

**WORSHIP IN THE SEASON OF ANTICIPATION**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 13, 2009 – 11AM**

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

*For Unto Us with Joy to the World*  
Arr. K. Christopher

Call to Worship Philippians 4:4-7

\*Hymn 146

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*

\*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Martyrs' Candle

+ The Abranchess and Carroll Families +

First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20 Bill Anderson, Reader

+The children's bulletin's for today are based on this passage +

Our Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Offertory

\*Hymn 183

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn 131

*Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

Sermon Luke 3:7-18

THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

\*Hymn 123

*O How Shall I Receive You?*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able please stand.

**Welcome!** Whether this is your first time with us, a return visit, or something you do every Sunday, we're happy that you're here! Please fill out the Home Page insert in this bulletin, including your address and prayer requests, and make it part of your offering this morning. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of this congregation – if you're a visitor or a newcomer, as our guest you are under no obligation to participate. We hope to see you again soon!

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter: None Scheduled  
Ushers: Rob Ericson  
Reader: Bill Anderson  
Nursery/Assistant: None Scheduled  
Sound Tech: None Scheduled  
Snack: None Scheduled

## SERVING NEXT WEEK: December 20

Greeter: To Be Announced  
Ushers: Bud Clark  
Reader: LisaAnn Abranchess  
Nursery/Assistant: To Be Announced  
Sound Tech: To Be Announced  
Snack: To Be Announced

## Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebrated this week:

Sunday Sarah Ericson

## When you come to church on Sunday, remember to . . .

*Bring your Bibles* – It's not all in the bulletin

*Bring canned goods* for outreach to those in need through the food pantries at ECHO and Rising Hope

*Bring change* for the change box to fund capital improvements

*Bring a dollar or two* to help our Youth Group support Yohannes Makalew, our Compassion International sponsored child in Indonesia

## COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

*Celebrating our 37<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry*

7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152

CCC Webpage [www.covenantchurchva.org](http://www.covenantchurchva.org)

Blog – <http://covenantchurchva.blogspot.com>

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.*

## THIS WEEK

**Today** 9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Lucia Celebration  
11:00 AM Worship Service

**Tuesday** 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

## Next Sunday, December 20 – The 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM The Worship Service  
Lighting of the Wonderful Candle

**Remember that this building is regularly used** by many other groups. If you are planning an activity, please check the complete calendar in the church office and contact Aaron Knowles, our Administrative Assistant, before scheduling an event. Aaron can be reached by calling the church office or 703-425-5633. The deadline for bulletin announcements is 9 AM Friday

## Scripture Lessons to read for Sunday, December 20:

Micah 5:2-5

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

O little town of Bethlehem

He came to do God's will

Mary visits Elizabeth

**School Supplies for Afghan children** – according to Phil Zeman, who is deployed in Afghanistan, there is a great need! If anyone is interested in donating to a “school supply” care package, please contact Kristin Zeman. Donations can be put in the box next to the credenza.

**We need readers and special music for Christmas Eve.** Sign up at the table in the hallway today if you or someone in your family can serve as a scripture reader (we need 8) or can provide special music (vocal or instrumental) at the service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 PM. We also need ushers and a candlelighter.

**A Sign-up Sheet for Holiday Volunteers** is on the table in the hallway. If you will be here next Sunday, or for the Sundays after Christmas and New Years, please consider volunteering to serve as a Greeter, Usher, Candle Lighter, Advent Wreath Lighting, Scripture Reader, Nursery Attendant or Assistant; Sound Tech or Snack. We need your help when so many are away.

**Light the Advent Wreath!** If you (and your “small group” or family) would like to light the Advent Wreath for us next Sunday, Dec 20, or sometime during the Christmas Season, sign up at the table in the hallway.

**Christmas Eve Service** – Join us at 10 PM on Thursday, December 24, for the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Invite your friends, neighbors, out of town guests and family members to enjoy this festive service filled with Scripture, Special Music and Christmas Carols.

**Christmas and New Years Schedule:** Sunday School Classes will not be held on Sunday, December 27 and Sunday January 3. Morning Worship will be Held at 11 AM both Sundays, with the annual “Choose Your Favorite Christmas Carol” Service on Dec. 27 and the Celebration of Holy Communion on January 3, the first Sunday of the year.

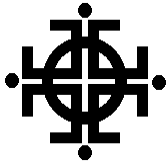
**In the Covenant Companion:** “Finding Room at the Inn” – Rick Lindholtz relates how a family’s disrupted Christmas plans led to an encounter of grace. Jay Phelan’s editorial page, “Markings,” is also about the grace of Christmas. Subscriptions to our award-winning denominational magazine are \$19.95 a year. Call 773-784-3000.

**How to contact Pastor Benson:** By phone (703-451-6624; 703-455-4150; 703-505-0626) by mail (6624 Reynard Drive, Springfield, VA 22152) or by email (johnsbenson@hotmail.com). Please get in touch immediately when you or someone in your family is in the hospital, facing surgery or in need of pastoral care.

**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.

***Covenant World Mission Prayer Line: 1-800-FON-PRAY***

**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).



*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 our unity in Christ. Then four different people, joined together, reach out to the world in love. Find out more about the Covenant at [www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)*