

COVENANT CHURCH OF THOMASTON

*Passionately Pursuing Jesus
Sacrificially Serving Our Neighbor*



December 29, 2024
Worship 10:00 am
“Two Births”

Genesis 3:8-15, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38

Pastor:

Rev. Stephanie Nelson
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Our mission
is to go and be living evidence of God's love
by the transforming power of his forgiveness and grace.

PRELUDE Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

WELCOME AND LIFE TOGETHER Cathy Fredlund

CALL TO WORSHIP O Come, All Ye Faithful

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
O Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not:
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

(chorus) Great is thy faithfulness; great is thy faithfulness.

Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(chorus)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(chorus)*

PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debtors, debtors)

HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD Ted Ryan

Matthew 1:18-25 (Responsive Reading)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:
His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,
but before they came together,
she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

**Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law,
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace,
he had in mind to divorce her quietly.**

But after he had considered this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

**“Joseph son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her
is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”**

All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

**“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means “God with us”).**

When Joseph woke up,
he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took Mary home as his wife.
But he did not consummate their marriage
until she gave birth to a son.

And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn # 87 Children of the Heavenly Father

**OFFERING – GIVE AS THE LORD LEADS YOU, WITH OPEN HANDS
AND ALL YOUR HEART**

Offertory: In the Garden

I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; through the voice of woe,
his voice to me is calling.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

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*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

SPECIAL MOMENT

Ted and Ann Ryan

HOMILY

Mary Butkevich

“Two Births”

Genesis 3:8-15 (p. 4), Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 1374),
Luke 1:26-38 (p. 1457)

***SENDING SONG** #127 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***BENEDICTION** Mary Butkevich

***POSTLUDE** Tricia Dunn Oporto and Brenda Tousignant

TODAY

9:00 am Sunday School / D/C

10:00 am Worship

Nursery: Lori Vigeant

11:15 am Fellowship and Reception honoring Ted and Ann

4:00 pm CHYG New Year's Party

THIS WEEK

Mon. 3:00 pm Private (Fellowship Room)
Tue. 4:00 pm Prayer (Church Office)
Wed. 6:30 pm NA (Fellowship Room)
Thur. 7:30 pm NA Subcommittee (Gathering Room)
Fri. CHYG to Winterfest retreat (Pilgrim Pines)
Sun. 9:00 am Sunday School / D/C
Sun. 10:00 am Worship
CHYG returns from retreat

- **PASTOR STEPHANIE** is vacationing with family December 26-January 3. If you have pastoral needs during this time, contact Diaconate chair Cathy Fredlund (203-841-7239 or cathyfredlund@gmail.com).
- **JANUARY** Calendars are available in the Narthex and the wings.
- **TED AND ANN'S NEW ADDRESS**, effective January 1: Friendship Village of Dublin, Apt. B404, 6000 Riverside Drive, Dublin OH 43017.
- **WM BOOK CLUB**: The book for January 8 is *The Small and the Mighty* by Sharon McMahon. We will meet at 6:00 pm at Jean Morton's.
- **NEW ZOOM STUDY** starting Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 pm. What constitutes a meaningful life? We seek fulfillment in success, prosperity, recognition, relationships, and even self-sufficiency, but we always seem to come up short. Curious as to what the Bible might say about this? Dive into the book of Ecclesiastes with us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, via Zoom, so you can stay in the comfort of your warm home! Let Pastor Stephanie know if you would like the zoom link emailed to you. <https://tiu-edu.zoom.us/j/97439143562>
- **GIVING MADE EASY**: Give online in two minutes. Opt for one time, weekly or monthly donations. Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code, which takes you to the Giving Page on our website.

Covenant Church of Thomaston
Giving Page QR Code



• **ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE**: Our annual meeting will be **January 19, 2025.**

Annual Reports: Reports to be included in the Annual Report that are already typed are due in the Church Office by January 4. If your report will need to be typed, please submit it no later than noon on Monday, December 30. Reports are needed from:

Pastor (including entries into the church record and membership summary)	CE Board Chair (received)
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Sunday School Supt.
Treasurer/Budget	Sunday School Treasurer
<i>Nominating Committee (slate of officers)</i>	CHYG Youth Group
M & E Board Chair	UNITE Fund
M & E Treasurer	Trailblazers/Pathfinders Group
<i>Diaconate Chair</i>	<i>Women Ministries Chair</i>
<i>Diaconate Treasurer</i>	<i>WM Treasurer</i>
Trustees Chair	Investment Funds
	<i>Memorial Fund</i>
	Men's Ministry Fund

- **All boards and committees** are reminded to meet before the January Annual Meeting to elect officers. Diaconate, Trustees, Christian Education, and Missions & Evangelism Boards must also appoint a representative to the Nominating Committee. *(If you were Chair of any Board or Committee in 2024, please convene an organizational meeting, before the Annual Meeting, of that group even if you will not be serving with that group in 2025.)*
- **Auditor Bill Dayton** must audit all financial records before the Annual Meeting on January 19. ***(Leave clearly marked records at Red's Hardware for Bill or give them to Ken Hopkins to deliver to Bill.)*** These include the **Church operating and savings/restricted accounts, Investment Funds, Women Ministries Fund, Missions & Evangelism Fund, Diaconate Fund, Memorial Fund, Sunday School Fund, Men's Ministry Fund, and the UNITE Fund.**