

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

First Sunday in Lent
2.26.23

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: Chris Lyons & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Matt Walden

Communion & Coffee: Jodi & Oliver Plunk

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Kelly Earnheart & Katie Massey

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 26th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy

Communion; also via live stream

11:00am—Missions Emphasis Luncheon

5:20pm—Team leader training

6:00pm—Reformed Theology

Wednesday—March 1st

6:30am—Men's bible study

9:00am—Women's bible study

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

Mercy ministry training

Thursday— March 2nd

6:00pm—Mercy ministry training

Monday – February 27th

No activities planned

Friday– March 3rd

No activities planned

Tuesday – February 28th

6:00pm—Men's bible study, Mercy ministry training

Saturday– March 4th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Small Group Dates—3.5&26, 4.16&30
- Easter Egg Hunt—3.25, 3-5pm 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 2.25-3.4
Michael. Rebecca, Trent & Lucy Emerson • Chas, Jennifer, Anne Mitchell, Elizabeth, Mills & Hattie Emerson

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Michael Emerson • Hull Emerson • Valerie Walden • Betty Morrow • Helen & Monte Morgan • Henry Johnson • Christa Chapman • Oliver Plunk • Betty Walker • Terry Walker • Scott Slater • Betty Walter • Trent Emerson • Eli Mills • Dick & Emily Brankstone

Prayer Requests: Trent Emerson, recovering from having his tonsils removed and tubes placed • 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	2.26.23	X	X
Mon	2.27.23	1 Kings 10	Acts 17
Tues	2.28.23	1 Kings 11	Acts 18
Wed	3.1.23	1 Kings 12	Acts 19
Thurs	3.2.23	1 Kings 13	Acts 20
Fri	3.3.23	1 Kings 14	Acts 21
Sat	3.4.23	Psalms 62	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** Elder Shaun Sipe
LEADER: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
PEOPLE: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
LEADER: Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Psalms 150

***Song of Adoration** *All Creatures of Our God & King #115*

***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.

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.

Trisagion: it means “thrice holy”, and the hymn is theologically rich with deep historical roots. It is a plea for mercy to the Holy Trinity

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort
are encouraging words which are what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

LEADER: Lord, we come confessing that when we were slaves to sin, we let sin reign in our mortal bodies, to make them obey their various passions.

ALL: But the fruit we were getting at that time was from things which we are now ashamed.

LEADER: The end of those things is death. But now we have been set free from sin and become your slaves.

ALL: And the fruit we now get leads to sanctification and abundant life.

LEADER: Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

ALL: Sin is no longer to be our master, since we are not under the law but under grace.

From Romans 6:12-23

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Trisagion

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

LEADER: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

***Song of Renewal**

In Christ Alone

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Preachers: Esdras Vasquez grew up just south of Trujillo. He studied Biology at the University of Trujillo and Theology at the Areopago Cristiano. Esdras is Sr. Pastor at Iglesia Cristo Rey in Trujillo & Professor of Theology at the Areopago. Please pray for Esdras and his wife Megan and their ministries in the city of Trujillo! Pastor Wes Baker is the director of Peru Mission in Trujillo. He teaches in the seminary, mentors ministerial candidates and church planters, and is assistant editor of publications. Wes is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Wes and his wife Jami have seven children.

Missions Emphasis Week: Begins this morning with Esdras Vasquez from Peru Mission followed by a church wide luncheon immediately following service. Tues—Thurs is Mercy Ministry Training then we will finish next Sunday with Rev Anthony Forrest from RUF-Jackson State preaching.

Leadership training: This evening, we meet from 4-6pm to discuss part 1 of the BCO on church government, read through Guy Waters’ book “Well Ordered-Living Well”, and will be joined by ministry team leaders from 5:20-6pm for training on how our church functions.

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. Nursery provided.

Small Groups: This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. March dates are 3.5 & 26. 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).

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**

LEADER: 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

Peru Missions

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Jesus Messiah

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Psalms 100 (p. 500)

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon

Rev. Esdras Vasquez

”Giving Thanks to 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 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: We need not hide ourselves from you, before whose justice no one can stand. Your mercy was proclaimed by the apostles and the prophets, and shown forth to us in Jesus Christ . You give your law to guide us, and you promise new life that we may live to serve you among our neighbors in all we do and say. 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 How Sweet & Awesome Is the Place

*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

“Giving Thanks to God“

Psalm 100 (p.500)

We give thanks to God with our voice (vss. 1-2).

We give thanks to God with our understanding (vs. 3).

We give thanks to God with our actions (vss. 4-5).

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.

How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

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How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear your voice,
and enter while there’s room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?”

’Twas the same love that spread the feast
that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send your victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full,
that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing your redeeming grace.

May, with one voice and heart and soul,
sing your redeeming grace.

#115 All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1–2, 4–5)

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All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

**O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav’n along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,

Repeat Chorus

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care.

Repeat Chorus

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one,

Repeat Chorus

Trisagion

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Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have mercy, have mercy,
have mercy, have mercy on us.

In Christ Alone

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In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Jesus Messiah

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He became sin, who knew no sin;
that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

**Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body the bread, His blood the wine
broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Repeat Chorus

All our hope is in You,
All our hope is in You,
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world.

Repeat Chorus

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
The Lord of all!
The Lord of all!