

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairmam
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

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@christcovenantms.org

Heath Warbritton, Worship Coordinator, heath@christcovenantms.org

Rebecca Emerson, Children's Director, rebeccanemerson@christcovenantms.org

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

Justin & Carey Helms, Interim youth Interns, carey.helms@ruf.org; justin.helms@ruf.org

www.christcovenantms.org



[christcovms](https://www.facebook.com/christcovms)



[christcovms](https://www.instagram.com/christcovms)



[christcovms](https://twitter.com/christcovms)



[@christcovms](https://www.youtube.com/@christcovms)



*"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 of Easter

5.21.23

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 congregation 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: Scott Sartor & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Matthew Frank

Communion & Coffee: Bobbie Wilkerson

Hosts: Paul & Donna Belenchia

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Merrel Patridge & Monica Tingle

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 21st

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy

Communion; also via live stream

Monday – May 22nd

No activities planned

Tuesday – May 23rd

6:00pm—Men's bible study

Wednesday—May 24th

6:30am—Men's morning bible study

Thursday– May 25th

No activities planned

Friday– May 26th

Office closed

Saturday– May 27th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Church office will be closed 5.26 & 5.29
- Children's Team—5.31 at 5:30, children's ministry team meets; 6:00pm, VBS volunteers meet
- VBS—6.5-9, "Summer Sea Quest"
- Peru Mission Trip Dates—6.2-9, Mission Trip
- General Assembly—6.12-16, Renasant Convention Complex
- Youth resumes—6.14, please look for the sign up to host
- RYM—7.10-15, payment due
- Sunday School—resumes in the fall

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 5.20-5.27

Victoria & Lindsly Penny • Jim, Jodi, Ellie, Charlotte & Oliver Plunk

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 • Christa Chapman has a follow up appointment 6.21

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	5.21.23	X	X
Mon	5.22.23	1 Chronicles 23	Galatians 4
Tues	5.23.23	1 Chronicles 24	Galatians 5
Wed	5.24.23	1 Chronicles 25	Galatians 6
Thurs	5.25.23	1 Chronicles 26	Ephesians 1
Fri	5.26.23	1 Chronicles 27	Ephesians 2
Sat	5.27.23	Psalms 73	X

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

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.

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

PEOPLE: O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

PASTOR: Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed!

Psalm 59:16-17

***Song of Adoration**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God #92

***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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together.

ALL: Heavenly Father, we confess that we often lack zeal for your gospel and your kingdom. We lack compassion for the lost souls around us. In the busyness of our lives, we fail to love and serve our neighbors. Our love is often hypocritical, and we are slow to tell others about the hope we have in Christ. Help us to see all of our days in the light of your glory and reign. May we grow to love Christ and to desire that others come to know him. In his merciful name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: But you are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

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, I Come

Out of Town: Pastor Jim will be out of the country 5.22-6.7. Please reach out to an if you have a need.

Youth Director Search: Thanks for your patience during this process. The Session has interacted with a few candidates this school year that have not worked out. We hope to dialogue with another candidate soon and are busy networking with RYM and RUF as well as rethink the job description and budget. Please continue to pray for us.

Technology Update: Faithlife has made the decision to sunset many of their services on June 30th. We are in the final steps of transferring those services over to our new provider, Subsplash. We have completed the upgrade to our website and have launched our new live stream, now available via our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. In the coming weeks, we'll launch a new, user-friendly app. Online giving will also be upgraded. If you currently have a recurring gift set up, Jamie will contact you to make sure your giving is carried over as soon as the new platform is ready. For additional questions about online giving, please contact Jamie. For any other questions about Subsplash, talk to Heath.

Youth: Youth meetings will resume 6.14. RYM payments are now due. Please make out your check for \$717 [\$545 + \$172(transportation)] and mark it RYM in the memo section. Register your youth here: <https://christcovenantms.org/rym> 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. We could still use some volunteers, see Rebecca if you can help!

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."

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 Shaun Sipe

LEADER: Why are you called a Christian?

ALL: Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of his anointing; that so I may confess his name, and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him: and also that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life, and afterwards I reign with him eternally, over all creatures.

Heidelberg Catechism 32

Kingdom Moment

Peru Mission Team Commissioning

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Arise, O God

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

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God's Word

Exodus 25 (p.65)

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 Tabernacle as Reflecting God"

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

Arise, My Soul, Arise

*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 Tabernacle as Reflecting God“
Exodus 25 (p. 65)

Who is our God?

How can we be with Him?

How does He care for us?

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.

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

*Arise, (arise,) arise, (arise,)
Arise, arise, my soul, arise.
Arise, (arise,) arise, (arise,)
Arise, arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Repeat Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me;
“Forgive them, O forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive them, O forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”

Repeat Chorus

My God is reconciled; His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Repeat Chorus

#92 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing.

Jesus, I Come

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove.
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold.
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Arise, O God

Used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Arise, O God, and shine
in all Thy saving might,
And prosper each design
to spread Thy glorious light;
Let healing streams of mercy flow
that all the earth Thy truth may know.

Bring distant nations near
to sing Thy glorious praise;
Let every people hear
and learn Thy holy ways.
Reign, mighty God, assert Thy cause,
and govern by Thy righteous laws.

Put forth Thy glorious pow'r,
that everyone may see
And earth present her store,
in converts born to Thee.
God, our own God, His Church will bless,
and fill the world with righteousness.

To God, the only Wise,
the one immortal King,
Let hallelujahs rise,
from every living thing;
Let all that breathe, on every coast,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.