

## 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

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Justin & Carey Helms, Interim youth Interns, [carey.helms@ruf.org](mailto:carey.helms@ruf.org); [justin.helms@ruf.org](mailto:justin.helms@ruf.org)

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[www.christcovenantms.org](http://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*

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1.15.23

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 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: Chris Lyons & David Wright

A/V Assistant: Chris Tingle

Communion: Jodi & Oliver Plunk

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Shannon Sipe & Elizabeth Mills

Sunday School—Kim Harrison & Tracy Duff

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 15th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

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

4:00pm—Reformed Theology

Monday – January 16th

4:00pm—Session meeting

6:00pm—Joint officer meeting

Tuesday – January 17th

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday–January 18th

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 19th

No activities planned

Friday– January 20th

No activities planned

Saturday– January 21st

3:30pm—Hot Chocolate social

Looking Ahead

- 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 1.14– 1.21  
Nathan, Amber & Tanner Applegate • Zachary, Claire, Harrison & Carter Becker

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	1.15.23	X	X
Mon	1.16.23	2 Samuel 4	Luke 11
Tues	1.17.23	2 Samuel 5	Luke 12
Wed	1.18.23	2 Samuel 6	Luke 13
Thurs	1.19.23	2 Samuel 7	Luke 14
Fri	1.20.23	2 Samuel 8	Luke 15
Sat	1.21.23	Psalms 56	X

**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: But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.  
**PEOPLE: O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.** *Psalms 59:16-17*

**\*Song of Adoration** *O Worship the King #2*

**\*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.**

**Reading of the Law**  
PASTOR: What is the second commandment?  
**ALL: The second commandment is: You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand (generations) of those who love me and keep my commandments. (continued)**

**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

PASTOR: What does the second commandment require?  
**ALL: The second commandment requires us to receive, respectfully perform, and preserve completely and purely all the regulations for religion and worship that God has established in His word.**  
PASTOR: What does the second commandment forbid?  
**ALL: The second commandment forbids our worshipping God with images or in any other way not established in His word.**  
*Westminster Shorter Catechism 49-51*

**Confession of Sin**

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together:  
**ALL: Heavenly Father, we confess that we often lack zeal for your gospel and your kingdom. We lack compassion for the lost souls around us. In the busyness of our lives, we fail to love and serve our neighbors. Our love is often hypocritical, and we are slow to tell others about the hope we have in Christ. Help us to see all of our days in the light of your glory and reign. May we grow to love Christ and to desire that others come to know him. In his merciful name we pray. Amen.**

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**  
PASTOR: But you are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.  
*1 Peter 2:9-10*  
**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** *Satisfied*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday School:** 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!

**Small Groups:** We will resume our groups on Sunday night January 22. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group.

**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 have resumed! 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** Elder Bob Barber

PASTOR: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?  
**ALL: That I belong---body and soul, in life and in death---not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**  
*Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 1*

**Kingdom Prayers of the People**

**Offertory** *Jesus, I my Cross Have Taken*  
**\*Doxology** (*Children under 4 dismissed at this time*)

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

**\*Prayer for Illumination**  
**The Reading of God’s Word** *Exodus 20:4-6 (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 second commandment: An Invisible God”

**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](http://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](mailto:office@christcovenantms.org).

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

\*Song of Sending Give Us Clean Hands

\*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!

\*Gloria Patri

SERMON NOTES

Continuing in the series: Covenant Redemption and Relationship: The Mission of God in the Book of Exodus  
“The second commandment: An Invisible God”  
Exodus 20:4-6(p.61)

Worship is important

Worship is not determined by us

Worship is determined by God

Worship is through the means of grace

## Give Us Clean Hands

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We bow our hearts, we bend our knees;  
Oh Spirit, come make us humble.  
We turn our eyes from evil things;  
Oh Lord, we cast down our idols.

Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;  
Let us not lift our souls to another.  
Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts;  
Let us not lift our souls to an other.

O God, let us be a generation that seeks,  
that seeks your face, O God of Jacob.  
O God, let us be a generation that seeks,  
that seeks your face, O God of Jacob.

*Repeat All*

## #2 O Worship the King (vv. 1–2, 4–6)

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O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;  
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;  
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!  
While angels delight to hymn you above,  
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

## Satisfied

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All my lifelong I had panted  
for a drink from some cool spring  
that I hoped would quench the burning  
of the thirst I felt within.

**Hallelujah! He has found me,  
the One my soul so long has craved.  
Jesus satisfies all my longings  
through His blood I now am saved.**

Feeding on the filth around me  
‘till my strength was almost gone.  
Longed my soul for something better  
only still to hunger on.

### *Repeat Chorus*

Poor I was and sought for riches  
something that would satisfy.  
But the dust I gathered ‘round me  
only mocked my soul’s sad cry.

### *Repeat Chorus*

Well of water ever springing  
Bread of life, so rich and free.  
Untold wealth that never faileth,  
my Redeemer is to me.

### *Repeat Chorus 2x*

Through His blood I now am saved.  
Through His blood I now am saved.

## Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

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Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be.  
Perish ev’ry fond ambition, All I’ve sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav’n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
Oh, while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, Come disaster, scorn and pain.  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure, With Thy favor, loss is gain.  
I have called Thee, “Abba Father,” I have stayed my heart on Thee.  
Storms may howl and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know Thy full salvation; Rise o’er sin and fear and care.  
Joy to find in ev’ry station, Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee, Think what Father's smiles are thine,  
Think that Jesus died to win thee, Child of heav’n, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
Heav’ns eternal days before thee, God’s own hand shall guide us there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.