

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

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

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@christcovenantms.org

Heath Warbritton, Worship Coordinator, heath@christcovenantms.org

Rebecca Emerson, Children's Director, rebeccanemerson@christcovenantms.org

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

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

Third Sunday of Advent

12.11.22

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 & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Steven Slater

Communion: David & Rachel Wright

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Rebecca Fyfe & Mary Esther Slater

Sunday school—Rebecca Emerson & Katie Massey

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 11th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream
11:00am—Sunday school

Monday – December 12th

No activities planned

Tuesday – December 13th

No activities planned

Wednesday–December 14th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

Thursday– December 15th

No activities planned

Friday– December 16th

No activities planned

Saturday– December 17th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Christmas Eve Service—12.24, 5pm
- Office closed—12.23-12.26 & 1.2.23
- Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Potluck—1.22.23
- 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 12.10-12.17
Chris, Monica, Jack & Anna Caroline Tingle • Matt, Valerie, Matty & James Walden

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 • Bobby Mellon • Margot Harrison

Prayer Requests: Bobby Mellon, Catherine Sartor’s father, diagnosed w/ cancer and recovering from surgery • Margot Harrison, recovering from a procedure to repair a cleft palate and having 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	12.11.22	X	X
Mon	12.12.22	1 Samuel 10	Matthew 15
Tues	12.13.22	1 Samuel 11	Matthew 16
Wed	12.14.22	1 Samuel 12	Matthew 17
Thurs	12.15.22	1 Samuel 13	Matthew 18
Fri	12.16.22	1 Samuel 14	Matthew 19
Sat	12.17.22	Psalms 51	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 loves. 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 Kids’ Club Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Bethlehem Candle
Isaiah 35:1-10 (p.595) Hattie Emerson
Matthew 11:2-11 (p.816) Nick Manley

READER: We light the third candle, the Shepherd’s Candle, to remind us that the announcement of Christ’s birth was made to humble ordinary men, for God came and called the meek of the earth.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

***Call to Worship** Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling,
PEOPLE: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
Psalms 2:11-12

***Song of Adoration** Joy to the World! The Lord is Come #195

***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.

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: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: Lord God, You require us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before You. We confess that we have not loved You or our neighbor in this way. We repent of this. Grant that Your Holy Spirit drives us to seek these things through Christ. Amen.

From Micah 6:8

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

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

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen #211

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Meets for the last time this year and continues 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.

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Potluck: Today’s meeting has been postponed until 1.22.23. Please let Katie Cantrell know if you plan to attend kdcfly@gmail.com

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

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!

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 today. 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.

Christmas Eve Service: Join us for a candlelight service on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 5pm. We will be taking up our annual donation benefitting the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund which benefits retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, pastors without a call, and their widows and dependent children who may have financial need.

Year End Giving: Please remember the church in your year-end giving this month. You can give securely online through our website, app, or mail a check by December 31st. Please give regularly to the general fund, but gifts beyond your normal tithe and offering can now be sent to our new "land and building fund" available online or if written on the memo line of your check.

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.”

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: What is repentance unto life?

ALL: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience. *Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A 87*

Kingdom Moment *Membership Vows & Baptism*
Bryan, Kymberleigh, Noelle, Perry, Evelyn & Jon-Harlan Riley

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory *O Come, All You Unfaithful*
Kids’ Club Choir

***Doxology** *(Children under 4 dismissed at this time)*

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *Psalms 72 (p. 485)*

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 Justice”

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** *The First Noel*

***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 Justice”
Psalms 72(p. 485)

A present call for kingdom justice

A future hope for kingdom justice

The First Noel

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keep ing their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Repeat Chorus

And by the light of that same star
The wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Repeat Chorus

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Repeat Chorus

#195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! 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 sins and sorrows 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.

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

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

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

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

#211 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we had gone astray;

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

Repeat Chorus

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might.”

Repeat Chorus

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.

Repeat Chorus