

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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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 after the Epiphany
1.29.23

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 and put it in the offering plate. 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: Andrew Duff & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Matt Walden

Communion & Coffee: Matthew & Jamie Frank

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Blair Harrell & Bobbie Wilkerson

Sunday School—Britt Emerson & Carrie Foresman

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 29th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy

Communion; also via live stream

11:00am—Sunday school

4:00pm—Reformed Theology

Monday – January 30th

No activities planned

Tuesday – January 31st

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday–February 1st

6:30am—Men’s bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

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

Thursday– February 2nd

No activities planned

Friday– February 3rd

3:00pm—Leave for Men’s Retreat

Saturday– February 4th

2:00pm—Return from Men’s Retreat

Looking Ahead

- Covenant Presbytery —2.7, Somerville, TN
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.26-3.5
- Small Group Dates—2.5&19, 3.5&26, 4.16&30
- Easter Egg Hunt—3.25
- Holy Week—4.2-9
- Kids’ Club sing at Wesley Meadows—4.19
- VBS—6.5-9
- Peru Mission Trip—6.2-9
- General Assembly—6.12-16, Renasant Convention Complex
- RYM—7.10-15

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 1.28-2.4
Jeremy, DeLena, Judah, CoraBell, Monroe & Mae Beavers • Paul & Donna Belenchia

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 • The Belenchia Family

Prayer Requests: Donna Belenchia’s brother, Ron Scheiffer passed away last week after being diagnosed w/ pneumonia & cancer. Also, Donna's sister, Betty, recovering well after suffering a stroke at Thanksgiving time

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	1.29.23	X	X
Mon	1.30.23	2 Samuel 14	Luke 21
Tues	1.31.23	2 Samuel 15	Luke 22
Wed	2.1.23	2 Samuel 16	Luke 23
Thurs	2.2.23	2 Samuel 17	Luke 24
Fri	2.3.23	2 Samuel 18	Acts 1
Sat	2.4.23	Psalm 58	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: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!
ALL: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! *Revelation 5:12-13*

*Song of Adoration
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

*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 fourth commandment?
ALL: The fourth commandment is: Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy.
PASTOR: What does the fourth commandment require?
ALL: The fourth commandment requires us to set apart to God the times He has established in His word—specifically one whole day out of every seven as a holy Sabbath to Him. (*cont’d*)

Reading the law guides us into all truth, but also convicts us. It is appropriate to read before we confess sin.

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: How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

ALL: The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

PASTOR: What does the fourth commandment forbid?

ALL: The fourth commandment forbids the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Westminster Shorter Catechism 57-58, 60-61

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: To you, O Lord, we call; our rock, be not deaf to us, lest if you be silent to us, we become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of our pleas for mercy, when we cry to you for help, when we lift up our hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

From Psalm 28

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from us; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve us!

From Psalm 40

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**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me #499

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the sanctuary and Pastor Jim will lead a Q & A. 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.

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. Make checks out to the church, put men’s retreat in the memo line.

Ladies Event: Galentines’ Coffee and Conversation on Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 AM. Ladies, please come enjoy coffee and a light breakfast at the church with your CCC sisters!

Youth Meals: If you’re able to provide a meal for youth, there is a sign up on our website. Thank you!

Peru Mission Trip Interest Meeting Follow Up: Sunday, 2.19, after church, there will be a 30-45 minute follow up meeting for those interested in the Peru Mission Trip this summer. 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!

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.

Reformed Theology: We meet tonight from 4-6pm to discuss the Westminster standard’s and Scripture’s teachings on law, liberty, sabbath, oaths, civil magistrates, marriage, church, and the communion of the saints. All are welcome. We meet again for our final meeting on February 12th.

Small Groups: 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. Dates for February are 2.5 & 19

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.

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 Moment

Justin & Carey Helms

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Is He Worthy?

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Exodus 20:8-11(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 fourth commandment: A Holy Day”

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 which can be put in the offering plate. Also, you can give securely 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.

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 memorial acclamation reminds us of the center of history and our lives; the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

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: You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children. Therefore, with angels and archangels and 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: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

PEOPLE: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory. 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

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending O Day of Rest and Gladness

*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.

PEOPLE: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

SERMON NOTES

Continuing in the series: Covenant Redemption and Relationship: The Mission of God in the Book of Exodus
“The fourth commandment: A Holy Day”
Exodus 20:8-11(p.61)

What are we to think about the Sabbath Day?

What does it look like to keep the Sabbath Day?

How should we approach the Sabbath Day?

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.

O Day of Rest and Gladness

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O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright,
On thee the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing “Holy, holy, holy” to the great God triune.

On thee, at the creation the light first had its birth;
On thee, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
On thee our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heav’n
And thus on thee, most glorious, a triple light was giv’n.

Thou art a port protected from storms that round us rise;
A garden intersected with streams of paradise;
Thou art a cooling fountain in life’s dry, dreary sand;
From thee, like Pisgah’s mountain, we view our promised land.

Today on weary nations, the heav’nly manna falls:
To holy convocations, the silver trumpet calls,
Where gospel light is glowing with pure and radiant beams
And living water flowing, with soul refreshing streams.

New graces ever gaining, from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining, to spirits of the blest.
To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises, to thee, blest Three in One.

To Holy Ghost be praises, to Father, and to Son;
The church her voice upraises, to thee, blest Three in One.

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

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Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame:
He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood,
He has washed us with his blood. He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
Called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood,
He has washed us with his blood. He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threatens hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu’ror’s crown:
He, who washed us with his blood, He, who washed us with his blood,
He, who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is justice smiles and asks no more:
He, who washed us with his blood, He, who washed us with his blood,
He, who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“Thou hast washed us with thy blood, Thou hast washed us with thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with thy blood. Thou art worthy, Lamb of God.”

#499 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

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Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Let me hide myself in thee.
Let me hide myself in thee.

Is He Worthy?

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Do you feel the world is broken? (We do.)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do.)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do.)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do.)

Is all creation groaning? (It is.)
Is a new creation coming? (It is.)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is.)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is.)

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this?
He is.

Does the Father truly love us? (He does.)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does.)
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (He does.)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does.)

Repeat Chorus

From ev'ry people and tribe, ev'ry nation and tongue,
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son.
Is He worthy? Is He worthy
of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?
He is.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
He is.
He is.