

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

**EUCCHARIST**

**INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY #607**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #146**      *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

**\*BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      *People, Look East* arr. Anthony Giamanco

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*Thank you for sharing in this time of worship with us. We are using Advent words for worship from A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org), specifically work from Sarah Are. The liturgist is Eugene Godwin. The Usher is Ginny Vance. Coffee hour is hosted by Mary Margaret Whipple. The worship service is recorded and available on YouTube and the church's website.*

*Large print hymn books, individual seat cushions, and children's activity packets are available from the usher at the entrance. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in the sanctuary for all parts of the worship service. There is also childcare available in the room off the front of the sanctuary. A diaper changing station is in the room labeled "Teen Lounge" just past the bathrooms*

*Bathrooms are located outside of the sanctuary to the right, through the narthex, and up the small set of stairs. An ADA-accessible bathroom is located in the fellowship hall. To access the fellowship hall, drive around to the parking lot and enter through the double doors.*

*To reach Rev. Caitlin, email [covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com) or reach out to her at 937-570-8218.*



*Artwork from Stushie Art*

**COURAGE (LOVE) CAN'T WAIT**

**CHURCH OF THE COVENANT**

Rev. Caitlin Culp, **Pastor**  
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SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

December 21, 2025      4th Sunday of Advent      11:00 am

(\*) *You’re invited to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

**PRELUDE**      *Still, Still, Still* arr. Donna Mitchell

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & MOMENT OF PREPARATION**      Rev. Caitlin Culp

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**      The Culp-Okpalas

**HYMN OF PREPARATION #92**      *While We Are Waiting, Come*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      *Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC*

Leader: What can’t wait?  
**People: Hope for a better day.**  
One: What can’t wait?  
**All: Peace and repentance, among and within us.**  
One: What can’t wait?  
**All: Joy and delight! Our cup runneth over.**  
One: What can’t wait?  
**All: Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, love for creation.**  
One: God is waiting, and God is ready.  
**All: Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #107**      *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)      *Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC*

Gracious God, we long to be as courageous as Joseph and Mary. Brave enough to trust your call and strong enough to hold onto one another. There are so many places in the world that could use our courage. You know them and we do too. So when fear takes over, forgive us. When our knees shake and our words fail, forgive us. When self-hatred is easier than self-love, forgive us. When walls are more convenient than peace, forgive us. When pessimism is more convenient than hope, forgive us. When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, forgive us. You invite us to be courageous. Forgive us. *Silent prayer...*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*RESPONSE #88**      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, verse 7

**PASSING OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.  
**People: And also with you.**

**ANTHEM**      *Night Song* by Jim Ailor      Covenant Choir

THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**      Eugene Godwin

**FIRST SCRIPTURE**      Isaiah 7:10-16 (*pg. 602*)      Eugene Godwin

Leader: The word of the Lord.      **People: Thanks be to God.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**      Kent Hamaker

**SECOND SCRIPTURE**      Matthew 1:18-25 (*pg. 2*)

**SERMON**      Caitlin Culp

**\*HYMN #307**      *God of Grace and God of Glory*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)      *Confession of 1967, 9.19, adapted*

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*You’re invited to share prayer requests aloud.*