

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 31, 2023

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## Prelude

### Call to Worship From Isaiah 40:9

LEADER: Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
Lft up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
Lift it up, fear not;  
Say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”

**ALL: LORD, we behold you today!**

## Prayer of Adoration

## Hymn

### Scripture Reading Galatians 4:4-7

**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.

## Little Children’s Lesson

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

## Scripture Reading Joel 2:23-29

- 23“Be glad, O children of Zion,  
and rejoice in the LORD your God,  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the latter rain, as before.
- 24““The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- 25I will restore to you the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent among you.
- 26““You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- 27You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- 28““And it shall come to pass afterward,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.
- 29Even on the male and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

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

**ALL: Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. 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 61:1-4

- <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;
- <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
- <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

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

**Homily** Pastor Josh Crawford

**“The Church’s New Year”**

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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 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

## Neighborhood Groups Starting Back Next Sunday

If you would like to join a neighborhood group or want more information on what it means to be in one, please talk to one of the pastors after the service or email [admin@covenantrichmond.org](mailto:admin@covenantrichmond.org)



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

**INSTAGRAM**  
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