

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH



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*A light in the darkness*

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## CONNECT CARD

We'd love to meet you and answer your questions!  
Scan this QR code to fill out our Connect Card or fill  
the form out below and leave it in the Offering Box.



YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(and anyone else in your household you'd like to include)*

YOUR PHONE OR EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(whichever is your preferred contact method)*

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT COVENANT?

# Order of Worship

for December 10, 2023

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## Prelude

### Call to Worship

From Isaiah 60:1-3

LEADER: Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**ALL: Lord, bring your light into our darkness that we might see you!**

## Prayer of Adoration

### Hymn

#### *O Come, All You Unfaithful*

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### Scripture Reading

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

## Little Children's Lesson

### Lighting of the Candle

Peace

» *Children in 1st-5th grade are released to their classroom*

## Membership Vows

Joy Burkley

## Scripture Reading Amos 5:18-24

- 18**Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!  
Why would you have the day of the LORD?  
It is darkness, and not light,  
**19**as if a man fled from a lion,  
and a bear met him,  
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,  
and a serpent bit him.
- 20**Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?
- 21**“I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
- 22**Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,  
I will not look upon them.
- 23**Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
- 24**But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## Advent Prayer From the Book of Common Prayer (1552)

**ALL: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Confession of Faith The Nicene Creed

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe?

**ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God;  
Begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;  
Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
Who, for us men and for our salvation,  
Came down from heaven  
And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
And was made man;**

*(continue on next page)*

**And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
And the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures;  
And ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;  
And he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life;  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Greeting of Peace of Christ**

### **Song of Praise**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above you heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Amen

## **Tithes & Offerings**

### **Hymn**

***Glory in the Darkest Place***

Brittany Born © Sovereign Grace Praise

## **Homily Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7**

- 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.
- 3**You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

*(continue on next page)*

- 4For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6For 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.
- 7Of 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.

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READER: The Word of the Lord    **ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Homily** Pastor Josh Crawford

**“Peace in the Darkness”**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## End of Year Giving

God is using our church to minister to the city of Richmond in both word and deed; and more opportunities continue to open up for us all the time. To do so requires our people, and it also requires our money. Please prayerfully consider giving above your normal tithe as we approach the end of the year so that we can continue to share the gospel of God's Kingdom in Richmond and into Appalachia.

## Christmas Celebration & Carol Practices

On December 17th at **5pm** we are hosting the annual Christmas Celebration! The children will be performing Christmas carols and we will enjoy a holiday dinner and a short Christmas story. Leading up to the Christmas Celebration the children will have practice times for the carols. We will have crafts, a short Gospel story, and snacks for children and their families during these times. Please invite people from the community to join in on the festivities!

**Here is the remaining carol practice schedule:**

- December 13th, 6-7pm at Madison Middle School

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On December 24th we are having a candlelight service at **6:30pm** in the auditorium. There will not be childcare provided.



**WEBSITE**  
[covenantrichmond.org](http://covenantrichmond.org)

**INSTAGRAM**  
[@covenantrichmond](https://www.instagram.com/covenantrichmond)

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