

**The Celebration of Holy Communion**  
**Advent, the Season of Anticipation**  
Sunday, December 7, 2008 - 11 AM

Welcome Pastor John Benson

Families with children are welcome in worship.  
Nursery care is also available for infants and toddlers  
Downstairs throughout the service

Prelude Sandra Benson, Organist  
Becky Ericson, Pianist

*Joy to the World* –arr. Smith

Call to Worship

\*Hymn 146

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

\*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Youth Group

Second Lesson 2 Peter 3:8-15a Erik Karlson, Reader

Unison Prayer of Confession Hymnal No. 90

A Word to the Children “Christmas Is On the Way”

Week 2- “Mary’s Happy News” – Luke 1:26-38

Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*Hymn 154, Stanza 4

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem*

\*Consecration of Offerings

\*Hymn- Insert

***God Is For Me***

**Sermon**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**WHERE THE GOOD NEWS BEGINS**

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

\*Nicene Creed

Hymnal No. 883

Isaiah 40:1-11

\*Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

\*Hymn 552

*How Great the Joy*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able please stand.

**We’re celebrating the Lord’s supper today.** If you *confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead*, you are welcome to join us- even if you’re not a member of this congregation. Everyone will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and cup. If for any reason you do not wish to participate, please feel free to stay in your seats. Children are welcomed at the Lord’s Table- the youngest are given grapes. Older children may receive the bread and the cup, if in the opinion of their parents, they understand the significance of the celebration and have put their faith in Christ.

**COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Celebrating our 36<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry**  
**7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152**  
 CCC Webpage [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org)  
 703-455-4150 [communitycovenant@verizon.net](mailto:communitycovenant@verizon.net)

*Our mission as a congregation is calling people from this community and around the world into communion with Christ. Our communion with him and with each other grows as we enter into the promises and challenges that a covenant with Christ includes.*

**When you come to Church on Sunday, remember to . . .**

- Bring *canned goods* for outreach to those in need in our area through the food pantries at ECHO and Rising Hope
- Bring *change* for the change box to fund capital improvements
- Bring *a dollar* to help our Youth Group support Yohannes Makalew, Compassion International sponsored child in Indonesia

**Remember** that this building is regularly used by other groups. If you are planning an activity, remember to check the complete calendar in the church office. Please speak to Aaron Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling any event. (Call 703-455-4150.) The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday.

**Our Life Together This Week**

Today	9:30 AM	Sunday School classes for everyone Youth and Adult Classes – <u>The Purpose of Christmas:</u> <i>A Time of Celebration</i>
	11:00 AM	The Celebration of Holy Communion
	3:15PM	Youngish Adults meet at Wolf Trap for a Holiday Sing-a-Long (see bulletin for details)
	7:30PM	Not so Youngish Adults meet at St. Peter's in Arlington for Messiah Sing-A-Long
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study <i>The Purpose of Christmas</i>
Wednesday	7:30 PM	Church Council Budget Meeting
<b>Sunday</b> Dec. 14	9:30 AM	Sunday School – classes for everyone  Youth and Adults Classes: Session 2 Of Rick Warren's video-based study <u>The Purpose of Christmas</u> with small group <i>A Time of Salvation</i>
	11:00 AM	Worship service Special Music: Bill Anderson, Doug Thorpe Message: Giving Your Testimony

The **youngish adults** will warm up their vocal cords for the holidays by attending the Wolf Trap Sing-a-Long in the Filene Center on Sunday, December 7. We'll meet in front of the Center at 3:15 for the 4:00 p.m. concert, which is BYOB (bring your own bell). Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted. Depending on the appearance of Baby E, we'll adjourn to the Enstroms for hot chocolate afterwards.

**For the Not So Youngish Adults** who also love to sing, another Messiah Sing-a-Long will be held at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 PM. Free admission, donations for Food Bank accepted. Bring your score or borrow at the door, childcare during reception following, St Peter's Choir, Orchestra & Soloist. See Doug Thorpe for details.

**Volunteers needed in December-** Sign up in the hallway today to light the Advent Wreath on Sunday Morning (individuals, families, and other groupings are needed). We are also looking for a number of people to read scripture or provide a special music for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 10PM on Dec.24

**Help our apple tree** continue to blossom and bear fruit! 76 personal invitations have been extended to children and their families to participate in a church activity (our goal for the year is 100). 684 hours have been donated in supporting our ministry to children (our goal is 1000). \$2809 has been contributed for better equipping our children ministry (our goal is \$5000). Please help us achieve these over and above stewardship goals.

#### **Lessons to Read for December 14 -The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-11	The Anointed One
Psalms 126	Sowing with tears, reaping with joy
1 Thess. 5:16-24	Do not quench the Spirit
John 1:6-28	The testimony of John the Baptist

**Thanks to everyone who helped** with our Hanging of the Greens Program and Christmas Dinner yesterday! The youth group for taking care of the little children; Betty & Gordon Sloat, Shelley & Tom Connelie and Bill Anderson for preparing for the decorating; Julie Fann for finding all the angel verses; Mary Hamilton for getting the Angel Tree ready; Sandy Benson and her team of volunteers for planning and decorating for the Christmas dinner- Claire Bentley, Becky Ericson, Kathy Knowles and Lisa Ann Abranchess.

**Angel Tree** – once again we are inviting you to purchase a Christmas gift for the child of someone in prison. Visit the Angel Tree by the coffee table and take an ornament from the tree with a child's name and request. \$20 to \$25 is the suggested amount to be spent per gift. If purchasing clothes, please enclose a gift return receipt, as sometimes the clothes don't fit even when they are the requested size. Tell Mary Hamilton about your choice and she will tell you when and how the wrapped present is to be brought to the church and put under the tree for distribution to our Angel Tree Children.

**Mark Enstrom, CCC Financial Secretary**, has requested that you turn in your World Relief Banks and Offerings ASAP. If you want your contribution to be counted and credited toward your annual giving for taxes, your name should be on the bank. If your check for the World Relief is made out to Community Covenant Church and designated for World Relief, you will also be given credit. When offerings have been gathered and accounted for, we will send one check to Covenant World Relief.

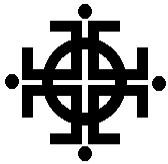
**Got any Christmas recipes** that ought to be in the Church Cookbook? Or other great recipes to share? Make sure they are put in the folder on the table in the hallway or given to Kathy Knowles before the cookbook goes into print . . . soon!

**Did you miss last week's sermon?** Hear it and read the bulletin each week on the church website. It is updated weekly. Please visit us at [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org).

**In the Covenant Companion** – “Seasonal articles on Julfest at 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant, Mary’s Magnificat, Joseph as a Stepfather to God, the Awesome Child, Bethlehem Today, and the Humble Stable. Subscriptions to our award-winning denominational magazine are \$19.95 a year. (Online at [www.covchurch.org/communications](http://www.covchurch.org/communications) or call 773-784-3000)

**Get Connected with Covenant Newswire** – this free service delivers the latest news from Covenant Churches around the world to your home or office in a single daily email. It’s a great way to keep informed about what’s happening among the mission friends. To sign up, visit the Covenant Web Page ([www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)) and click on the Newswire button.

**How to contact Pastor Benson.** Call at his office (703-455-4150); or by email- [johnbenson@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbenson@hotmail.com). Prayer requests and other matters can be brought to his attention by using the home page insert in this bulletin. Please get in touch immediately when you or someone in your family is in the hospital, facing surgery, or in need of pastoral care.



*The character of the Evangelical Covenant Church is expressed by our logo: at the center is the cross. Next is a circle – the symbol of being united in Christ. Then four different people, joined to one another, reach out to the world in love. The Covenant Web Page: [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)*

**A Covenant Affirmation:** We affirm the necessity of the new birth. The Apostle Paul wrote, “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” (2 Cor. 5:17) New birth in Christ means committing ourselves to him and receiving forgiveness, acceptance and eternal life. It means being alive in Christ, and this life has the qualities of love and righteousness, joy and peace. If you have any questions about this, please speak to Pastor Benson or a church member today