

Announcements

Check out our website (cpcsb.org) to see our calendar and events.

Romans: An Introduction and Overview of Paul's Letter—January 11th

Perhaps no book has influenced Church history more than Paul's letter to the Romans. There is a timeless quality to the letter. As such, people in every century have taken a great interest in it. But like every book in the New Testament, Romans is also rooted in history. It was written to a particular people facing particular circumstances. In order to understand its message, we need to pay attention to the specific circumstances out of which it was written.

Starting January the 11th, instead of meeting as small groups, we are going to gather for four weeks as a church on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00PM to get acquainted with this book. Nursery care is provided for infants through 3 years old. There will be special activities for older children. Feel free to bring a friend.

Christmas Service of Worship December 24, 2011

To all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who are broken and long for healing; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to whomsoever will come, this church warmly welcomes you on this evening of worship and wonder. The **BOLD PRINT** in this bulletin designates parts that are to be read or sung by the entire congregation. Please feel free to join in.

PREPARATION AND REFLECTION

The accent in the gospel narrative is on the poetic verse 23 (a quote from Isaiah 7:14), that his name will be “Emmanuel.” The oracle of Isaiah affirmed that Jerusalem would not be abandoned to its enemies because YHWH was with the city to defend it. In Matthew’s use of that declaration, Jesus is “God with us.” Long before any doctrinal formulations in the church, the earliest witnesses recognized in Jesus God’s own power to save, from sin, from evil, from death, from disease, from hunger, from despair, from all that works against the full shalom that God wills for the world.

–Walter Brueggemann

There is no way to have a real relationship without becoming vulnerable to hurt. Christmas tells us that God became breakable and fragile. God became someone we could hurt. Why? To have us back... No other religion—whether secularism, Greco-Roman paganism, Eastern religion, Judaism, or Islam—believes God became breakable or suffered or had a body.

– Tim Keller

*O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!*

–Prudentius, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

APPROACH

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Roland Hugh Pritchard | Charles Wesley

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Tr. by John Mason Neale | Arr. by Thomas Helmore

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.**

Chorus **Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.**

Chorus (x2)

Shall come to thee, O Israel. (x2)

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* *The name Emmanuel is a name for the promised Messiah first used by Isaiah (7:14) and later applied to Jesus (Matt 1:21-23). It consists of two Hebrew words meaning "God is with us".*

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Tr. by John Mason Neale | Arr. by Thomas Helmore W., Jr. Work

Chorus **Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night;
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.**

Chorus

**The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.**

Chorus

**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**

Chorus

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BENEDICTION: *God sends us out in His power.***THE PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Isaiah 9:2; 6–7**

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

INVOCATION

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts | George Frederick Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord has come: let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
 And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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O Holy Night

Adolphe Charles Adam | John S. Dwight | Placide Cappeau

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining;
 It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth!
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
 Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
 Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
 O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
 With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
 Here came the wise men from Orient land.
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
 In all our trials born to be our Friend!
 He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.
 Behold your King; before him lowly bend!
 Behold your King; before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
 His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
 Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother
 And in his name all oppression shall cease.
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
 Let all within us praise his holy Name!
 Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

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COMMUNION HYMNS

What Child Is This?

William Dix | Greensleeves

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
 Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
 The cross be borne for me, for you:
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 Come, peasant, king, to own him;
 The King of kings salvation brings,
 Let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 The virgin sings her lullaby:
 Joy, joy for Christ is born,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

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Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French Carol | Arr. Edward Barnes

Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply
 Echo back their joyous strains.

Chorus Gloria in excelsis Deo*,
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 Say what may the tidings be,
 Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Chorus

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**This phrase is a Latin doxology which loosely means "Glory to God in the highest" or "Glory to the lifted up God."*

WELCOME AND GREETING

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1–20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Hallelujah, let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God are for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

- ❖ Please partake of the elements when you receive them. (For those with diet restrictions gluten-free bread is offered).

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine that by your Spirit we may be nourished with Christ our Savior. By your Spirit make us one with him, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ for your world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER—Mark Corazza

Lord, we humbly ask that you would remember your Church.

Unite it in the truth of your Word and empower it in ministry to the world.

Remember the nations.

By your Spirit renew the face of the earth; let peace and justice prevail.

Remember our family and friends.

Bless them and watch over them; be gracious to them and give them peace.

Remember the sick and the suffering, the aged and the dying.

Encourage them and give them hope.

In union with your church in heaven and on earth, we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose in us and in all the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, when we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your everlasting kingdom. We ask these things through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

***Chorus:* Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heave’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Chorus

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.**

Chorus

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis

❖ *Children age three and older will remain with their families throughout the service.*

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.

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 prophet bards foretold,
 When with the ever-circling years
 Comes round the age of gold;
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendors fling,
 And the whole world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

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*Approach**Renewal and Response***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord our God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is our deepest joy to give you thanks, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. And we praise you, King of Heaven, for your lowly humility and your infinite love; for you have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host, we praise your glorious Name, singing together:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him all creatures here below.
 Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RENEWAL AND RESPONSE

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

- ❖ Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin, trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us.
- ❖ If you are not sure if you should take Communion, or if you have come to believe in Jesus tonight, you are encouraged to meet with one of the elders who will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.
- ❖ If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the prayers on page 15 as a guide.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Who graciously sent your son to be Immanuel, God with us, and before whose throne the angels in heaven are singing, "Glory to God in the highest," we bow before your Majesty in humble adoration, acknowledging our need for forgiveness from all our sins and pleading for your healing grace to restore us. Please pardon, cleanse, and renew us that we may evermore love and serve you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

From Titus 2:11

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

COMMITMENT

SCRIPTURE READING: Galatians 4:1–7

¹ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ!

THE PREACHED WORD

Sermon– “Just the Right Time”

Sermon Notes:

Commitment

Commitment

GIVING: *We commit our resources.*

- ❖ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). As Christians, we give because Christ gave, and because he continues to give us freely all that he is by his Spirit.*
- ❖ *If you are a visitor, please do not feel obliged to give. At this time, you may fill out the perforated form on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering bag. You may also use this form if you have prayer requests or praises to share with the elders, would like information about Christ Presbyterian Church or would like to update your contact information.*

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Frank Houghton | Charles H. Kitson

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becomest poor.**

**Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.**