

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 24, 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 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Little Children's Lesson

Lighting of the Candle Love

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

Scripture Reading 1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Advent Prayer From the Book of Common Prayer (1552)

ALL: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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;

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: Luke 1:26-38

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29**But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30**And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36**And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37**For nothing will be impossible with God." **38**And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

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 Numbers 6

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace.

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 Eve Candlelight Service

We are having a candlelight service tonight at **6:30pm** in the auditorium. There will not be childcare provided. Kids can come in their pajamas!



WEBSITE

covenantrichmond.org

INSTAGRAM

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FACEBOOK

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