

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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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

12.18.22

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: Robert Massey & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion: Andrew & Tracy Duff

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Catherine Sartor & 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 18th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream
4:00pm—Leadership training

Monday – December 19th

No activities planned

Tuesday – December 20th

No activities planned

Wednesday–December 21st

6:30am—Men's bible study

Thursday– December 22nd

No activities planned

Friday– December 23rd

Office closed

Saturday– December 24th

5:00pm—Christmas Eve Service

Looking Ahead

- Office closed—12.23-12.26, 1.2.23 & 1.13.23
- Sunday School—resumes 1.11.23
- Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Potluck—1.22.23
- Men's Retreat—2.3-4
- 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 12.17-12.24

Linda Whitley • Heath Warbritton

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: 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	12.18.22	X	X
Mon	12.19.22	1 Samuel 15	Matthew 20
Tues	12.20.22	1 Samuel 16	Matthew 21
Wed	12.21.22	1 Samuel 17	Matthew 22
Thurs	12.22.22	1 Samuel 18	Matthew 23
Fri	12.23.22	1 Samuel 19	Matthew 24
Sat	12.24.22	Psalms 52	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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Angel’s Candle

Isaiah 7:10:16 (p. 574) Meghan Barkley
Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 807) Jared Barkley

READER: We light the fourth candle, the Angel’s Candle, to remind us that hosts of Heaven proclaimed Jesus’ arrival, an arrival that has brought God’s peace on earth.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
PEOPLE: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!
PASTOR: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Psalm 105:1-3

*Song of Adoration Angels From the Realms of Glory #218

*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: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

From Psalm 51

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put with you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25–26

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**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #200

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will resume January 2023

Leadership Training: Today is the remaining date for 2022 and Pastor Jim will cover Reformed Theology

Worship time change: The Session has changed our regular worship service time on 12/25 to 10am to allow all our families a little extra time. Like every Lord’s Day, we ask that you prioritize corporate worship with us and make every effort to be on time and with your church family as we celebrate Jesus together!

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.

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Potluck: After church, 1.22.23, 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 you plan to bring.

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!

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.

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 Bob Barber

LEADER: What is the chief end of man?

ALL: **Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.**

LEADER: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

ALL: **The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.**
Westminster Shorter Catechism #1,2

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *O Little Town of Bethlehem #201*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Psalms 110 (p. 309)*

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 Hope”

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** *Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery*
***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 Hope”
Psalms 110 (p. 309)

Our hope through our king’s finished work

Our hope through our priest’s finished work

Our confident response to our priest-king

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

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Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, in the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, He the perfect Son of Man;
In His living, in His suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ the Lord upon the tree,
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold;
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be, when He comes.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord, He is alive!

#218 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Repeat Chorus

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Repeat Chorus

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Repeat Chorus

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One:

Repeat Chorus

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

#200 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

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It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav’n’s all-gracious King”;
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing.
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose form are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast’ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

#201 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to night.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.