

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

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
2.19.23

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: Nick Manley & Scott Sartor

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion & Coffee: Matthew & Jamie Frank

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—JoAnn Harrison & Jennifer Emerson

Sunday School—No Sunday school

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 19th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream
Various time—Small groups

Monday – February 20th

No activities planned

Tuesday – February 21st

6:00pm—Men's bible study

Wednesday–February 22nd

6:30am—Men's bible study
9:00am—Women's bible study
6:00pm—Kids' Club, Youth, Women's bible study

Thursday– February 23rd

No activities planned

Friday– February 24th

No activities planned

Saturday– February 25th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Team Leader Meeting—2.26 @ 5:20pm
- 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

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 2.18-2.25
Andrew, Tracy, Brady & Reagan Duff • Byron, Kelly, John Aubrey & Kelly Earnheart

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Michael Emerson • Hull Emerson • Valerie Walden • Betty Morrow • Monte Morgan • Henry Johnson • Christa Chapman • Hannah Tanous • Oliver Plunk • Betty Walker • Terry Walker • Scott Slater • Betty Walter • The Bernard family • Trent Emerson • Eli Mills

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

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 | 2.19.23 | X | X |
| Mon | 2.20.23 | 1 Kings 5 | Acts 12 |
| Tues | 2.21.23 | 1 Kings 6 | Acts 13 |
| Wed | 2.22.23 | 1 Kings 7 | Acts 14 |
| Thurs | 2.23.23 | 1 Kings 8 | Acts 15 |
| Fri | 2.24.23 | 1 Kings 9 | Acts 16 |
| Sat | 2.25.23 | Psalms 61 | 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: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save your people!’

PEOPLE: O Lord, save your people! The women shall rejoice in the dance and the men shall be merry!

PASTOR: For the Lord will turn our mourning into joy. He will comfort us, and turn our sorrow into gladness. Come let us worship him!

From Jeremiah 31

*Song of Adoration Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

*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 seventh commandment?
ALL: The seventh commandment is: You shall not commit adultery.
PASTOR: What is required in the seventh commandment?
ALL: The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.
PASTOR: What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?
ALL: The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions. *Westminster Shorter Catechism 70-72*

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Our God tells us to confess our sins, trusting that he is faithful to forgive us our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.
ALL: Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that he cannot hear, but our iniquities have separated us from our God, and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. Our mouths are filled with anger, our lips are quick to speak lies, and our eyes are filled with illicit desires. Our feet swift to run to evil and our thoughts are the thoughts of iniquity. Lord, in your grace, only you can intercede and bring health to us. Hear us as we confess our sins to you, for you only are strong enough to save us and bring us life! *From Isaiah 59*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. *Isaiah 1:18*
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** *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood #253*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: No Sunday school 2.19 & 26

Mercy Ministry Training: Some current officers will lead training February 28th, 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: Today 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: We meet tonight & 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.

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. Also, seeking to recruit singers to join a choir for evening worship during the week of the assembly. For more info, contact Jan Conder (JConder@ipcmemphis.org) or James Brown (901-338-9707).

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**

PASTOR: What do you understand by the providence of God?

ALL: God’s providence is his almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

PASTOR: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?

ALL: We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation shall separate us from his love; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.

Heidelberg Catechism 27, 28

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *This Is My Father’s World*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Exodus 20:14(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 seventh commandment: the sanctity of sexuality”

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

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** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #529*

***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 seventh commandment: the sanctity of sexuality“
Exodus 20:14p.61)

What is commanded regarding adultery?

What is forbidden regarding adultery?

How can we live in an unchaste world?

#529 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see our great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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Hail to the Lord's anointed
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression and rule in equity.

Repeat Chorus

He comes with comfort speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turned to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

Repeat Chorus

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in His path to birth.

The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever,
that name to us is Love.

Repeat Chorus

#253 There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood (vv. 1–3, 5)

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There is a fountain filled with blood,
drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains:
lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
that fountain in his day;
and there have I, as vile as he,
washed all my sins away:
washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
and there have I, as vile as he,
washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love had been my theme,
and shall be till I die:
and shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
shall never lose its pow'r,
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved to sin no more:
be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved to sin no more.

Be saved to sin no more,
be saved to sin no more;
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved to sin no more.

This Is My Father's World

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This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

**Oh, this world belongs to Him
from beginning to the end.
All creation groans,
“Lord, bring us home,
and make us new again.”**

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Repeat Chorus 2x