

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Bob Barber
Shaun Sipe, Clerk
Chas Emerson*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman***
Robert Massey, Secretary
Chris Lyons
Nick Manley
Scott Sartor
Charlie Smith
David Wright

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

5.7.23

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

Ushers: Andrew Duff & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion & Coffee: Jodi & Oliver Plunk

Hosts: The Beaver Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Kelley 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—May 7th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion; also via live stream

11:00am—Graduate Luncheon

4:00pm—Officer Training

Monday – May 8th

4:00pm- Session meeting

6:00pm—Joint officer meeting

Tuesday – May 9th

6:00pm—Men's bible study

Wednesday—May 10th

6:30am—Men's morning bible study

4:45pm—Women's ministry team meeting

6:00pm—Youth, Women's dine out fellowship

Thursday– May 11th

No activities planned

Friday– May 12th

Office closed

Saturday– May 13th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Presbytery Meeting—5.16, Christ Presbyterian, Oxford
- VBS—6.5-9, "Summer Sea Quest"
- Peru Mission Trip Dates—6.2-9, Mission Trip
- General Assembly—6.12-16, Renasant Convention Complex
- RYM—7.10-15

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 5.6-5.13
Mitch, Mary Ashley, Olivia & Mitchell McNeely • Brock, Elizabeth, Eli & Samuel Mills

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Michael Emerson • Hull Emerson • Valerie Walden • Helen & Monte Morgan • Henry Johnson • Christa Chapman • Oliver Plunk • Betty Walter • Scott Slater • Dick & Emily Brankstone • The Jenkins Family • The Wilkerson Family • Olivia McNeely • Tom & Jean Marie Harrison

Prayer Requests: Michael Emerson, recovering from surgery & preparing for more procedures in CO on 5.26 • Olivia McNeely, having surgery 6.13 to repair a torn ACL

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	5.7.23	X	X
Mon	5.8.23	1 Chronicles 13	2 Corinthians 7
Tues	5.9.23	1 Chronicles 14	2 Corinthians 8
Wed	5.10.23	1 Chronicles 15	2 Corinthians 9
Thurs	5.11.23	1 Chronicles 16	2 Corinthians 10
Fri	5.12.23	1 Chronicles 17	2 Corinthians 11
Sat	5.13.23	Psalms 72	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: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: For he is the Maker of Heaven and earth!

PASTOR: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

PEOPLE: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

ALL: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

PASTOR: Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed! From Psalm 29:2, 10-11; Psalm 124:8

*Song of Adoration Come, Christians, Join to Sing #302

*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.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, we confess that transgression speaks deep in our hearts, so that we do not reverence you as our good Father, and, in turn, we cease to act wisely and do good. Cleanse us of our foolishness and set us once again on your way that is good and right and beautiful. Amen.

Based on Psalm 36:1-4

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:9

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**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will resume in the fall

Graduate Luncheon: Following service we will hold a church wide potluck honoring our 2023 high school graduates. All are welcome!

Officer training: Jim will meet with elder candidates tonight from 4-6pm for the last training on shepherding. Pray as candidates turn in written exams and meet with the Session for oral exams to determine an election ballot. Per the BCO, the Session will give 30 days notice of the date of an election and the names that will be on the ballot. There is no timeline as of yet, but the goal is an election over the summer.

Women’s Dine Out Fellowship: Ladies, please join us for a night out! Wednesday, 5.10, 6:00pm at Blue Agave in Hernando

Quarterly letter: A letter was mailed recently to all who have given to our church with a confidential YTD giving statement. See an elder with any questions or a deacon with any concerns regarding giving.

Youth: The last youth meeting for this semester is this Wednesday and will resume 6.14. RYM payments are now due. Please make out your check for \$545 and mark it RYM in the memo section. There will also be a fee for transportation and we will pass along that amount when we know the total. Also, if you’re able to host a youth gathering this summer, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aa8af2aaaf4c16-summer#/>

VBS: Will be held for children entering 4k-5th grade on June 5-9, 2023, from 9-12. Please contact Rebecca at 901-490-4094, if you are interested in helping. Use this link on our website to register your child or family member.

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). Look for a card in the lobby w/ specific needs requested.

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.”

The term “catholic” refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

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: We confess our faith with the words of 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 again 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 *The Apostles’ Creed*

Kingdom Moment Justin & Carey Helms

2023 Graduates

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Isaiah 43*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Exodus 23:20-33 (p.64)*

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 Promises of God for Deeper Obedience”

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: By your power you raised Jesus from death to life. Through his victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In his rising to life you promise eternal life to all who believe in him. We praise you that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.

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: Christ is the bread of life:

PEOPLE: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

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

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

*Song of Sending On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

*Benediction

PASTOR: Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. Christ is risen! Ephesians 6:23-24

PEOPLE: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Gloria Patri

SERMON NOTES

Continuing the series: Covenant Redemption and Relationship:
The Mission of God in the Book of Exodus
“The Promises of God for Deeper Obedience“
Exodus 23:20-33 (p. 64)

God promises his presence with us

God's promises to us contain warnings

God's promises to us reveal grace

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.

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

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On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns
and scatters night away.

**I am bound, (I am bound,)
I am bound, (I am bound,)
I am bound for the promised land.**

**I am bound, (I am bound,)
I am bound, (I am bound,)
I am bound for the promised land.**

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death
are felt and feared no more.

Repeat Chorus

When shall I reach that happy place
and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face
and in His bosom rest?

Repeat Chorus 2x

#302 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

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Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high,
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again,
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

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Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
For all eternity.

For all eternity.
For all eternity.

Isaiah 43

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When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you.
And the waves will not
overcome you.

Do not fear.
For I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name,
You are mine.

For I am the Lord your God.
(I am the Lord your God.)
I am the Lord your God.
I am the Holy One of Israel,

Your Savior.
For I am the Lord your God.
(I am the Lord your God.)
I am the Lord your God.
I am the Holy One of Israel,
Your Savior.

I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)
I am the Lord. (Do not fear.)

When you walk through the fire,
You'll not be burned.
And the flames will not
consume you.

Repeat Chorus

I am the Lord.