

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH



A light in the darkness

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 17, 2023

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

Scripture Reading John 1:9

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Little Children's Lesson

Lighting of the Candle Joy

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

Membership Vows

Tyler Lawson

Scripture Reading Isaiah 49:6-15

6I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” **7**thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

8Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, **9**saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; **10**they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

11And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. **12**Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.”

13Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. **14**But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

15“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Advent Prayer From the Book of Common Prayer (1552)

ALL: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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;
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

Homily Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-3; Matthew 2:9-11

2The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
3You 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.

9After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11**And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

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

Homily Pastor Travis Stephens

“Joy in the Darkness”

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The Lord’s Supper

LEADER: What is the hope of the Church?

PEOPLE: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!

Hymn

Benediction From Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

PASTOR: Go love your God!

ALL: Go love your neighbor!

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! Bring a dessert if you would like other than that dinner is catered.

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. Kids can come in their pajamas!



WEBSITE
covenantrichmond.org

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

FACEBOOK
[fb.com/covenantrichmond](https://www.facebook.com/covenantrichmond)