



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 22, 2026

To our guests,

Welcome! We are delighted to have you with us this morning. Our goal each Sunday is to glorify and enjoy the God Who made us and saved us by His grace. If you have any questions about our church, please do not hesitate to ask.

In Christ,
Pastor Noah Wiersema

Thank you for visiting with us!

Get Connected!

Want to plug into the life of Covenant? Scan the QR code to fill out our **Connection Card**, and our team will be in touch to help you get connected!



 **Hearing Assist:** Sanitized devices are available from our ushers.

Large Print version of the bulletin is available in the narthex.



Why a pelican?

Carved into the front of our pulpit is one of the most ancient symbols of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. Often referred to as "the pelican in her piety," this symbol offers a vivid picture of how Christ's death brings us life: according to legend, a mother pelican will pluck her breast to feed her young with her blood during a time of famine. As a church, Christ's stunning grace is not only front-and-center in our sanctuary but, more importantly, in our lives. The image of the pelican serves as a frequent reminder that we are deeply rooted in Christ so that we might reach out with Christ.

For Children:

Junior Bulletin: We love having our children participate with us in worship! Each week, we provide a children's version of our bulletin that can be found in the narthex.

Nursery: The nursery (for children birth to 4 years old) is located on the Lower Level at the north end of the building. If you need help locating it, please feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

Wiggle Room: If you need to step out of the Sanctuary with your child, the Mare Room offers a closed circuit feed of the worship service along with a few toys. Our ushers would be happy to direct you.

Children's Worship (available only at the 8:30 service): A worship training time for children ages four through first grade is offered during the sermon. Children begin worship in the sanctuary and will be dismissed at the appropriate time. Parents should pick up their children in Room 13 on the Lower Level after the service.

MORNING WORSHIP

Greeting

As we enter into worship, please silence your cell phones.

Prelude • *Before the Throne of God Above*

Call to Worship • from Psalm 121

PASTOR: *I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?*

PEOPLE: My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: *He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

PEOPLE: Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

PASTOR: *The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.*

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

God, through his Word,
calls us to worship Him.

In response to God calling
us into worship, we sing
praises to Him.



1. O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and_ sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
 that_ we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for_ we can on - ly won - der at_ ev - 'ry gift you send,
 and_ wheth - er our to - mor - rows be_ filled with good or ill,



at_ bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
 we'll_ tri-umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we_ lift our hearts be - fore_ you and wait up - on your word,
 to_ mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we_ hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and_ make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Michael Perry, 1982

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THAXTED 13.13.13.13.13.
 From Gustav Holst, *The Planets*, 1918

Invocation

We pray to God to bless
 and guide our worship.

We join ourselves to
Christians across time and
space by confessing what
we believe.

Profession of Faith • The Apostles' Creed

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* universal

Doxology

#731

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Corporate Confession of Sin • from Matthew 5

ALL: Heavenly Father,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We are called to be your distinct people,
but we have so often blended in with the world.
We are called to let our light shine before others,
but we have so often hidden away.
We have failed to live for you, our Father in heaven.
So forgive us we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon • from Romans 6

PASTOR: *Children of God, all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

We boldly confess our disobedience to God because he is faithful and just.

We hear of the forgiveness we have in Jesus and respond with grateful hearts.

Hymn of Assurance • O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



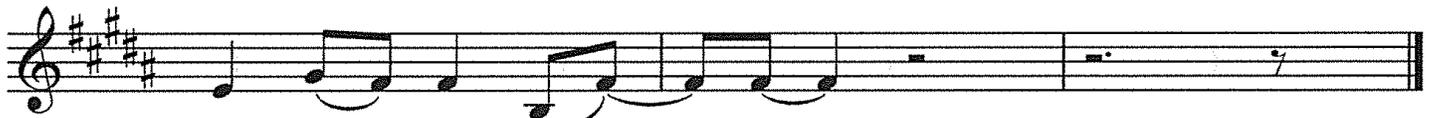
1. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry
2. O Light that fol - low'st all my way, I yield my flick' ring
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to



soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that
torch to Thee; My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
heart to Thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
fly from Thee; I lay in dust, life's glo - ry dead, and



in Thine o - cean depths its flow may
in Thy sun - shine's blaze its day may
feel the prom - ise is not vain, that
from the ground there blos - soms red Life



rich - er, full - er be.
bright - er, fair - er be.
morn shall tear - less be.
that shall end - less be.

We hear and read from
God's word throughout
our service.

Scripture Reading • Daniel 7:13-14

p.745
Hugo Figueira

PASTOR: *This is the word of the Lord.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer for Christ's Church and the World

We pray for God's church
and the world.

Please take a moment to sign the brown attendance pad.

Offertory • *May The Peoples Praise You (Psalm 67)*

We cheerfully give back to
God because of all he has
given us.

CHOIR: *You have called us out of darkest night into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ*

*May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy with endless life*

CHORUS: *May the peoples praise You let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes that we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

*All the earth is Yours and all within each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You to make Christ known*

*May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word*

*This our holy priv'lege to declare Your praises and Your name
To every nation tribe and tongue Your church proclaim*

BRIDGE: *Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious name*

Children's Worship (8:30am service only)

*Parents, please bring participating children ages 4–1st grade
to meet their Worship leader in the Narthex during the following hymn.
Children can be picked up downstairs in Room 13.*

Hymn of Preparation • *Christ for the World We Sing*

#447

1. Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
 2. Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
 3. Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
 4. Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring

with lov - ing zeal; the poor and them that mourn, the faint and
 with fer - vent pray'r; the way - ward and the lost, by rest - less
 with one ac - cord; with us the work to share, with us re -
 with joy - ful song; the new - born souls whose days, re - claimed from

o - ver - borne, sin - sick and sor - row worn, whom Christ doth heal.
 pas - sions tossed, re - deemed at count - less cost from dark de - spair.
 proach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.
 er - ror's ways, in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

Samuel Wolcott, 1869

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.4.
 Felice de Gardini. 1769

Scripture Reading • Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sermon • Do you matter to God's mission? Matthew 28:16-20; p.835

Rev. Andrew Lupton

God's word is held out to us so that we might better know, love, and serve God.

1. Saved

2. Sent

3. Sustained

We are raised up to feast
with our Lord.

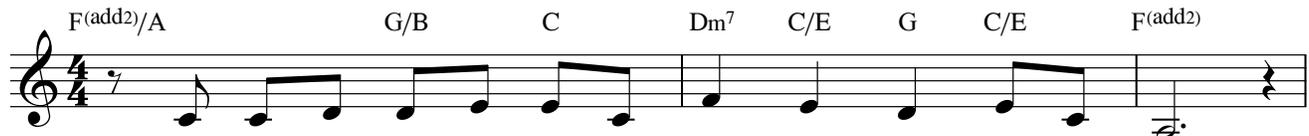
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Gluten-free bread is located on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary.

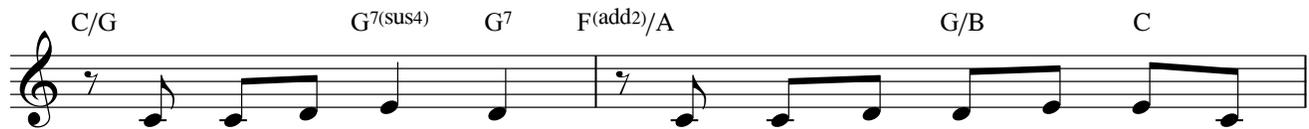
Grape juice is in the clear cups and wine is in the tinted cups.

Parents, if you think your child or children are ready to come to the table, please contact your fold elder or a pastor.

Communion Hymn • Behold the Lamb



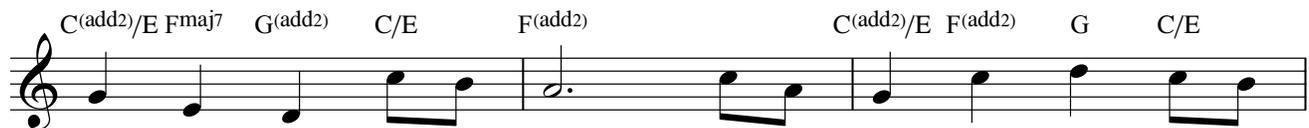
1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us.
2. The bod - y of our Sav - iour, Je - sus Christ, torn for you:
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you:
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond



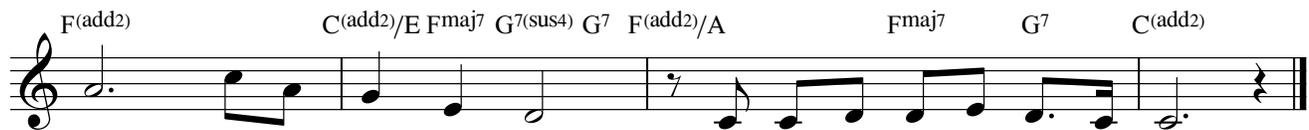
And we re - mem - ber the prom - ise made that all who
Eat and re - mem - ber the wounds that heal, the death that
Drink and re - mem - ber He drained death's cup that all may
and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the



come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross. So, we share in this
brings us life, paid the price to make us one. So, we share in this
en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. So, we share in this
steps of Christ as His bod - y here on earth. As we share in His



Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a
Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a
Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice, as a
suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim: Christ will come a - gain! And we'll



sign of our bonds of peace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
sign of our bonds of love a - round the ta - ble of the King.
sign of our bonds of grace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
join in the feast of heav'n a - round the ta - ble of the King.

Benediction

We are sent out with
God's blessing.

Threefold Amen

A - men, A - men, A - - men.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with the lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - - men.' written below the notes. The first two 'Amen's are separated by a comma, and the third is elongated with a double dash. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together.

The Peace of Christ

PASTOR: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

PEOPLE: And also with you!

We are reminded of the
peace we have in Jesus and
we share that peace with
one another.

Postlude

Guest Preacher

Andrew Lupton is a native of western North Carolina and has served with Mission to the World since 2011. Andrew married Laura Kate in 2005 and they have the joy of raising Fox (14), Evie (12), and Lucy (9). The Luptons served in Bogota, Colombia for nine years before moving to Oslo, Norway in 2022 to plant Grace International Church of Oslo in one of Europe's diverse and most secular cities. Grace Church is a member of the International Presbyterian Church, a denomination founded by Francis Schaeffer. Andrew is a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary. The Luptons called Covenant Church their home during seminary years.

Musicians – Jonathan McGuire, Organ & Piano; Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals; Madeleine Castle, Vocals; Parker Clemmons, Mandolin & Vocals; Garrett Jacobs, Drums; Tim Cole, Choir Director

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Hymn of Adoration (“O God Beyond All Praising”): *Trinity Hymnal* #660. Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company). Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-707330 (song #03445). All rights reserved.

Hymn of Assurance (“O Love That will Not Let Me Go”): Words by George Matheson; music by Christopher Miner, ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. CCLI Song #3251580.

Offertory (“May The Peoples Praise You (Psalm 67)”): Words and Music by David Zimmer, Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend. © 2016 Capitol CMG Paragon, Getty Music Publishing and Townend Songs. CCLI Song #7063739.

Communion Hymn (“Behold the Lamb”): Words and music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. © 2007 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song #5003372.

EVENING WORSHIP

*If you would like to give your tithe this evening,
please place it in the wooden offering box located in the narthex before or after the service.*

Prelude

God, through his Word,
calls us to worship Him

Call to Worship • from Psalm 22

LEADER: *I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.*

PEOPLE: You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

LEADER: *For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.*

PEOPLE: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

ALL: **All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.**

Hymn of Adoration • *Come, Thou Almighty King*

#101

We pray to God to bless and guide our worship.

Opening Prayer

We join ourselves to Christians across time and space by confessing what we believe.

Catechism Question • Heidelberg Lord's Day 20

LEADER: *What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?*

ALL: **First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God. Second, that the Spirit is given also to me, so that, through true faith, he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.**

Hymn of Praise • *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

#334

We take time to pray for one another.

Prayer Requests

Hymn of Preparation • *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*

#498

Scripture Reading • Mark 1:9-15

⁹ *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

¹² *The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*

¹⁴ *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

God's word is held out to us so that we might better know, love, and serve God.

Sermon

Mark 1:9-15, p.836
Rev. Herman Armstrong

February 22, 2026

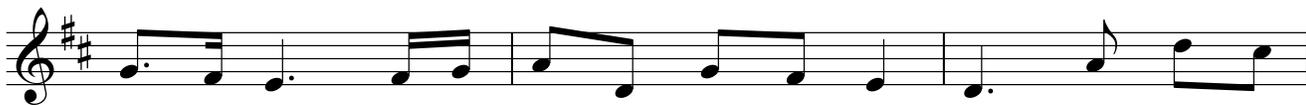
Hymn of Response • *O Church Arise*



1. O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mour on; hear the
2. Our call to war to love the cap - tive soul, but to
3. Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
4. So Spir - it come, put strength in ev' - ry stride, give—



call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en; then see His foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev' - ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en. With shield of
wound-ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or. When faced with
neath His feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en! And as the
win the prize of a serv - ant good and faith - ful. As saints of



faith and belt of_ Truth, we'll stand a-against the dev - il's lies; an ar - my
trials on ev' - ry_ side, we know the out-come is se - cure, and Christ will
stone is rolled a - way and Christ e - merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry
old still line the way, re - tell - ing tri-umphs of His grace, we hear their



bold, whose bat - tle - cry is Love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
have the prize for which He died, an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
march con - tin - ues till the day ev' - ry eye and heart shall see Him.
calls and hun - ger for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

We are sent out with
God's blessing.

Benediction

Postlude

Guest Preacher

Rev. Herman Armstrong is a native St. Louisan and is blessed to serve as Executive Director of Restore St. Louis. He is a ruling elder at New City Fellowship and leads Kathairo (kuh-thy-row) Solutions, where he coaches ministry leaders in cross-cultural effectiveness. He is currently pursuing a DMin with an emphasis in leadership from Covenant Seminary. Herman is married to Kim and they have three beautiful children.

Musicians – Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals

Unless noted otherwise, all Scripture notations are from The ESV Bible
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Hymn of Response (“O Church Arise”): Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, ©2005 Thankyou Music/Admin. by worshiptogether.com songs. CCLI Song #4611992.

Use the QR code to sign up to receive ministry emails



Preaching Schedule

March 1

Morning: Joshua 6:1-27
Evening: Zechariah 12:1-8

March 8

Morning: Joshua 7:1-26
Evening: Zechariah 12:10-13:6

Church Staff

Noah Wiersema, Senior Pastor
Chris Smith, Associate Pastor
John Roberts, Assistant Pastor/Head of School
Josh Fikkert, Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Valentine, Administrative Assistant
Morgan Fikkert, Director of Women's Ministries
Rebekah Marsh, Director of Music
John Fussell, Director of Children's Ministry
Faihe Bennett, Covenant Life Coordinator
Jamey Brester, Property Manager
Julie Bauer, Bulletin Coordinator
Donna Baber, Bookkeeper

Session Elders

John Bauer	Will Haynes	Dan Legters
Matt Brandt	Garrett Jacobs	Jeremy Marsh
Bill Cahill	Jeff Klinger	Bill McGreevy
Dave Haverdink	Mike Koller	Alan Norman

Diaconate

Walt Bosch	Casey Jowdy	Todd Schultz
Ben Butterfield	Dan Moore	Nathan Theus
Mike Castle	David Moore	Reed Voorhees
Don Jacobs	Norman Reed	

Women's Ministry Leadership

Moms of Littles - Anna Kvale, Lauren Dakich
Hospitality & Fellowship - Julie Bauer, Sarah Theus, Amanda Moore
Service & Compassion - Mary Reed, Debbie Jacobs, Erin Figueira
Discipleship - Lydia Seibert



By the grace of the Triune God, Covenant Presbyterian Church exists
to form and send disciples with passion for God and compassion for people.

Statement of Faith

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and holds to that system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms.

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