

Will You Miss Christmas?

Few people would willingly pass up the Christmas celebration. Each year many hours of preparation are spent in anticipation of this most festive of all holidays. Nobody wants to miss the joys of the Christmas season, yet each year multitudes really do miss Christmas. They don't intend to—they don't even realize that it has happened—but the fact is that Christmas slips by and they never see it.

People have been missing Christmas right from the start. On the night of the Savior's birth the town of Bethlehem slept while the shepherds made their way through its streets to worship at his rude cradle. Similarly, the city of Jerusalem was totally unaware of what had happened only a few miles away until strangers from the East appeared and asked, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?" Even the religious leaders who knew of the promise of his coming missed the event for which they had taught Israel to watch.

Why were the people of Bethlehem and the scribes of Jerusalem unaware of the tremendous event that took place in their midst? They missed it because they were looking for the wrong thing. They were not looking for a display of the grace of God; they were waiting for a demonstration of the glory of Israel. They were not conscious of personal sin or their need of a Savior; their minds were astir with the visions of royal pomp and national power. And so though they were looking for the great event foretold in their Scriptures, they missed it because they had distorted and misread its meaning.

Will you miss Christmas? You will unless you focus upon the only thing that really matters. Unless you bow in amazement at God's love in sending his Son to die for your sin, you are missing the wonder of Christmas. Unless you rejoice in the grace of Christ in becoming poor that you might be made rich, you cannot experience the joy of Christmas. Christmas is God drawing near to sinful man with his saving grace. Don't miss it!

*And the Word
became flesh,
and dwelt among
us...*

John 1:14

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

THE LORD'S DAY

December 14, 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 208

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 198

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty, eternal God and Father, we confess and acknowledge unto thee that we were conceived in unrighteousness and are full of sin and transgression in all our life. We do not fully believe thy Word nor follow thy holy commandments. Remember thy goodness, we beseech thee, and for thy Name's sake be gracious unto us, and forgive us our iniquity which, alas, is great.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 213

“What Child Is This”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 217

“All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 42:5-9, pew Bible p. 602

Sermon

THE SERVANT AND HIS TASK

*Hymn of Response # 207

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Wednesday, December 24, 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please join us at the church for a cookie exchange and a Christmas hymn sing. For those who would like to, please bring your instruments!