

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

First Sunday after the Epiphany
1.8.23

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: Chris Lyons & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Chris Tingle

Communion: Robert & Katie Massey

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Jamie Smith & Meghan Barkley

Sunday School—Katie Massey & Kymberleigh Riley

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 8th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

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

Monday – January 9th

No activities planned

Tuesday – January 10th

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday–January 11th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

4:45pm—Women’s ministry team meeting

5:00pm—Children’s ministry team meeting

6:00pm—Kids’ Club, Youth, Women’s bible study

Thursday– January 12th

No activities planned

Friday– January 13th

Office closed

Saturday– January 14th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Hot Chocolate Social & Bingo Night—1.21.23
- Covenant Presbytery —2.7, Somerville, TN
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.26-3.5
- Easter Egg Hunt—3.25
- Peru Mission Trip—6.2-9
- RYM—7.10-15

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 1.7-14
David, Rachel, Cameron & Chris Wright • Sam Abston

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

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	1.8.23	X	X
Mon	1.9.23	1 Samuel 30	Luke 6
Tues	1.10.23	1 Samuel 31	Luke 7
Wed	1.11.23	2 Samuel 1	Luke 8
Thurs	1.12.23	2 Samuel 2	Luke 9
Fri	1.13.23	3 Samuel 3	Luke 10
Sat	1.14.23	Psalms 55	X

Scan this code to download the Community Bible Reading App



ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Prelude

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
PEOPLE: Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
PASTOR: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
ALL: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

*Song of Adoration Behold Our God

*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

Reading of the Law

PASTOR: What is the first commandment?

ALL: **The first commandment is: You shall have no other gods before me.**

PASTOR: What does the first commandment require?

ALL: **The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.**

PASTOR: What does the first commandment forbid?

ALL: **The first commandment forbids denying God or not worshipping and glorifying Him as the true God and our God. It also forbids giving worship and glory, which He alone deserves, to anyone or anything else.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism 45-47

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: **O Lord, we confess that we are ready to fall, and our pain is ever before us. We confess our iniquity; we are sorry for our sin. Make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation.**

Adapted from Psalm 38

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: The Lord will not forsake those who call upon him! He will not be far from us.

Adapted from Psalm 38:21

ALL: **I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.**

Galatians 2:20

***Song of Renewal**

How Firm A Foundation #94

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Resumes today! Adults meet in the sanctuary and the elders will start team teaching a class on church history not only giving historical highlights but applications for today. Youth meet in the south end lounge area where the boys are continuing w/ Church 101 by RYM. The girls are going through “Women of the Word.” Kids meet in the classrooms.

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting & Lunch: January 22 after Sunday school, 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!

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!

Hot Chocolate & Bingo: January 21 from 3:30pm-5pm at the church

Missions Emphasis Week: This year we start on Sunday February 26th with Wes Baker from Peru Mission in town and hopefully joined by Esdras preaching. We will finish Sunday March 5th with Rev Anthony Forrest from RUF-Jackson State preaching. Our theme will be focused on local mercy ministry, so officers will be leading training on mercy ministry Tuesday-Thursday evenings from 6-8pm. More details to follow.

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**

PASTOR: Christian, who is Jesus Christ?

ALL: The Lord Jesus is the beloved Son of God, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. Amen. *Colossians 1:14-20*

Kingdom Moment

Elder Bob Barber

Sunday School

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision #642

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Exodus 20:3 (p.61)

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

”The first commandment: A Single Loyalty”

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 *To Christ the Lord*

***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

Continuing in the series: Covenant Redemption and Relationship: The Mission of God in the Book of Exodus
“The first commandment: A Single Loyalty”
Exodus 20:3 (p.61)

Recognize there are no other gods

Serve the one true God

Rest in His Son

To Christ the Lord

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

To Christ, the Lord, let ev'ry tongue its noblest tribute bring:
When He's the subject of the song, who can refuse to sing?
Survey the beauties of His face, and on His glories dwell,
Think of the wonder of His grace, and all His triumphs tell.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon His awful brow;
His head with radiant glories crowned, His lips with grace o'erflow.
No mortal can with Him compare, among the sons of men:
And fairer He, than all the fair that fill the heav'nly train.

He saw me plunged in deep distress, He fled to my relief;
For me He bore the shameful cross and carried all my grief.
His hand a thousand blessings pour upon my guilty head:
His presence gilds my darkest hours and guards my sleeping bed.

To Him I owe my life and breath, and all the joys I have;
He makes me triumph over death, and saves me from the grave.
To heav'n the place of His abode He brings my weary feet;
Shows me the glories of my God and makes my joy complete.

Since from His bounty I receive such proofs of love divine,
Had I a thousand hearts to give, Lord, they should all be Thine.
A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet Your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet Your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

Behold Our God

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered ev'ry grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Repeat Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave.
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Repeat Chorus

You will reign forever. (Let Your glory fill the earth.)
You will reign forever. (Let Your glory fill the earth.)
You will reign forever. (Let Your glory fill the earth.)
You will reign forever. (Let Your glory fill...)

Repeat Chorus

#94 How Firm a Foundation (vv. 1–4, 6)

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.

That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

#642 Be Thou My Vision (vv. 1–2, 4–5)

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleep ing, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.