

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Communications Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Church Accountant - Renee Radtke

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Traditional Music Director - Deb Perrin

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Contemporary Music Director - Orlando diValentin

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Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

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Organist - Les Fraaza

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Church Office

(715) 359-6467 or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org

WWW.COVENANTCOMMUNITYPC.ORG



Longest Night Service

DECEMBER 21 AT 6PM

COVENANT COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!

Prelude: "What Child is This", "The First Nowell", "Still, Still, Still"
Stephanie Finamore

Welcome

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1) #88

Litany of Remembrance & Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light this first candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years of down times. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, and the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 2) #88

SILENCE

We light this second candle to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, and the loss of health. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to You, O God, asking that into our open hands, You will place the gift of peace.

Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 3) #88

SILENCE

We light the third Advent candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season that anticipates Christmas.

May Christ's eternal love surround them.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 4) #88

SILENCE

This fourth candle is lit to look forward into the future. We know that there will be times of loneliness, of apprehension, and uncertainty.

Let us remember Christ our king is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 5) #88

SILENCE

This fifth candle is lit to remember our faith and the gift of hope that God offers to us in the Christmas story. We remember that in Jesus, God shares our life, and promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

Let us remember the One who shows the way and who goes with us into our tomorrows.

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 6) #88

Greeting/Fellowship

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-2, 6-9, 28-31 Page 667

Special Music: "A Strange Way to Save the World" Deb Perrin

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Page 179

Sermon: "Comfort, Comfort My People" Jess Wakefield

***Hymn:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs. 1,3,4) #144

Lighting of Memory Candles & Individual Prayers: "Ave Maria"
Stephanie Finamore

[As you come forward to light candles in memory of someone or something, you are also invited to come to share in a prayer led by Pastor Jim or Jess. They will ask what it is you would like to pray for, and then quietly lead you in prayer.]

The 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.

Hopes for Christmases to Come: Jim Gates

***Hymn:** "Lo' How a Rose E'er Blooming" (vs. 1) #129

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "Still, Still, Still" (vs.1) #124

Postlude: "O Holy Night" Stephanie Finamore

Please join us after the service for fellowship and refreshments in Bouldin Hall.

Christmas Eve: Family Service - 4pm; Traditional Service - 6pm