

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Advent, the Season of Anticipation
Sunday, December 21, 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
Once In Royal David's City arr. Innes
-Find the words to this Advent hymn at #175

Call to Worship

Leader: And suddenly there was with the angel
A multitude of the heavenly host,
Praising God, and saying,

People: *Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace,*

*Hymn 157

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

*Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Bensons

First Lesson 2 Samuel 7:1-17 Bud Clark, Reader

Gospel Luke 1:26-38 Lisa Ann Abranchess, reader

Vocal Solo Shelley Connelie
Rose of Bethlehem

A Word to the Children "Christmas Is On the Way"
Week 4- "*The Shepherds' Shock*" – Luke 2:8-12
Life Together: Announcements and Prayer Requests

Children age 3 to 3rd grade are dismissed to go downstairs for Jr.
JAMboree on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month

Offering
*Hymn 154, Stanza 4
O Holy Child of Bethlehem

*Prayer of Dedication
*Hymn 153 Luke 2:13, 14

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

The Message

The Purpose of Christmas
A Time for Reconciliation
HE IS PEACE

*Hymn - insert
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day Good will toward me

*Benediction Romans 16:25-27

*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 the offering today. The offering is an opportunity to share financially in the ministries and mission of our congregation- if you're a visitor or a newcomer, you are under no obligation.

SERVING TODAY

Ushers: Greeters: youth group
Aaron Knowles & Gordon Sloat
Reader: Lisa Ann Abranchess
Nursery: Claire Bentley
Snack: Sloat Family
Sound Technician: Jim Hamilton
Candle Lighter: None Scheduled

COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
Celebrating our 36th year of Ministry
7018 Sydenstricker Road; Springfield, VA 22152
CCC Webpage www.covenantchurchva.org
703-455-4150 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.

SERVING NEXT WEEK: December 28

Ushers: Greeters: Carl and Rosalie Rodgers
None Scheduled
Nursery: None Scheduled
Snack: None Scheduled
Sound Technician: None Scheduled
Candle Lighter: None Scheduled

Our Life Together This Week

Today	9:30 AM	Sunday School for everyone	
	11:00 AM	Worship Service	Reader: Bud Clark
	6:00 PM	Christmas Caroling	
Wednesday	10:00 PM	Candlelight Service of	
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Lessons and Carols	
Sunday	11:00 AM	Choose Your Favorite Carol Service	
Dec. 28		The Baptism of Tahlia Rose Enstrom	
	12:30 PM	Reception for Elly Barahona and Josh Reitman in Fellowship Hall	

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

Christmas Eve Service: We cordially invite you and your guests, family, friends and neighbors to our festive and Holy Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 10 PM on Wednesday, December 24. The Service is a Celebration of Lessons and Carols, featuring lots of special music and hymns, as well as the reading of Scripture Lessons which tell “the tale of the loving purpose of God from the first days of our disobedience, which is common to us all, unto the glorious redemption which is brought us by this child.”

Schedule for Christmas & New Year’s Sundays: Sunday School will not be held on the Sundays of December 28, and January 4. Services are at 11 AM. Dec.28 is our annual “Choose Your Favorite Christmas Carol Sunday” and a reception for newlyweds Josh and Elly Reitman will be held following the service. The Day of Epiphany and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, January 4. Sunday School Classes will resume at 9:30 AM on Sunday, January 11.

Today is the deadline to bring in your Angel Tree gifts. If you do not have yours today please see Mary Hamilton to make arrangements. We will be delivering the gifts to the families this week. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers: Nazzarth, Alex, Noah, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Nigel, Zanya, Marcus, Alonte and Keyonte. If you feel led, you can contribute to the grocery gift card for one of the families.

In addition to presenting the children with bibles, the Jesus project videos and gospel message activity books, each family will receive a bible with testimonies from several prisoners inside of each one. One of these bibles is on the coffee table next to the angel tree. Feel free to take a look.

Help Out on Christmas Eve! We still need volunteers to help at the Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 PM Wednesday: 1 Scripture Reader, 1 Candle lighter, 2 Greeters and 2 Ushers, 4 Calling Birds, 3 French Hens, 2 Turtledoves and a Partridge for the pear tree. There is also room for one more piece of special music. Sign up in the hallway.

Please join in celebrating the marriage of Elly Barahona and Josh Reitman at a reception held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 28th at 12:30 PM. Lunch and cake will be provided.

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 28 -The Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3	The Bride and Bridegroom
Psalms 148	Heaven and nature sing
Galatians 4:4-7	When the time had come
Luke 2:22-40	Jesus is presented to the Lord

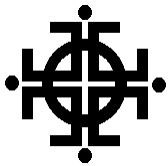
Got any Christmas recipes that ought to be in the Church Cookbook? Or other great recipes to share? Make sure they are put in the folder on the table in the hallway or given to Kathy Knowles before the cookbook goes into print . . . soon!

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.

In the Covenant Companion – Seasonal articles on Julfest at 1st 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 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) and click on the Newswire button.

How to contact Pastor Benson. Call him at the parsonage, where he maintains an office, at any time: 703-451-6624; or by email-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

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.