



**This Sunday, December 20**, we light the candle of **LOVE** - In an act of loving the friends and members in our very own congregation, donors have helped to meet the special needs of congregational members who are in the midst of hardship.

**This is the last Sunday to give donations. Please see Ruth Gabriel if you want to give within your own community! All donors and recipients will remain anonymous.**

**CCMCC Staff Offering**

With the Christmas season upon us, we are reminded of our blessings. Christ Covenant is blessed to have dedicated and hard-working staff. Although they are few, they do the work of many, and we appreciate everything they have done and continue to do in service to the church. This Sunday, **December 20th**, we will take a special offering as a gift to our staff. Please give as you are led in recognition of the valuable work of our CCMCC team.

Peace and blessings,  
CMCC Board of Directors

**Christmas Eve Service  
Thursday, December 24, 11pm**

Please join us on Christmas Eve for a very special candlelight service in the sanctuary at 11pm. There will be food and fellowship prior to the service at 9:30pm downstairs in Davis Hall.

During that time, we will also prepare the sanctuary for the service.



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404-373-2933

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CHRISTCOVENANT@CHRISTCOVENANTMCC.ORG

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*Sunday, December 20, 2009*  
*4th Sunday of Advent*

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“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1: 5

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**PRELUDE** (A time of quiet reflection) **DANA & MICHELE CLARK**

**WELCOME AND LIFE & WORK OF THE COMMUNITY**

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**

*One: My soul magnifies God and my spirit rejoices,*

**Many: For God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.**

*One: Surely, from now on, all generations will call me blessed,*

**Many: For the mighty one has done great things for me.**

**+PROCESSIONAL HYMN#124 Away in a Manger**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH  
Advent Prayer:**

Holy One, we are secure in your love. May we love others as you love us. May our souls magnify you and our hearts rejoice in you, for you are our hope, our peace, and our joy. Amen.

*+ At this sign please rise in body or spirit.*

**Bold type** indicates words to be read aloud by the congregation.

*Christ Covenant Metropolitan Community Church is a community of same-gender loving and LGBT people, our family and friends.*

*We are a progressive church, influenced by liberation, inclusive, feminist as well as traditional Christian theologies.*

*Our congregation is rich in diversity and shares respect and great value for every individual's spiritual journey.*

**Clergy & Staff**

**Rev. Elder Glenna T. Shepherd**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Kathy Burton**  
Resource Clergy

**Rev. Dr. Sally Purvis**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Jane Acuff**  
Worship Director

**Angela Womack**  
Office Manager

**Frank Steele**  
Music Minister

**Board of Directors**

Linda Armstrong  
Beth Boersma  
Barbara Bugg  
Tonya Burkett  
John Hartland  
Carolyn Marshall

BOD@christcovenantmcc.org

**Lay Delegate**  
Allyson Shaffer

**Alternate Lay Delegates**  
Sharon Price  
Mickey Mittong  
Dionne Garcia-Romero



**CHRIST COVENANT MCC WEEKLY NEWS  
& EVENTS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009**

**SUNDAY, December 20**  
9:30 - Sunday School  
10:00 - Choir Practice  
10:15 - Fellowship Breakfast  
11:00 - Community Worship with Rev. Jane Acuff (Advent 4)

**TUESDAY, December 22**  
7:00 - Centering Prayer  
7:00 - CCMCC Board Meeting

**THURSDAY, December 24**  
9:30 - Food & Fellowship  
11:00 - Christmas Eve Service

**SUNDAY, December 27**  
9:30 - Sunday School  
10:00 - Choir Practice  
10:15 - Fellowship Breakfast  
11:00 - Community Worship with Rev. Ruth Gabriel

**Save the Date!**



**Thursday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Service  
11 pm**

**Team Resource Leader**  
Sheri Smith  
TeamResource@christcovenantmcc.org

**Ministry Council Team Leaders**

Barbara Bugg  
Connections@christcovenantmcc.org

Beth Anderson  
Hospitality@christcovenantmcc.org

Barb Devlin  
Facilities@christcovenantmcc.org

Dionne Garcia-Romero  
SocialAction@christcovenantmcc.org

**Worship at CCMCC:**  
Our worship services reflect the variety of our backgrounds, drawing upon the music and sacramental life of Protestant and Catholic traditions and our lived experiences as LGBT people in the 21st century.

Keep in touch with what's happening!

Visit:  
[www.christcovenantmcc.org](http://www.christcovenantmcc.org)  
Sign up today for our weekly email containing news and an inspirational message. Fill out your email address on the registration pad, or send an email to:  
christcovenant@christcovenantmcc.org

**Alleluia/You're My Savior/I Will Praise You**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

You're my Savior, You're my Savior, You're my Savior, You're my Savior,  
You're my Savior, You're my Savior, You're my Savior, You're my Savior!

+ I will praise you, I will praise you, I will praise you, I will praise you,  
I will praise you, I will praise you, I will praise you, I will praise you!



**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

+ **RECESSIONAL HYMN #132** Joy to the World

+ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**FRANK STEELE**

*Please join us for community breakfast & fellowship  
each Sunday morning at 10:15 AM in Davis Hall.*

*We are with you in  
Prayer.  
Our Prayer Altar is  
located just inside  
the Narthex  
entrance. You may  
write your prayers  
and praises there,  
and light a candle to  
illumine your  
prayers.*

*Our clergy team will  
include your written  
prayers in their  
weekly prayer  
meeting.*

**Rev. Jane Acuff**  
*is our Interim  
Worship Director,  
and Rev. Kathy  
Burton is our  
Resource Clergy.*

*They both are  
available for  
pastoral care and  
can be contacted  
through the church  
office or via email  
at :  
[pastoral-  
care@christcove  
ntmcc.org](mailto:pastoral-care@christcovenantmcc.org)*

**CCLI # 2841182**

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the child of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

O Come, desire of nations bind all people in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**SACRED READINGS**

**First Reading Micah 5: 2-5**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of God, in the majesty of the name of God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**+Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of God comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by God." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies God, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown strength with God's arm; God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**SERMON**     *Rev. Jane Acuff*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**DANA & MICHELE CLARK**

**CONFESSION/PARDON**

*One: We acknowledge our need to confess what we have done and what we have left undone.*

(Silence)

**All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Create in us a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*One: As we journey through Advent this year, we pray for a world in which Hope is rising; Hope for health and well-being, for an end to poverty and hatred. Hope for your planet and your people, our community and our families.*

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

*One: We pray for a world in which Peace is prevailing; Peace in our world, in our streets, in our homes. Peace in our hearts and in our sanctuaries.*

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

*One: We pray for a world in which Joy is abounding; in the smiles of children; in the faces of those who have been fed. Joy in new beginnings for our congregation; Joy lived out in generosity of spirit among your people.*

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

*One: We pray for a world in which Love is reigning; Love that is the song of creation itself. Love that “bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never ends.” Love that overcomes enmity and suffering; love that heals.*

**All: God, hear our prayer.**

**Prayers of the People are read  
A Time of Silence**

Attendance and  
Offering Update

We value open  
communication  
about the  
stewardship of  
our financial  
resources.

For week ending  
December 13,  
2009

CCMCC Service  
Attendance: 62

Tithes & Offering  
Total: \$1897.00

Thank you for  
the use of your  
resources; your  
generous giving  
is making a  
difference in the  
lives of people.

**God’s gifts from  
God’s table are  
open to  
everyone.**

Communion is  
offered at all  
Sunday services  
and special  
services.

This table that we  
as LGBT people  
have often been  
excluded from is  
a sign to us of  
God’s radical  
inclusion.  
Everyone is  
welcome to share  
the bread and  
cup of grape juice  
as a sign of God’s  
love for us and  
our love for each  
other.

**TITHES & OFFERING**

**Offertory Hymn #134     Silent Night**

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*One: God be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: Lift up your hearts.*

**All: We lift them up to God.**

*...And so we join our voices with the great cloud of witnesses to  
your love and sing...*

***Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you,  
my heart knows how to say to you, Holy are you God.***

***Santo, Santo, Santo, mi corazon te adora, mi  
corazon te sabe decir, Santo Eres Dios.***

**STORY OF THE MEAL**

**INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

