

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

First Sunday after Christmas

1.1.23

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 congregation 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: Nick Manley & Scott Sartor

A/V Assistant: Zack Chapman

Communion: Nick & Maggie Manley

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Karol Barber & Jennifer Emerson

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 - January 1st

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

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

Monday – January 2nd

Office Closed

Tuesday – January 3rd

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday–January 4th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

Thursday– January 5th

No activities planned

Friday– January 6th

No activities Planned

Saturday– January 7th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Office closed—1.13.23
- Sunday School—resumes 1.15.23
- Hot Chocolate Social & Bingo Night—1.21.23
- 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 1.7-1.10

John Wilcoxon • Dewayne & Brandy Williams

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 • 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	1.1.23	X	X
Mon	1.2.23	1 Samuel 25	Luke 1
Tues	1.3.23	1 Samuel 26	Luke 2
Wed	1.4.23	1 Samuel 27	Luke 3
Thurs	1.5.23	1 Samuel 28	Luke 4
Fri	1.6.23	1 Samuel 29	Luke 5
Sat	1.7.23	Psalms 54	X

Scan this code to download the Community Bible Reading App



ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Prelude

*Call to Worship Elder Shaun Sipe

LEADER: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: For he is the Maker of Heaven and earth!

LEADER: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

PEOPLE: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

ALL: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! From Psalm 29:2, 10-11; Psalm 124:8

*Song of Adoration All Glory Be to Christ

*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.

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.

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

LEADER: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, we confess that transgression speaks deep in our hearts, so that we do not reverence you as our good Father, and, in turn, we cease to act wisely and do good. Cleanse us of our foolishness and set us once again on your way that is good and right and beautiful. Amen.

Based on Psalm 36:1-4

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

LEADER: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:9

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**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will resume January 15, 2023

Guest Preacher: Preaching for us this morning is Rev. John Crosby from the University of Memphis RUF where he has been serving for seven years. John is married to Trina and they have they have three boys, Charlie, Henry and Max.

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Lunch: 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 Katie Cantrell with questions: 901-825-0628 HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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. 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 La-Grange, TN. The cost will be \$35. We will aim to arrive at 4pm Friday and depart by 1pm Saturday Friday, February 3rd, 4 pm. You can find the sign up on our website. Talk to Bailey Patridge if you have any questions.

Wednesday Activities: Kids’ Club and Youth resume January 11 at 6pm. If you’re able to provide a meal for youth, there is a sign up on our website. Thank you!

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**

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

Rev. John Crosby

RUF University of Memphis

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Across the Lands

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Galatians 3:26-4:7 (p. 974)

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon

Rev. John Crosby

”Christ’s Gift of Adoption”

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** *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*
***Benediction**
PASTOR: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*
PEOPLE: Amen!

SERMON NOTES
“Christ's Gift of Adoption”
Galatians 3:26-4:7 (p. 974)

How God has Prepared us for this Gift of Adoption (4:1-3)

How God has Given us the Privilege of Adoption (3:26, 4:6-7)

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

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**We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,”
We will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.**

We will not be burned by the fire,
He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

Repeat Chorus

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning, O how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength.

Repeat Chorus

Every vow we broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom!

**We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“You have done great things,”
We will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.**

All Glory Be to Christ

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Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;
Unless the Lord does raise the house in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ!

**All glory be to Christ, our King,
all glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!**

His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above;
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ!

Repeat Chorus

When on the day the great I Am, the Faithful and the True;
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light,
And we shall e'er His people be, all glory be to Christ!

Repeat Chorus 2x

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

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Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide; receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone, support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head in the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want, here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; for all eternity.

Across the Lands

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You're the Word of God the Father from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory; let the land and seas rejoice!

**You're the author of creation;
You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.**

Yet You left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry; with a word You calmed the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered that the guilty may go free!

Repeat Chorus

With a shout You rose victorious, wrestling vict'ry from the grave,
And ascended into heaven leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father, interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation, You are leading sinners home!

Repeat Chorus