ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 7, 2025

CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

713-526-1188
www.cpchouston.org

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Prelude

In dulci jubilo, BWV 751 by J.S. Bach

Welcome

To all who are weary and need rest;
To all who mourn and long for comfort;
To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares;
To all who fail and desire strength;
To all who sin and need a Savior;
To all who hunger and thirst for righteousness;
And to whoever will come–
This church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship
Revelation 4:9–11

Leader: And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."

Let us worship our God who is most worthy!

Introit
Gloria

Hymn of Praise
Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love
And wonders of his love
And wonders wonders of his love

Invocation

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Advent Scripture Reading
John 1:1–8

Hymn
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come thou Rod of Jesse free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave

Chorus

O come thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Chorus

O come thou Key of David come
And open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Chorus
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Call to Confession
Mark 7:14–16, 21–23

Leader: And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Public Confession
From Psalm 51

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, I pray. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort
Romans 6:23

Leader: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Tithes & Offerings

Musical Offering
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

Chorus
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

God of God Light of Light
Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God begotten not created

Chorus

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God in the highest

Chorus

Yea Lord we greet thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father late in flesh appearing

Chorus

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Sermon

"Zechariah's Song"
Luke 1:57–80
Rev. Richard Harris

The Service of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is fitting and right that we give you thanks and praise, O God, at all times and in all places. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your name, saying, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to God in the highest."

Words of Institution

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Come Adore The Humble King

Come adore the humble King
Lowly in the manger
Fall before his majesty
Hail the little Savior
Hope what hope no tongue could tell
God has come with us to dwell
His name is Emmanuel
O praise the humble King

Come adore in humble state
He the song of angels
Join the wise who call his name
And with all creation
Who oh who would condescend
God unknown now calls us friend
Love that none could comprehend
O praise the humble King

Come adore the King who came
To our world to save us
Born to heal our prideful race
Crown us with forgiveness
Fall oh fall before the One
Who in mercy left his throne
Christ the Lord God's only Son
His glories now we sing
O praise the humble King

Come adore come adore
Come adore the King
Bow before come adore the
Name above all names

Benediction

Postlude
All music used by permission: CCLI#33408

Processional (Trumpet Tune in C) by Purcell

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

Because CPC is a church that is not only for convinced Christians, but also for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we gladly extend room for you to process, think, and dialogue. Use the prayers provided below as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, You have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Announcements

Children's Ministry Christmas Party Today

Let it snow! Children 5th grade and under are invited to the Children's Ministry Christmas Party today from 12:30–2:30 pm. We will enjoy REAL snow, cookies, and hot chocolate. Lunch will be provided. Friends are welcome!

Handel's Messiah

Our 2025 Handel's *Messiah* performances are December 11, 12 & 13 at 8 pm. Reserve will-call tickets online at cpchouston.org/MessiahTickets.

Messiah Greeters Needed

Greeters are needed for our Handel's *Messiah* performances Thursday, Friday, and Saturday December 11-13. If you enjoy attending one night of Messiah and would be willing to arrive slightly early to assist with greeting, please let us know! Email Alicia Whitley.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Please join us for worship this Christmas Eve: Family Candlelight Nativity Service at 4:30 pm and Communion Candlelight Lessons & Carols at 6:00 pm. Find all Christmas events and services at cpchouston.org/Christmas.

Every Person Prayer

In keeping with James 5:13–17, we have set a goal for every member of CPC to be anonymously prayed for by another member every day in 2026. No meetings, programs, or reporting to anyone is required; simply sign up to pray. You can find the sign-up link using the QR code on the back of your bulletin. Cards with names will be available for pick up on January 4.

Officer Nominations

The Officer Nominating Committee is hard at work. If you have recommendations for elder, deacon, or diaconal ministry team members, please email Chairman Tommy Ikard by January 15.

Marriage Conference January 23 & 24

Mark your calendar for our Marriage Conference scheduled for the evening of Friday, January 23, and the morning of Saturday, January 24. Guest speakers Chad and Emily Van Dixhoorn will help us think through biblical truths about marriage to help singles and couples be more thoughtful and prayerful. Learn more & register: cpchouston.org/marriage

Men's Retreat February 6 & 7

Men, plan to join us for our 2026 Men's Retreat February 6-7 at Camp Blessing. Our speaker will be Ligon Duncan, Chancellor/CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary. The cost is $145. Scholarships are available. Learn more and register online at cpchouston.org/men.

Winter Journeys February 14

Ladies, save the date for Winter Journeys, one of our most loved women's ministry events at CPC! Join us Saturday, February 14, 10 am to 12 pm. We will begin our morning with fellowship and a brunch before hearing from our speakers about their journeys.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed The Ushers, Greeters, Safety, and Meals & Care teams need your help! Sign up at cpchouston.org/deacons.

Weekend to Remember Revitalize your marriage at a FamilyLife Weekend to Remember. Learn more by visiting www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember. For more information, contact Cindy Meeh.

Operating Fund Contributions

ANNUAL BUDGET	**$3,300,000**
YTD GIVING AS OF 12/03/25	**$2,664,807**
REMAINING TO REACH BUDGET	**$635,193**

"You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day." *Deuteronomy 8:18 ESV*

Give online at cpchouston.org/Give.

Sermon Notes

December 7, 2025 | "Zechariah's Song"
Luke 1:57–80 | Rev. Richard Harris

Church Ministry Staff & Ruling Elders

MINISTRY STAFF

Richard Harris, Senior Pastor

Steve Bellis, Executive Director

Gina Grieb
Student Ministry Coordinator

Alicia Harris
Women's Ministry and Special Events Coordinator

Angela Ikard
Director of Children's Ministry

BJ McDougal
Director of Music and Worship

David Newland
Interim Director of Young Adults Ministry

Kristin Page
Associate Director of Children's Ministry

Kyler Parkman
Director of Student Ministry

Axel Sotelo
Assistant Pastor of Community Outreach

ON CALL DECEMBER 7

Elder on Call
O'Banion Williams

Diaconal Member on Call
Seth Owens

RULING ELDERS

Craig Brown, Chairman, Worship Committee

Travis Graham, Clerk

Eric Hambly, Vice-Chairman, Finance Committee

Tom Harrison, Chairman, Finance Committee

Marshall Henderson, Chairman, Children's Ministry

Tommy Ikard, Chairman, Student Ministry

Clif Kageler, Personnel Committee

Paul Oliphant, Chairman, Missions Committee

Keith Pendergrass, Vice-Chairman, Missions Committee

Shawn Shoop, Personnel Committee

Cor Van Dyk, Chairman, Personnel Committee

O'Banion Williams, Chairman, Adult Education

CHURCH OFFICE

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Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Contact
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Scan here for recent announcements and
to submit an electronic Connect Card or prayer requests.