

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

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

Christmas Day
12.25.22

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: Scott Sartor & David Wright

A/V Assistant: Matt Walden

Communion: Matthew & Jamie Frank

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Donna Belenchia & Rachel Wright

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 25th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
10:00am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream

Monday – December 26th

Office Closed

Tuesday – December 27th

6:00pm—Men's bible study

Wednesday–December 28th

6:30am—Men's bible study

Thursday– December 29th

No activities planned

Friday– December 30th

No activities Planned

Saturday– December 31st

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Office closed—12.26, 1.2.23 & 1.13.23
- Sunday School—resumes 1.11.23
- 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 12.24-1.7
Ben, Robert & Zach Wilcke • Bobbie, Hannah & Mary Helen Wilkerson

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 • Scott Slater

Prayer Requests: Steven Slater’s dad, Scott Slater, has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer • Bobby Mellon, Catherine Sartor’s father, is cancer free

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

***Call to Worship** Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
PEOPLE: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
PASTOR: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. *Psalms 145:1-3*

***Song of Adoration** *O Come, All Ye Faithful #208*

***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 confess our sins together:

ALL: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills and rest to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Worship, 1946

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:3-5

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**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice #207

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will resume January 2023

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Lunch: January 22 after church. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch or run out and grab something. We'll start 15 minutes after Sunday school is over and it will last around 30-45 minutes. ALL ARE WELCOME!! We'll offer basic info about the trip and we'll try to answer ALL THE QUESTIONS! Call or email Katie Cantrell with questions: kdcfly@gmail.com or 901-825-0628

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.

Men's Retreat: Our first men's retreat will be February 3rd-4th at Pinecrest Retreat Center in LaGrange, TN. The cost will be \$35. We will aim to arrive at 4pm Friday and depart by 1pm Saturday. For those not carpooling, the address is: 21430 Hwy 57, Moscow, TN 38057

Out of the office: Pastor Jim will be out of the office this week, 12.26-30 and will return 1.3.2023. Please reach out to an elder if you have a need.

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**

PASTOR: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance With the Father, By whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to The Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory to judge both the living and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Nicene Creed

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

O Come, All You Unfaithful

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Psalms 144(p. 524)

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 Refuge”

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** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #203*

***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
Concluding the Advent series, “Royal Psalms for Advent”
“Advent Refuge”
Psalms 144 (p. 524)

Past Redemption

Present Rescue

Future Renewal

#200 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Repeat Chorus

Hail the heav’nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Repeat Chorus

#208 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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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;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;

glory to God
in the highest;

Repeat 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;

Repeat Chorus

#207 Good Christian Men, Rejoice

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Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

O Come, All You Unfaithful

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O come, all you unfaithful.
Come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones,
weary of praying.
Come, see what your God has done.

**Christ is born,
Christ is born.
Christ is born for you.**

O come, bitter and broken.
Come, with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones,
there is no need to run.
See what your God has done.

Repeat Chorus

He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace for those who believe.
He's the Lamb who was given,
slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace for those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing.
Come, He is the offering.
Come, see what your God has done.

Repeat Chorus 2x