



Cypress Ridge PCA

December 17, 2023

**Join our 10:30 am Worship Service
at CRPC or Livestream!**

cypressridge-pca.org

WELCOME

We are glad you chose to worship with us today. It is our hope that today's service will be a fresh encounter with God's love and grace. This bulletin will guide you as we worship together.

OUR PURPOSE

Cypress Ridge PCA exists to **Glorify God** *through*: **Exalting** God's Glory, **Equipping** God's People, and **Extending** God's Kingdom.

CRPC is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America: pcanet.org

VISITOR/PRAYER REQUEST CARD

Visitors: We would like to get to know you! Please fill out the Visitor Card and put it in the offering box. We also encourage you to look at our website for further information: www.cypressridge-pca.org.

Prayer Requests: Please record your prayer request on the Visitor Card and put it in the offering box.

CHILDREN

We offer numerous options for children during worship:

- Children are welcome to remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service. (Approximately one hour and 15 minutes.)
- There is a nursery and pre-school room. The nursery is for infants through 1 year olds. The pre-school room is for 2-3 year olds.
- Children's Prayer: Children of all ages will be invited to come forward for prayer during our worship service. After the prayer, children may return to their seats or go to Children's Worship.
- Children's Worship is offered for those from age 4 through 3rd grade. Children return to the Sanctuary before Communion.
- There is a cry room at the back of the Sanctuary where parents can take their child(ren) during the service.

About the Cover: www.bing.com/image

Scripture: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE LORD GATHERS THE NATIONS

We believe that the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – calls the world to worship Him. As a Christian community, we gather together on the first day of each week to worship Him as we are led by the Spirit. As we worship, we bring our praise and our concerns, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our troubles.

Prelude

**Please silence your electronic devices*

Announcements

Reflection on Worship

*Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.*

– Martin Luther

Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Tony and Maritza Lanzillotti

Call to Worship

From Matthew 2 and Psalm 100

Leader: Behold, the star rose before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Response: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His.

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ
While fields and floods; rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Words and Music: Latin Carol and German Melody (14th century)

Good Christian men, rejoice; with heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now
Christ is born today; Christ is born today
Good Christian men, rejoice; with heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this
He has opened heaven's door; and man is blessed evermore
Christ is born for this; Christ was born for this

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

*Words & Music: Trad. English Carol. Music arr. by David B. Hampton.
UBP CCLI #3038781.*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen; let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior; was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power; when we were gone astray

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

From God our heavenly Father; a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds; brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born; the Son of God by name

Chorus

Now to the Lord sing praises; all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood; each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas; all anger should efface

Chorus

Special Music

Hallelujah
Kidz Christmas Choir

Monthly Memory Verse

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his
glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Prayer for Children

*Children's Worship available for children 4 yrs. – 3rd grade. Kidz Guide to
Worship papers are available in the back, for the older children.*

THE LORD REVEALS HIMSELF TO THE WORLD

God calls the nations to follow him primarily through the reading and exposition of His inspired, infallible, and inerrant word as contained in the Old and New Testaments.

We believe that the Scriptures teach what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man.

Sermon

Pastor Rodney Barton

Simeon's Song: The Joy of Having a Redeemer

Luke 2:22-38

Pew Bible p. 857

Large Print Bible p. 1070

We have joy in God's Redeemer:

I. Revealed

II. Received

Joy Has Dawned

*Words & music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2004 Thankyou Music/Adm. by
worshipitogether.com songs. UBP CCLI #3038781.*

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love - Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless

Son of Adam, Son of Heav'n, given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry

THE LORD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO PRAY

Throughout Scripture, God's people are called to pray through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. As we come to the Lord in prayer, we are placing our dependence and trust in the One who forgives, who cares, and who strengthens.

Confession of Sin

Psalm 139:23-24

Leader: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Prayer: Almighty God, You have given us so much to be joyful for. You have created us, loved us, and redeemed us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Yet, too often we choose to dwell on things that rob us of joy – like anger, doubt, jealousy, or self-pity. Forgive us, merciful Father! May Your Holy Spirit cause us to have joy in knowing that You provide for us daily, and may we find joy in our salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen

[Silent Confession]

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:10-12

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

THE LORD PROVIDES OUR DAILY BREAD

Worship includes returning to God and His work a portion of our material possessions as tithes and offerings. We ask Him to use the generosity of His people to continue and to advance the work of His church.

Offertory Scripture

1 Chronicles 16:29

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before Him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Congregational Prayer

Mission of the Month: Faith Xtreme

Battling Cancer: Susie Fuday, Shawn Holdener, and Sue Gilkey

Health Issues: Charles Burkett, Kay Smith, Blossom Warren, Rick & Rosie DeCoito, Briana Campos

Homebound: Pat & Larry Moss, Brenda Donnell

Fullness of Grace

Words & Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. © 2004 Thankyou Music/Adm. by worshiptogether.com. UBP CCLI #3038781.

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty; this is the wonder of Jesus
Laying aside His power and glory
Humbly He entered our world

Chose the path of meanest worth; scandal of a virgin birth
Born in a stable cold and rejected; here lies the hope of the world

Fullness of grace the love of the Father; shown in the face of Jesus
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity
Walking the Calvary road

Christ, the Holy innocent; took our sin and punishment
Fullness of God, despised and rejected; crushed for the sins of the world

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for; promise of God in Jesus
Through His obedience we are forgiven
Op'ning the flood-gates of Heav'n
All our hopes and dreams we bring; gladly as an offering
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable; God's gift in love to the world

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH HIS PEOPLE

The climax of our worship is sitting at the Table with the Lord. We come to the Table full of thankfulness and joy because of His grace. As the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus' sacrifice reconciled us to the Father so that we are in a right relationship with him.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Bread: Gluten free bread is located in the cups within the basket.

Cup: The outer ring is wine; the inner rings are juice.

What is Communion?

Communion is also known as the Lord's Supper. The bread represents the broken body of Christ, and the cup represents the blood Jesus poured out as the Sacrificial Lamb (*see 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*).

When we celebrate this feast, we commune with the risen Lord Jesus who stands as our host to offer spiritual nourishment, renewal and life. We also participate together in the reconciling grace of God.

Who can take Communion?

We warmly welcome to the table all who have publicly professed their faith in Jesus – trusting in His once-for-all sacrificial death upon the cross.

At Cypress Ridge, we ask children to wait to take communion until they have met with the elders to share their faith in Jesus.

If you have not yet professed faith in Jesus, we encourage you to spend this time reflecting on the prayers below.

Prayer for those searching for the truth

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, truth and life. If what You claim is true, please guide me and teach me. Give me an understanding of who You are, and open up my heart so that I may have faith in You. Amen.

Prayer of faith

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am more sinful than I ever believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross. Knowing that You have also been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior. Amen.

THE LORD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

*God does not save us simply from something. He saves us to something ...
to be His messengers of redemption to a lost and fallen world. He sends us out redeemed,
loved, and with a purpose. We are called to bear witness to what He is doing in our lives
where we live, work, and play. Praise be to God!*

Benediction

adapted from Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord
Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good
that you may do his will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever
and ever. Amen.

Unison Response:

Christ has died!
Christ has risen!
Christ will come again!!!

Choral Response

Tri-fold Amen

CRPC FAMILY EVENTS

TODAY ...

- **Brookdale Christmas Caroling:** Meet in the foyer at 9:15 am to walk over OR meet us in front of Brookdale. Anyone is welcome to join us!
- **Worship Service at CRPC & Livestream:** At 10:30 am.
 - Each service is recorded and will be available to watch following the service on YouTube.

CONNECT GROUPS ... Contact a leader to learn more!

- **Johnson/Smith Group (Brad: 863-877-8589):** Meeting at Matt & Anna Smith's home, Sundays at 5 pm, meeting: 12/17.
- **Luchenbill Group (Bob: 517-398-2212):** Meeting at Bob & Barb Luchenbill's home, Sundays at 5 pm, meeting: 12/17.
- **Pletcher/Bacheldor Group (Paul: 863-206-9679):** On break and will resume on 01/10/24.
- **Wood Group (Bob: 419-969-4056):** On break and will resume on 01/14/24.
- **Reyes Group (David: 863-206-8278):** On break and will resume in January.
- **Barton/Holdener Group (Rodney: 407-375-2756):** On break and will resume in January.

THIS WEEK ...

- **Wednesday:** FX Christmas Project – gift wrapping at 10 am.
- **Thursday-Saturday:** FX Christmas Project – delivering gifts.
- **Saturday Morning:** Men's Sunrise Bible Study at 7 am.

COMMUNITY BIBLE READING ...

*After you read through the chapters, pray through them with A.C.T.S.
(Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)*

Monday: Ecclesiastes 2 and Matthew 19
Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 3 and Matthew 20
Wednesday: Ecclesiastes 4 and Matthew 21
Thursday: Ecclesiastes 5 and Matthew 22
Friday: Ecclesiastes 6 and Matthew 23
Saturday: Psalm 104

ON THE HORIZON ...

- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** Sunday, December 24th at 6:30 pm. *Please note, there will not be any nursery attendants during this service.*
- **Sunday School:** Sunday School will resume on January 7th, at 9:15 am.
- **Family Camp:** March 1st-3rd at Highlands Hammock in Sebring. *Family- Fellowship- Friends- Fun- Food- Fire.* Look out for sign-up sheet! See Tim Holdener or Rodney Barton for more details.

FYI ...

- **God's Provision Through November 2023:**
November General Fund Giving: \$30,716.15
YTD November GF Giving: \$356,504.15
YTD November Exp. Paid: \$348,455.12
YTD Budget: \$326,297.59
YTD Mercy Fund: \$5,620.27
- **Snack Time:** If you would like to bring snacks, you can sign up at the coffee bar!
- **Resource Table:** We provide free copies of *Our Daily Bread* (large print & regular) and *Tabletalk* at the Welcome Center.
- **Visitor/Prayer Request Card:** If you are a visitor, please fill out the card, under the seat in front of you, and place it in the offering box. Any prayer or visitation request may also be put on this card.
- **Post-Service Prayer:** If you would like prayer after the service, there will be leaders at the front of the sanctuary, by the piano, available to meet and pray with you.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE ...

SERVING IN December 2023

Deacon of the Month: David Holdener

Ushers: David Warren & Elijah Green

Communion Preparation: Sheryl Bacheldor

Nursery Volunteers:

12/17 – Katelynn Wedeman & Renae Anderson

12/24 – Lois Adair & Ginny Vander Zee

12/31 – Jessica Sanders & John Wedeman

Children's Worship:

12/17 – Betty Parmarter & Sherry Sakko

12/24 – Ginger Andersen & Terri Jefferies

12/31 – No Children's Worship

Snacks:

12/17 – Bob & Gloria Wood

12/24 – Dave & Kay Smith

12/31 – TBD

SERVING IN January 2023

Deacon of the Month: Charles Burkett

Ushers: Larry Vander Zee & Ken Harrison

Communion Preparation: Allen & Monica Franklin

Nursery Volunteers:

01/07 – David Holdener & TBD

01/14 – TBD

01/21 –TBD

01/28 – Jessica Sanders & TBD

Children's Worship:

01/07 – Sheryl Bacheldor & Melissa Pletcher

01/14 – Anna Smith & Gabrielle Jean-Bart

01/21 – Philip & Jeanie Baier

01/28 – Ginger Anderson & Terri Jefferies

Snacks:

01/7 – Leopold & Gabrielle Jean-Bart

01/14 – Linda & Shirley

01/21 – TBD

01/28 – TBD

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

12/20 – Barb Luchenbill

12/20 – Don & Linda Paris

12/21 – Christian & Abby Babcock

12/22 – James & Nancy Breiner

12/23 – Robert & Barbara McClelland



CHURCH STAFF

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