



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 E. 3rd St. Long Beach, CA 90802 - [www.CovenantLB.org](http://www.CovenantLB.org) - (562) 437-0958

December 1, 2023

Beloved of God,

Advent marks the start of the “Christian year” on the liturgical calendar.

Advent also marks the start of God’s greatest work to give us all hope: His incarnation in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

Advent roots us in the ancient promises of scripture that God would take decisive action to deliver us from evil and to give us hope of a better life. Advent prepares us, through the words of prophets from Moses to John the Baptist, for the arrival of a Redeemer who could (and would!) do for us what we never could for ourselves.

That Redeemer, that physical Presence of God Almighty, entered our world in the womb of a virgin named Mary, and finally in the form of a baby born in a stable. That helpless baby grew up to be a mighty man. He identified with sinners, lived out the good values of God’s righteousness and the abundant grace of God’s merciful love, sacrificed Himself to pay for our moral and spiritual failures, died to satisfy the requirements of justice, rose from the dead to defeat all the powers of darkness, sent His own Spirit into the souls of those willing to receive His strength and life, and now intercedes for us without ceasing that we might be incarnations of the hope He offers everyone.

Jesus gives to anyone willing to entrust themselves to His Lordship the best possible life one can have in this troubled, sin-sick world and eventually an infinitely and eternally good life in the next world. He gives us a lot of hope!

This is such good news that it seems impossible to love someone, and not make them aware of it (if they are not already) or (if they are already aware of it) not invite them to experience all the more the blessing of the hope it gives.

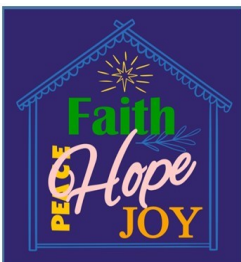
This Advent, won’t you tell those you care about (and who are at all open to hear about it) why the Christmas story makes you so happy and hopeful – and maybe how you think it could make them still happier and more hopeful? Won’t you invite some others to come with you to worship, a Christmas carol sing or a church fellowship gathering to experience a suggestion of how good the good news of Jesus is?

It is a season when people are especially receptive to the idea of trying out some such thing. And if you invite them with genuine kindness who would, even if they decide to decline, mind your gracious, generous offer?

Warmly in Christ,

*Rob & Adele*

### COVENANT ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2023



Members & friends of Covenant have written a special Advent devotional booklet this year. It is available in printed form in the Narthex (which can be mailed); on our social medias (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram); on [www.CovenantLB.org](http://www.CovenantLB.org) website’s homepage by clicking on the purple words that read [Click here for our Advent Devotional 2023](#) (found under our weekly worship video).

*May you be blessed by this devotion and be drawn ever closer to our God.*

# IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Our weekly in-person Sunday service is held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The service is also streamed live on *YouTube*: [Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach CA](#) and our website: [www.CovenantLB.org](http://www.CovenantLB.org) at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Holy Communion*

Isaiah 64:1-9

*“Waiting to Welcome the Arrival of Grace, Part One”*

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 40:1-11

*“Waiting to Welcome the Arrival of Grace, Part Two”*



*Christmas Eve*

**Evening Worship**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Live Streaming & In-person*

*7:00 p.m. (Special music at 6:30 p.m.)*

Luke 2, selected verses

*“Eyes to See, Hearts to Believe”*

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*“Waiting to Welcome the Arrival of Grace, Part Three”*

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Matthew 1:18-25

*“The Goodness behind the Good Gift”*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**On-site & On-line at 11:00 a.m.** Adults are invited to attend Sunday School, this month studying *The Acts of the Apostles*, under the leadership of Elder Mark Wiley. The class is offered in a hybrid-style at 11:00 a.m. — in the Meeting Room for those in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*. If you would like to join on-line:

- please visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) & use the meeting code: **goeumjnwgg**
- or dial in from your phone, **1-209-781-9485** & enter this PIN: **443 527 177#**.



### CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Youth Hybrid Sunday Programming

Youth gather in-person & on-line on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

for Sunday School, fellowship and youth group activities.

For more information about the children's & the youth's programming, including codes to join virtually, please contact Pastor Adele at [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org).

#### Children's Hybrid Sunday School

Sunday School for children thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade

is meeting at 11:00 a.m. in a hybrid-style (in-person & virtual).

## PROGRAMMING NEWS



Beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Giant Christmas Card** will be located in the Narthex where people can post Christmas messages to the congregation and donate money saved on cards & stamps to help those in need in the community. Also, if you aren't here in person, you may send messages to Pastor Adele at [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org) for her to add them to the card.



Would you like to **buy a poinsettia by December 17<sup>th</sup>** to enhance the beauty of the Sanctuary this Advent season? The cost is \$15.00. If so, please contact Adele at [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org) or type this link in your web browser: <https://forms.gle/KJxxk6WEmuiJVLGCA>.

## WEEKLY STUDIES

### **Mondays - In-depth Bible Study (except 12/25)**

This on-line study meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Adele and Pastor Rob jointly lead this study through the Bible.

You are invited to join our study as this Fall as we study the book of *1 Samuel*.



To join this study,

**Online:** Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) &

Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgmm**

**By phone:** Dial **1-415-662-0116** &

Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

### **Tuesdays - Book Club (except 12/26)**

The on-line Book Club is now reading and discussing *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* by John Ortberg. Elder Mark

Wiley and Pastor Rob lead this group, on Tuesdays, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



To join this study,

**Online:** Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) &

Join by using meeting code: **duhmbnkqku**

**By phone:** Dial **1-225-503-0091** &

Enter this PIN: **470 552 822#**

### **Thursdays - Bible Study (except 12/28)**

This Bible Study meets each Thursday on-line and over the phone at 4:30 p.m.

It is presently studying the *Gospel of Matthew* (led by Pastor Rob).



To join this study,

**Online:** Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) &

Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgmm**

**By phone:** Dial **1-415-662-0116** &

## SPECIAL NEWS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION  
INVITE YOU TO:

# *Joy Gathering*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023  
1:00PM

*Chez Bacchus*

743 E. 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90802

Located across from Ace Hardware, 1 block east of Covenant Church.

Note: For those unable to walk from the church parking lot, a car shuttle will be provided.



MENU

*Seasonal Salad, Tea Tower, 3 Types of Tea Sandwiches, Scones, Muffins, Assorted Pastries, Choice of Tea*



Cost: \$30, includes tax and tip (Natura Water Service and Wine are extra)

RSVP: By 11/25/23 to either PWC Board member Mary Lou (562) 233-7405, or Diana (562) 537-3965

Love Offering: Contributions to the annual Love Offering will be accepted and used for PWC's mission and programs.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 607 E. 3rd Street, Long Beach, CA 90802



Peter Bates

**Christmas  
organ recital  
and  
Carol sing**

## **Peter Bates**

at the console of the  
**Lough Memorial Organ**  
(Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1458)

Assisted by

**Desiree Flores, mezzo-soprano**



Desiree Flores

This program will be both in-person  
and Live-Streamed through Covenant's Website  
[www.Covenantlb.org](http://www.Covenantlb.org)

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary**

**Sunday, December 17, 2023 • 2:00 pm**

(This concert is free of admission charge - a freewill offering will be received)

## DID YOU KNOW ... ?



**Cutters** are a group of adults who enjoy getting together monthly to break bread together over the breakfast or dinner table. In December, Cutters will be enjoying their annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. This year the event will be held in the Fireside Room at Covenant. Please see Mary Lou Fourtané or Pastor Adele to make your reservation and find out more details.



If you'd like to make a donation towards the **Christmas gifting** for Rising TIDE young people, simply make a check out to Covenant and indicate on the memo line that it is for Christmas gifts. Thank you! (Your donation this year will go towards warm clothing.)



Join members of your Covenant family for an afternoon at a local movie theater (and a light meal following) on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The movie and show time have yet to be announced. For more details about **Movie Goers**, please contact Pastor Adele at [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org).

- **Covenant Adult Choir** meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., except on 12/28. See Peter Bates for more details.
- The **Order of Worship** for Sunday worship is located just above the video of the worship service on the website and is archived under “Worship - Sermon Archive”, along with a text copy of the sermon. Hardcopies of the sermons are found in the Narthex. They can also be mailed or emailed when requested.
- When the new weekly worship video is posted, the **previous week's video** can then be found in the video archives of the website under “Covenant's Videos” and on our *YouTube* channel: Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach CA.
- **Hometouch** is a weekly publication that is mailed or emailed. (You choose in which form you receive it.) It provides updates about things happening around Covenant, as well as a devotion and an activity page.
- **E-touch** is a weekly publication that is emailed on Saturday evenings. It includes *Covenant* news and a biblical reflection on something newsworthy. These reflections are timely and thought-provoking.
- You can **request to receive copies** of the sermons, *Hometouch* and/or *E-touch* by contacting Adele at [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org).
- You can check out [RightNowMedia.org](http://RightNowMedia.org) and let Pastor Adele know if you would like to join.
- Our **social media presence** is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with the handle [@CovenantLB](https://www.instagram.com/CovenantLB).
- The weekly *Words of the Pastors* is presently taking a hiatus.
- **Covenant has an app** called *CovenantLB* that you can download on your favorite device.
- Two **women's small groups** and one **men's small group** offer opportunities to connect and grow.
- Volunteers help staff the church office on weekdays to answer calls, assist those who stop by, and help with small clerical jobs. Might you be interested? Please contact Pastor Adele.
- Rising TIDE @ MKEC programming for children and youth will meet Monday through Thursday between 12:30 & 6:00 p.m. for pre-school & elementary-aged children; 2:00 & 8:00 p.m. for middle/high school youth. Please note: Rising TIDE will be on Winter Break from December 22<sup>nd</sup> thru January 5<sup>th</sup>.



*Your giving sustains the ministries of this church. You may make an offering in worship on Sunday morning, give either by writing a check and mailing it to the church, or give on-line from the church website by clicking on the green button on the website's home page, [www.CovenantLB.org](http://www.CovenantLB.org). Also on the website, if you would like to pledge, go to **About** on the top bar, then on **New to the Church?**, and scroll down to the 4<sup>th</sup> **FAQ**.*