

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Bob Barber
Shaun Sipe, Clerk
Chas Emerson*

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Robert Massey, Secretary
Chris Lyons
Nick Manley
Scott Sartor
Charlie Smith
David Wright***

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@christcovenantms.org

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Justin & Carey Helms, Interim youth Interns, carey.helms@ruf.org; justin.helms@ruf.org

Like us on Facebook: Christ Covenant Church (PCA), Hernando, MS

www.christcovenantms.org



"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 Corinthians 4:5

Second Sunday of Advent

12.4.22

Notes

If you are new to church, the notes in this margin are a way to help you understand and follow along through each aspect of today's service. If you like, use the free space to take your own notes about anything you find interesting or thought provoking. If you have additional questions, you can talk with a church officer after the service.

Congregational Standing

Throughout the bulletin the asterisk * denotes congregational standing

We encourage you to use this bulletin during the week to reflect on what you have heard and experienced during worship. You can use the prayers, confessions, and scripture for personal worship and devotional time at home

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Here at Christ Covenant, we seek to celebrate God's grace through Jesus Christ, who came to give us life today and for eternity. We also seek to cultivate a safe environment for the convinced and unconvinced to hear the free offer of the gospel in Jesus Christ. Whether you are follower of Jesus, or it has been a while since you've considered your relationship to Him, or you are exploring His claims for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us today. We would love to be able to connect with you and share with you more about the ministry of our church. If you are a visitor, please take a moment during the service to fill out a Visitor Card located in the back of the chair. We have a visitor bag for you in the lobby with a mug, coffee, pens and Dane Ortlund's book, "Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner's and Sufferers."

Ushers: Andrew Duff & David Wright

A/V Assistant: Chris Tingle

Communion: Charlie & Britt Emerson

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Ann Plunk & Bobbie Wilkerson

Sunday school—Hannah Wilkerson & Mary Helen Wilkerson

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying and offering responses as they are able. For older children, we offer opportunities to hear a lesson that is age appropriate. For ages 4 years old and under, we offer Children's Church during the sermon portion of the service. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. For younger children, infants to age 3, we provide a nursery throughout the service for parents who would prefer not to have their children with them.

CHURCH CALENDAR * CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Be sure to sign up on our website to receive the weekly E-news which is sent every Wednesday with the latest up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday - December 4th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday – December 5th

No activities planned

Tuesday – December 6th

No activities planned

Wednesday–December 7th

6:30am—Men's bible study

9:00am—Women's bible study

5:15pm—Children's Team Meeting

6:00pm—Youth, Kids' Club

Thursday– December 8th

No activities planned

Friday– December 9th

3:45pm—Youth meet to leave for CPYC

Saturday– December 10th

12:30—Youth return to church

Looking Ahead

- Sunday school—12.11, last meeting for this year
- Kids' Club Choir—12.11, please arrive by 8:45am to rehearse
- Kids Club Choir sing at Wesley Meadows—12.7 (last Kids' Club)
- Christmas Eve Service—12.24
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.26-3.5
- Peru Mission Trip—6.2-9
- RYM—7.10-15

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 11.26-12.3
Steven, Mary Esther, Anne Rowan, Harvey, Simon & Adaline Slater • Charlie, Jamie, Francie & Ruthie Smith

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Michael Emerson • Hull Emerson • Valerie Walden • Betty Morrow • Monte Morgan • Henry Johnson • Christa Chapman • Hannah Tanous • Oliver Plunk • Ellie Plunk • Betty Walker • Terry Walker

Prayer Requests: Bobby Mellon, Catherine Sartor’s father, diagnosed w/ cancer and recovering from surgery • 12.6, Margot Harrison having a procedure to repair a cleft palate and getting tubes in her ears

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Esdras, Wes) • Mike and Roxanne Winebrenner (Christ Fellowship in Horn Lake) • Hunter Brewer (Trinity Collierville) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby (University of Memphis), Ro Taylor (Delta State University), Anthony Forrest (Jackson State), Spencer Sipe (Vanderbilt) • Dewayne Williams (Restoration Now) • Daniel and Kendall Myrick (Reclaimed Ministry)

Community Bible Reading Schedule			
DAY	DATE	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Sun	12.4.22	X	X
Mon	12.5.22	1 Samuel 5	Matthew 10
Tues	12.6.22	1 Samuel 6	Matthew 11
Wed	12.7.22	1 Samuel 7	Matthew 12
Thurs	12.8.22	1 Samuel 8	Matthew 13
Fri	12.9.22	1 Samuel 9	Matthew 14
Sat	12.10.22	Psalms 50	X

Scan this code to download the Community Bible Reading App



Preparing for Worship
With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read of Vision Statement on the front cover, and get ready for the service.

Call to Worship If worship is offering all that we are to all that God is, then this call is a way to proclaim this movement, while also challenging us on what we worship daily.

Why we sing
We sing in order to remember the stories of how God has worked in our lives. Singing takes the truth of who God is and what He is doing, and applies it into our lives.

Prayer of Invocation
Is from the Latin *invocare*, meaning “to call on.” God has called us to worship—and now, in grateful response, we cry out for His presence among us.

The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus gave this example in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13) to show us how to pray. We use this prayer corporately each week as a reminder.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Bethlehem Candle
Isaiah 11:1-10 (p. 575) Reagan Duff
Matthew 3:1-10 (p. 808) Andrew Duff

READER: We light the second candle of Advent to remind us that the Lord Jesus, who is the light of the world, was born in David’s city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a King, the King who reigns over all.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

***Call to Worship** Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: I love you, O Lord, my strength.
PEOPLE: The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
PASTOR: I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. *Psalms 18:1-3*

***Song of Adoration** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

***Invocation** (concluded by the Lord’s Prayer)
ALL: 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.

3

Confession

is the time when we are honest about ourselves with each other and with God. As we admit our misplaced affections, we are called to reorder our lives. Only by being honest will the good news of grace be significant and needed.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

ALL: But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:20-24

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is well-pleased.

Luke 2:14

*Song of Renewal

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Sunday School: Will resume this week and continue w/ the series about injustice and the fact that there is a God in heaven who hates it. Adults meet in the sanctuary, youth in the south end and kids in the classrooms.

Youth Christmas Party: The annual youth Christmas party will be Wednesday, 12.7, from 6-8pm at the Sartor's home, 1584 Hillshire North. Wear your ugliest sweater and bring a \$10 gift for a dirty Santa exchange. Talk to Catherine Sartor if you can help w/ food for the evening. Youth will resume in 2023

Leadership Training: Remaining date for 2022 is 12.18 and Pastor Jim will cover Reformed Theology

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting and Potluck: After church, 12.11, there will be an interest meeting and potluck for anyone interested in hearing about the Peru mission trip this coming June. If you plan to attend, please email Katie Cantrell kdcfly@gmail.com and let her know what dish you're bringing.

Kids' Club: Kids' Club will sing at Wesley Meadows 12.7, meet at the church. Also, they will sing during service 12.11. Please arrive no later than 8:45am to rehearse.

Advent Devotional: Advent devotion booklet for families available in the lobby

Peru Mission Trip: Mark your calendars for our Peru Mission Trip coming up June 3-10, 2023. Please pray for those going, (is God calling YOU?) those we'll minister to, and the Lord's provision for finances. Stay tuned for more info to come!

Welcome: Congratulations to new parents, Daniel and Kendall Myrick or Reclaimed Ministries on the birth of their first daughter! Madalynn Reed was born November 21st.

ICP Christmas: We'll be providing personal items and children's gifts for families in our community this Christmas! All items need to be at the church by noon on Sunday, December 11. Please label donations with YOUR NAME so we know who they're for! Call Katie Cantrell with any questions: 901-825-0628. You can find the link on our Website

RYM: Our 2023 RYM Summer Conference for rising ninth–graduating seniors is scheduled for July 10–15 in Panama City Beach, FL. Cost for the week \$545 per student. Please sign up using the sheet in the lobby by Wednesday, January 4th. Contact Heath with any questions.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. 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. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs 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.

We confess our faith as an act of worship, together with Christians in all times and places. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The term “catholic” refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

Offertory is a time for prayerful reflection and response by considering how to be generous with your time, talents and resources. If you are new to our church, or exploring Christianity, please don’t feel obligated to give. Instead, please be sure to fill out a visitors card. Offerings, tithes & cards can be put in the box in the back of the sanctuary before or after service. Also on our website <https://christcovenantms.org/online-giving/>

Doxology We sing this short hymn of praise to thank and adore our God of glory.

The Sermon is a teaching based on the passage from the reading of God’s Word. The role of the sermon is to make real truths of the Gospel. It is not just an intellectual function. Rather, using the imagination, our hearts are to be affected by the text.

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith** Elder Shaun Sipe
LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed
ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen *The Apostles Creed*

Kingdom Moment Membership Vows & *Holy Baptism*
Isaac, Kimberlyn, Maximilien & Margot Harrison
Bryan, Kymberleigh, Noelle, Perry, Evelyn & Jon-Harlan Riley

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory *A Christmas Hallelujah*
***Doxology** (*Children under 4 dismissed at this time*)

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *Psalms 20 & 21 (p. 456)*
READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade
ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon Rev. Jim Plunk
”Advent Trust”

The Great Thanksgiving:
Following the pattern of Jesus, this prayer of thanksgiving reminds us this is a meal offering thanks to God for all he has done as we bring our whole selves to him with the communion of the saints.

Words of Institution: These words recorded in the synoptic gospels and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 are words from Jesus setting this meal apart from every other meal as a holy sacrament for God’s people.

The Lord’s supper: God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form—uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: **And with your spirit**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

PASTOR: It is indeed good, right and our delight that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying...

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: **Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Hallelujah!

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving. Let us partake of the feast!

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

The Benediction
is how we close our time of worship. It is not a prayer but rather a blessing with a charge to go beyond our church into the world carrying the hope, joy and love of the Gospel.

Gloria Patri
We have heard and witnessed God’s glory. Now we leave singing His glory that others might know His glory.

Sermon Audio
If you want to listen to any archived sermons, please visit the sermon page on our website www.christcovenantms.org or subscribe to our podcast on your smartphone. All music used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Practical Needs and Prayer
If you have questions or would like to pray with someone, our officers can be available after the worship service, or you may call the church office and leave a message for a deacon at 662.469.9330 and someone will get in touch with you. You can also send prayer requests to office@christcovenantms.org.

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

***Song of Sending** *Angels We Have Heard On High #214*

***Benediction**

PASTOR: Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. *Ephesians 6:23-24*

PEOPLE: **Amen!**

***Gloria Patri**

SERMON NOTES

Continuing in the Advent series, “Royal Psalms for Advent”

“Advent Trust”

Psalms 20 & 21 (p. 456)

The need for trust

Confident trust through past deliverance

Confident trust in future deliverance

#214 Angels We Have Heard on High

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Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria
in excelsis Deo.
Gloria
in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Repeat Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Repeat Chorus

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother: All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning over us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward In the triumph song of life.

Come, O Redeemer, Come

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Father enthroned on high, Holy, holy.
Ancient, eternal Light, Hear our prayer.

**Come, O Redeemer, come, Grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come, Grant us peace.**

Lord, save us from the dark, Of our striving,
Faithless and troubled hearts, Weighed down.

Repeat Chorus

Look now upon our need, Lord, be with us.
Heal us and make us free, From our sin.

Repeat Chorus 2x

#189 Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

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Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak but he is strong.

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me, he will stay
Close beside me all the way:
If I love him, when I die
He will take me home on high.

Repeat Chorus

A Christmas Hallelujah

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I've heard about this baby boy Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

A couple came to Bethlehem Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
And there was no room for them to stay So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, Oh, Hallelujah!

Repeat Chorus

The shepherds left their flocks by night To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah!

Repeat Chorus

A star shown bright up in the east To Bethlehem, the Wise Men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah!

Repeat Chorus

I know You came to rescue me This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah!

Repeat Chorus 2x