



## **Cypress Ridge PCA**

December 3, 2023

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

*[cypressridge-pca.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** [Advent hope Sunday pictures - Search Images \(bing.com\)](#)

**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.*

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## **Prelude**

*\*Please silence your electronic devices*

## **Announcements**

## **Reflection on Worship**

*Hope is not a situation  
Hope is not a location  
And hope is not an experience  
Hope is a person, and His name is Jesus  
- Paul David Tripp*

## **Prayer of Invocation**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Barbara and Galina Hitching

### **Call to Worship**

from Psalm 95 and Titus 2

**Leader:** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!

**Response:** Let us come before Him with thanksgiving!

**Leader:** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.

**Response:** We await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

## **Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*Text: James Montgomery. Music: Henry T. Smart.*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ, the newborn King*

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light

*Chorus*

## **The First Noel**

*Traditional English Carol. Music by W. Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1855. Arr. Jeff  
Lippencott © 1998 Community Worship Music. UBP CCLI #3038781.*

The First Noel, the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind hath bought

*Chorus*

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*Words by Phillips Brooks & Music by Lewis H. Redner*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight

O holy Child of Bethlehem; descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us; our Lord Emmanuel

### **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.*

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**Sermon**

Pastor Rodney Barton

*Zechariah's Song of Hope*

*Luke 1:67-79*

Pew Bible p. 856

Large Print Bible p. 1068

*We have hope:*

*I. In God's Deliver*

*II. In God's Deliverance*

*III. In God's Way*

## Living Hope

*Music by Brian Johnson & Phil Wickham. Phil Wickham Music & Bethel Music Pub. UBP CCLI #3038781*

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The King of Kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken ev'ry chain, there's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, Yours is the victory

*Chorus  
Jesus Christ, my living hope; God, You are my living hope*

## 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.*

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### Confession of Sin

Daniel 9:4b-5

**Leader:** I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we confess that though You call us to trust in You, too often we go our own way. We pray that You would forgive us our sins and give us the strength to rejoice in Your mercy and grace. When our hearts fill with fear and our hope dwindles, would You remind us, that in Christ, our judgments have been wiped away. We pray this in the loving name of Jesus, who quiets us with His singing. Amen.

[Silent Confession]

### Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:4-5

**Leader:** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

### Ministry Moment

Faith Xtreme

## 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.*

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### Offertory Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:7

**Leader:** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### Congregational Prayer

***Mission of the Month:*** Faith Xtreme

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

***Health Issues:*** Bob Luchenbill, Charles Burkett, Kay Smith, Blossom Warren, Rick & Rosie DeCoito

***Homebound:*** Pat & Larry Moss, Brenda Donnell

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### What Child is This

*Test: William C. Dix. Music: Traditional English melody, 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary*

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

*Chorus*

## 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.*

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### **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!*

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### **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*

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# CRPC FAMILY EVENTS

## TODAY ...

- **Sunday School:** Classes available for all ages at 9:15am.
- **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!

- **Luchenbill Group (Bob: 517-398-2212):** Meeting at Bob & Barb Luchenbill's home, Sundays at 5 pm, meeting: 12/3.
- **Pletcher/Bacheldor Group (Paul: 863-206-9679):** Meeting at Paul & Melissia Pletcher's home, at 6 pm, meeting: 12/6.
- **Barton/Holdener Group (Rodney: 407-375-2756):** Meeting at Tim & Jessica Holdener's home, at 5 pm, meeting: 12/10.
- **Reyes Group (David: 863-206-8278):** Meeting at the church, Sundays at 5 pm, meeting: 12/10.
- **Wood Group (Bob: 419-969-4056):** Meeting at the church, Sundays at 12:15 pm, meeting: 12/10.
- **Johnson/Smith Group (Brad: 863-877-8589):** Meeting at Matt & Anna Smith's home, Sundays at 5 pm, meeting: 12/17.

## THIS WEEK ...

- **Monday:** Women's Christmas Celebration at 7 pm.
- **Friday:** Kidz Christmas Party at 6 pm, at the church. Parents are asked to stay for the party ☺.
- **Saturday Morning:** Men's Sunrise Bible Study at 7 am.
- **Saturday Morning:** Men's Breakfast at 9 am.

## COMMUNITY BIBLE READING ...

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

**Monday:** Proverbs 23 and Matthew 9

**Tuesday:** Proverbs 24 and Matthew 10

**Wednesday:** Proverbs 25 and Matthew 11

**Thursday:** Proverbs 26 and Matthew 12

**Friday:** Proverbs 27 and Matthew 13

**Saturday:** Psalm 102

## ON THE HORIZON ...

- **Boathouse Christmas Party:** Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Pletcher's home at 6:30 pm, dinner provided.
- **Ladies Day-Out:** Ladies, join us on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for some Christmas fun! Meet at the church at 10 am to car-pool for an early lunch at The Back Porch Tea Room. Afterwards we can shop for Christmas at the Barn's Antique store. We will end at Sheryl Bacheldor's home (268 Siberian Cypress Circle, WH) for some hot cocoa and a cookie exchange.
  - **Please sign up at the high-top table by December 15th.**  
*Please bring a few dollars to help compensate your driver, lunch \$, and whatever spending money you wish to bring. If you'd like to participate in the cookie exchange, bring one dozen cookies with you.*

- **Faith Xtreme Christmas Project:** Sign up to serve at the high-top table! See Ginny Vander Zee or Pam Baker with any questions.
  - Opportunities to serve:
    - Financially (Write checks to Faith Xtreme)
    - Wrap gifts (December 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, at church)
    - Deliver gifts (December 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- **Brookdale Christmas Caroling:** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the foyer at 9:15 am to walk over OR meet us in front of Brookdale. Anyone is welcome to join us!
- **Kidz Christmas Performance:** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, during the service.
- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. *Please note, there will not be any nursery attendants during this service.*
- **Family Camp:** March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ...

- **Snack Time:** If you would like to bring snacks, you can sign up at the coffee bar!
- **Advent Devotionals:** Advent Devotionals, a free resource for all, are located at the Welcome Center.
- **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:*

12/3 - Katelynn Wedeman & Tami Kendall

12/10 - Jessica Sanders & Renae Anderson

12/17 - Katelynn Wedeman & TBD

12/24 - Lois Adair & Ginny Vander Zee

12/31- Jessica Sanders & John Wedeman

*Children's Worship:*

12/3 - Sheryl Bacheldor & Melissia Pletcher

12/10 - Leopold & Gabrielle Jean-Bart

12/17 - Betty Parmerter & Sherry Sakko

12/24 - Ginger Andersen & Terri Jefferies

*Snacks:*

TBD

### **THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

12/3 - Faviola Genisse

12/4 - Bob Baker

12/8 - Tom & Sandy Luchenbill

12/9 - Sandy Luchenbill



## CHURCH STAFF

**Rodney Barton**

*Pastor*

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**Christy Fung**

*Interim Worship Leader*

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**Anna Smith**

*Office Administrator &*

*Children's Ministry Director*

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**Bob Wood**

*Director of Discipleship*

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### ELDERS:

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