

## ***Announcements***

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

### **Christmas Worship Moved to Christmas Eve**

Our Christmas Eve service is at 7:00PM. Nursery care will be provided, ages 3 and older will remain with their families throughout the service. We are moving our full Lord's Day worship service from Sunday morning to Saturday evening for one week. Our hope is that you will enjoy spending Christmas morning with friends and families as you celebrate the Christ-gift together.

### **CPC Children Are Egging Us On**

Ask the children why! Let's keep filling the egg basket and box on the Missions table to help Hogar Providencia buy more chickens.

## **Service of Worship December 4, 2011 Second Sunday of Advent**

A word about our worship: We believe that in worship we actually meet with God. Therefore, our services are interactive and dynamic, retelling the gospel through a five-act drama: Approach, Renewal, (re)Commitment, Communion, and Commissioning. In this drama, we all have a part. In each act, we are placed in dialogue with God himself: He speaks and we respond. In our liturgy (script), you will find your lines designated in **bold**.

### **PREPARATION AND REFLECTION**

*The nuns taught us that no one who loves the way of grace ever comes to a bad end.*

–Mrs. O'Brien, from the movie "Tree of Life"

*Now your death is upon us and we'll return your ashes to the earth  
And I know you'll take comfort in knowing you've been roundly blessed and cursed  
But love is a power greater than death, just like the songs and stories told  
And when she built you, brother, she broke the mold*

–Bruce Springsteen, "Terry's Song"

*The Bustle in a House  
The Morning after Death  
Is solemnest of industries  
Enacted upon earth-  
The Sweeping up the Heart  
And putting Love away  
We shall not want to use again  
Until Eternity.*

–Emily Dickinson

***Jesus, Lord of Heaven***

Words &amp; Music: Philip Wickham

Jesus, Lord of heaven, I do not deserve  
 The grace that you have given or the promise of your Word.  
 Lord I stand in wonder at the sacrifice you've made;  
 With mercy beyond measure, my debt you freely paid.

**Chorus** Your love is deeper than any ocean,  
 Higher than the heavens,  
 Reaches beyond the stars in the sky.  
 Jesus your love has no bounds,  
 Jesus your love has no bounds.

CCLI Song No. 4176073

**ACT 1: APPROACH****CALL TO WORSHIP:** *God summons us.**From Psalm 96*

Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Sing to the Lord all the earth!**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad!

**Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!**

Praise the Lord, for he is coming to judge the world in righteousness!

**ACT 5: COMMISSIONING*****Blessed Be Your Name***

Words and Music: Matt Redman

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful  
 Where your streams of abundance flow, blessed be your name.  
 Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place,  
 Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
 When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

**Chorus** Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your name,  
 Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be your glorious name.

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me,  
 When the world's all as it should be, blessed be your name.  
 Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering,  
 Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name.

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
 When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say

**Chorus**

**Bridge (2x)** You give and take away, you give and take away.  
 My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be your name.

**Chorus**

CCLI Song #3798438; ©2002 Thankyou Music

**BENEDICTION:** *God sends us out in His power.*

Lifted up was he to die,  
 “It is finished!” was his cry;  
 Now in heav'n exalted high:  
 Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
 Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King,  
 All his ransomed home to bring,  
 Then anew this song we'll sing:  
 Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
 Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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## 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.

## *Ancient of Days*

Gary Sadler | Jamie Harvill

Blessing and honor, glory and power  
 Be unto the Ancient of Days;  
 From ev'ry nation, all of creation  
 Bow before the Ancient of Days.

*Chorus* Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth  
 Shall declare your glory,  
 Ev'ry knee shall bow  
 At your throne in worship;  
 You will be exalted, O God,  
 And your kingdom shall not pass away,  
 O Ancient of Days.

### *Bridge*

Your kingdom shall reign  
 Over all the earth,  
 Sing unto the Ancient of Days;  
 For none can compare  
 To Your matchless worth,  
 Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

### *Chorus*

CCLI Song No. 798108 © 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

William Williams | Jeremy Casella

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
 Pilgrim through this barren land.  
 I am weak, but thou are mighty;  
 Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
 Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore;  
 Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
 Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
 Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
 Lead me all my journey through.  
 Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield,  
 Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
 Bid my anxious fears subside;  
 Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
 Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
 Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,  
 Songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.

Land me safe on Canaan's side,  
 Bid my anxious fears, bid my anxious fears,  
 Land me safe on Canaan's side,  
 Bid my anxious fears, bid my anxious fears, goodbye.

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**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.**

**RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS**

❖ Please hold the elements until we can all partake together. (For those with diet restrictions gluten-free bread is offered).

***Hallelujah, What A Savior***

Bob Kauffman | Philip Paul Bliss

**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

**Man of Sorrows! what a name**  
**For the Son of God, who came**  
**Ruined sinners to reclaim:**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

**Bearing shame and scoffing rude,**  
**In my place condemned he stood,**  
**Sealed my pardon with his blood:**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

**Guilty, vile, and helpless, we;**  
**Spotless Lamb of God was he;**  
**Full atonement, can it be?**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

## ACT 4: COMMUNION

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: *God invites us to a meal.*

- ❖ 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 today, 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 14 as a guide.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is coming!

**He comes in power and glory!**

The Lord is here!

**He is with us by his Spirit!**

Let us give him thanks and praise.

You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to bring us light. In humility and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised that he would return to us in power to bring us into your everlasting kingdom.

**For all this, we thank you.**

We live in that hope and await Christ's coming.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Act 1: Approach*

### INVOCATION: *We ask God to meet us.*

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: **Ecclesiastes 3:1–8**

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: **Revelation 21:1–5**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

## ACT 2: RENEWAL

### CONFESSION OF SIN: *We own our faults.*

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name.  
We are more ready to resent than to forgive,

more ready to manipulate than to serve,  
more ready to fear than to love,  
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,  
more ready to compete than to help.

At the root of this behavior is mistrust.  
We do not love one another as we should,  
because we do not believe that you love us as you do.  
Forgive our cold unbelief.  
Make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of your love at the cross.  
Show us the tragedy of our sin,

the glory of your holiness,  
the grandeur of your grace,  
the cost of your sacrifice,  
the victory of Jesus,  
and the hope of his coming,

that we may be more fit for serving and for suffering.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our coming righteousness.  
Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### *Act 3: Commitment*

### ***Though the Night is Long***

Karen Choi

*While the musicians play this song, use this time to prayerfully reflect on the words of the sermon.*

Though the night is long,  
Though the streets are dark,  
Though there is a sorrowed  
Cry in our hearts,  
Though our backs are bent  
Down by a heavy load,  
Though our very frames  
Are stooping low,

*Chorus:* Lift up your eyes, lift up your soul;  
Though long you did wait,  
Though long you did toil,  
Watch for the dawn, for traces of light,  
The waited for One will scatter the night.

Though the winter wind  
Turns hopeful hearts cold,  
Though we've waited long  
For things foretold,  
Though our throats are dry  
And thirsty we have walked,  
Though it seems that now  
All hope is lost,

*Chorus*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel.

*Chorus*

*Sermon Notes:***ACT 3: 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 today's 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.*

***Thy Mercy, My God***

Words and Music: John Stocker | Sandra McCracken

**Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song;  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.**

**Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here.  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair.  
But through thy free goodness my spirits revive  
And he that first made me still keeps me alive.**

**Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart;  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart.  
Dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground,  
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found.**

**Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own  
And the covenant love of thy crucified Son.  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine...  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *We commit our concerns.***

❖ *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).*

***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.**

CCLI Song No. 31999 © Public Domain

**THE PREACHED WORD: *God brings us good news.*****Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Sermon— “Grief: Living in Light of His Coming”**

***Sermon Notes:***