Covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Loving God, loving people, making disciples



November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

All the People of Covenant	
Pastor	**Rev. Rachel H. Vogado**
Director of Music	**Richard Rudolph**
Organist/Accompanist	**Ronn Lowe**
Director of Faith Formation Ministries	**Jewel Aagaard**
Director of Preschool	**Anne Craig**
Maintenance Superintendent	**Mark Overacker**
Administrator/Recording Treasurer	**Gail Schuler**

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Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

Gathering

**Please stand as you are able*

As the prelude begins, we invite you to enter a time of reflection.
Let the music settle your spirit, set aside the distractions of the week,
and prepare your heart to encounter God.

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Harrison Oxley

Chris Magee, trumpet; Ronn Lowe, organ

Welcome and Covenant Life

During our morning announcements,
please take a moment to sign and pass the friendship pads.

Gathering Praise "Once in Royal David's City"
arr. Jay Althouse

Sanctuary Choir; Chris Magee, trumpet; Ronn Lowe, organ

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

One: In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
All: The Word was in the beginning with God.
Through the Word, all things came into being.
One: The Word of God was a person, a flesh-and-bone human
who lived and walked among us.
All: The Word is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man,
Prince of Peace and Word Made Flesh.
One: The season of Advent reminds us
of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus.
God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven
to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.
Today as we sing together, we light the candle of hope,
because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

(Lighting the first purple candle.)

Sing: Verse 1 of Hymn #85 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

One: Come together, children of God,
and worship the one who dwelt among us!
All: Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

***Hymn #88** (verses 1–2, 6–7) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, Word of God made flesh, long before stories were told or books were written, the Word was with God and the Word was God. But we have worshiped other words. We have mistaken the Word made flesh for printed words, for words in our own language, for cruel words, and for words that divide and dehumanize us. We repent and return to the beginning, to the Word through whom all other words came into being. Forgive us, God.

Declaration of Forgiveness

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Children are invited to come forward.

The Word

Time with Our Children Jewel Aagaard, Director of Faith Formation

Children ages 4–7 may leave for Children's Worship and will return during the last hymn.

Hymn #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayer for Illumination David Skole

Old Testament Reading Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (Pew Bible, OT pp. 503-504)

New Testament Reading John 1:1–14 (Pew Bible, NT p. 79)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Body, Have Hope!" Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

Response of Praise "O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Mary McDonald

***Affirmation of Faith** (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Responding

Celebration of Giving+

Offertory "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Dallas Blair

Chris Magee, trumpet; Ronn Lowe, organ

***Doxology** (To the tune of "Old Hundredth")

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us, Emmanuel. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession with the Lord's Prayer

Sending

***Hymn #850** "In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude "Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling" J. S. Bach/Christina Harmon

Chris Magee, trumpet; Ronn Lowe, organ

Welcome! We are blessed to have you join our worship today and we hope to see you again soon! More information about Covenant is available on our website at covenantroanoke.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

Greetings, Parents! We want all of God's children to feel comfortable in our sanctuary, and **children are always welcome in our worship services.** If you choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available downstairs for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance if needed.

We also have a Parents Room just outside the Sanctuary with a changing table, rocking chairs, and toys. **You will find children's bulletins and activity bags** on the table in Heritage Hall. **Children's Worship is offered** during the second half of the service for children ages 4–7**.**

You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary. If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.

Join us for Mingle and Munch! After worship all are invited to gather in Heritage Hall to visit with church members and guests while enjoying light refreshments. **Special thanks to Kathy Mesko and Maggie Moen for hosting today!**

Elder of the Month: David Brand
Deacon of the Month: Kevin Aagaard
Assistant Deacon of the Month: Mike Whitehead



In Our Prayers…Congregation: Christopher Bircher, Frances Marcum, Peggy Phillips, June Smith, Jeff Thomas, Hensley Woods, Jr.
Family & Friends: Dorothy Jeanne Aikin, Ruth Ehrenberg, Heather Ford, Tina Harris, Dennis Helms, Molly Murden, Joe Platenkamp, Medie Wiley

Music Notes from Ronn Lowe: Today we are pleased to welcome back our friend Chris Magee on trumpet. As we begin the season of Advent, our music reflects a time of anticipation, preparation, and hope. While we may be eager to sing our favorite Christmas carols, Advent has its own rich musical traditions. This season invites us to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, before we celebrate the joy of His birth. Our prelude, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," for trumpet and organ, is one of the most beloved hymns of Advent. Expressing a deep longing for the promised Messiah, it reflects themes of waiting, hope, and God's promise of redemption. Rooted in scripture, this timeless hymn connects generations of believers in their anticipation of Christ's coming. The offertory, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," invites us into a moment of stillness and reverence. Its beautiful text reminds us that the One before whom all creation stands in awe is also the Word made flesh, who comes among us with grace and blessing. This combination of mystery, humility, and hope makes the hymn especially meaningful during Advent and Christmas, as well as in the celebration of Holy Communion. Our postlude, "Sleepers, Awake!" ("Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"), draws from Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata BWV 140, based on a hymn by Philipp Nicolai. With its themes of spiritual awakening, hope, and watchfulness, the music calls us to be ready for Christ's coming. Christina Harmon's arrangement for trumpet and organ brings a festive conclusion to today's worship.

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