

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; 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

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

2.12.23

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 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: Scott Sartor & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Steven Slater

Communion & Coffee: Meghan & Jarod Barkley

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Erin Funderburk & Jamie Smith

Sunday School—Jamie Frank & Hillary Hale

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 - February 12th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream
3:00pm—Reformed Theology

Monday – February 13th

4:00pm—Session meeting
6:00pm—Joint session meeting

Tuesday – February 14th

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday–February 15th

6:30am—Men’s bible study
9:00am—Women’s bible study
5:00pm—Children’s team meeting
6:00pm—Kids’ Club, Youth, Women’s bible study

Thursday– February 16th

No activities planned

Friday– February 17th

No activities planned

Saturday– February 18th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Missions Emphasis Week—2.26-3.5
- Small Group Dates—2.19, 3.5&26, 4.16&30
- Easter Egg Hunt—3.25 at the Massey’s home
- Holy Week—4.2-9
- Spring Break—3.12-18, No youth, kids’ club or Women’s bible study
- Kids’ Club sing at Wesley Meadows—4.19
- VBS—6.5-9, “Summer Sea Quest”
- 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 2.11-2.18
Tim, Christa, Zach, Sammy, Nathaniel & Benjamin Chapman • William & Anna Kate Coleman

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 • Scott Slater • The Belenchia Family • The Bernard family • Trent Emerson • Eli Mills

Prayer Requests: Trent Emerson, having his tonsils removed and tubes placed on 2.22 • Michael Emerson having surgery in CO 3.21, which will take several weeks of appointments & follow up • Eli Mills, having wrist surgery tomorrow

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	2.12.23	X	X
Mon	2.13.23	2 Samuel 24	Acts 7
Tues	2.14.23	1 Kings 1	Acts 8
Wed	2.15.23	1 Kings 2	Acts 9
Thurs	2.16.23	1 Kings 3	Acts 10
Fri	2.17.23	1 Kings 4	Acts 11
Sat	2.18.23	Psalms 60	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 lives. 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: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

PEOPLE: Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

PASTOR: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

Isaiah 65:17-19

*Song of Adoration The Sands of Time Are Sinking

*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 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

Reading of the Law

PASTOR: What is the sixth commandment?
ALL: **The sixth commandment is: You shall not murder.**
PASTOR: What is required in the sixth commandment?
ALL: **The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.**
PASTOR: What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?
ALL: **The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor, unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereunto.**
Westminster Shorter Catechism 67-69

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:
ALL: **And we were dead in our trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**
Ephesians 2:1-3

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. *Ephesians 2:4-5*
ALL: **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!**
2 Corinthians 5:17

***Song of Renewal** *And Can It Be?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the sanctuary and the elders will team teach 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. No Sunday school 2.19 & 26

Mercy Ministry Training: Some current officers will lead training February 26th, March 1st, and March 2nd from 6-8pm in the sanctuary during missions week for all current and officer candidates as well as anyone else interested in learning how to effectively do mercy ministry in our community. There is a group on faithlife with some initial resources and books are also available for preparation.

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.

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. Remaining date for this month is 2.19

General Assembly Volunteering: Covenant presbytery is hosting General Assembly at the Renasant Convention Complex in Memphis June 12-16th. Please plan to attend evening worship, morning seminars, and visit denomination booths! Also, please volunteer (<http://covenantpresbytery.net/50th-general-assembly/>). Send questions to Suellen Warren (swarren@ipcmemphis.org) and RE Morgan Murphy (morganjmurphy@gmail.com). Heidi from Christ Pres asked for two adult or older youth volunteers to help on Wednesday and Thursday, 6.14-15, from 8-4:30, with the kids attending General Assembly. Contact Rebecca if you can help.

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 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.

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith** Elder Bob Barber

LEADER: Let us now confess our common faith together concerning the Lord Jesus:

ALL: Our Lord Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, our God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11

Kingdom Moment Robert Massey & Scott Sartor

Deacon’s Fund

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Exodus 20:13(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 sixth commandment: the sanctity of life”

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 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Benediction

PASTOR: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

PEOPLE: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

SERMON NOTES

Continuing in the series: Covenant Redemption and Relationship: The Mission of God in the Book of Exodus
“The sixth commandment: the sanctity of life”
Exodus 20:13p.61)

What is commanded regarding murder?

What is forbidden regarding murder?

How can we live in a violent world?

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.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother—
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine!

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Joyful music leads us Sunward
In the triumph song of life.

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

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The sands of time are sinking;
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for,
The fair, sweet morn a wakes:
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

The king there in His beauty,
Without a veil is seen:
It were a well-spent journey,
Though seven deaths lay be tween:
The Lamb with His fair army,
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel's land.

O I am my Beloved's,
And my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His house of wine
I stand upon His merit,
I know no other stand,
Not e'en where glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

And Can It Be?

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And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

**Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, should die for me?**

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all! immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Repeat Chorus

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Repeat Chorus

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Repeat Chorus

Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

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One day when heaven was filled with His praises,
One day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,
dwelt among men; my example is He.
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us,
His glory revealed.

**Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me;
Buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming; Oh, glorious day!
Oh, glorious day!**

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain.
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected,
bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.
Hands that healed nations stretched out on a tree
and took the nails for me.

Repeat Chorus

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
One day the stone rolled away from the door.
Then He arose, over death He had conquered.
Now is ascended my Lord evermore.
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
from rising again.

Repeat Chorus Glorious day!

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming.
One day the skies with His glories will shine.
Wonderful day, my beloved one bringing;
My Savior Jesus, is mine.

Repeat Chorus