

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

Dick Brankstone**

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

5.14.23

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: Robert Massey & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Chris Tingle

Communion & Coffee: Donny & Ann Plunk

Hosts: The Plunk Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Meghan Barkley & Mary Ashley McNeely

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 14th

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy

Communion; also via live stream

Monday – May 13th

No activities planned

Tuesday – May 16th

9:30am—Covenant Presbytery Meeting

6:00pm—Men's bible study

Wednesday—May 17th

6:30am—Men's morning bible study

Thursday– May 18th

No activities planned

Friday– May 19th

No activities planned

Saturday– May 20th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- 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 5.13-20

Monte & Helen Morgan • Bailey, Merrel, Callaway, Price & Walt Patridge

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	5.14.23	X	X
Mon	5.15.23	1 Chronicles 18	2 Corinthians 12
Tues	5.16.23	1 Chronicles 19	2 Corinthians 13
Wed	5.17.23	1 Chronicles 20	Galatians 1
Thurs	5.18.23	1 Chronicles 21	Galatians 2
Fri	5.19.23	1 Chronicles 22	Galatians 3
Sat	5.20.23	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: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
PEOPLE: Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
PASTOR: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
ALL: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness to all generations.
PASTOR: Christ is risen!
ALL: He is risen indeed! *Psalm 100*

***Song of Adoration** *Steadfast*

***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

Covenant Presbytery Meeting: This Tuesday, 5.16, the Covenant Presbytery Meeting will be at Christ Pres. Oxford

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.

Peru Mission: If you'd like to contribute to Peru Mission, that is still an option. Mark your check for Peru Mission or choose the Peru Mission option when giving online.

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.

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: O Lord, we confess that we are ready to fall, and our pain is ever before us. We confess our iniquity; we are sorry for our sin. Make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation.

Adapted from Psalm 38

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: The Lord will not forsake those who call upon him! He will not be far from us.

Adapted from Psalm 38:21

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

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less #521

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

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

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: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?

ALL: **That I belong---body and soul, in life and in death---not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 1

Kingdom Moment

Scott Sartor

Budget and Giving

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

He Will Hold Me Fast

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

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God's Word

Exodus 24 (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

"A Covenant Confirmation"

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**

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

***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

“A Covenant Confirmation“

Exodus 24 (p. 64)

Covenant community call to obedience

Covenant community confirmed by elements

Covenant community commitment

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.

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

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Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name!
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:
He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood,
He has washed us with his blood. He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
Called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood,
He has washed us with his blood. He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threatens hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu'ror's crown:
He, who washed us with his blood, He, who washed us with his blood,
He, who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice join and point to mercy's store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is justice smiles and asks no more:
He, who washed us with his blood, He, who washed us with his blood,
He, who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
"Thou hast washed us with thy blood, Thou hast washed us with thy blood,
Thou hast washed us with thy blood. Thou art worthy, Lamb of God."

Steadfast

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I will build my house, whether storm or drought,
on the rock that does not move.
I will set my hope in Your love, O Lord,
and Your faithfulness will prove:

**You are steadfast,
steadfast.**

By the word You spoke all the starry host
are called out by name each night.
In Your watchful care, I will rest secure
as You lead us with Your light.

Repeat Chorus 2x

I will not trust in the strength of kings;
on Your promise I will stand.
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,
"Hallelujah to the Lamb!"

Repeat Chorus 2x

In the moment of emptiness, all was fulfilled.
In the hour of darkness, Your light was revealed.
In the presence of death, Your life was affirmed.
In the absence of holiness, You are still God.

Repeat Chorus 4x

#521 My Hope Is Build on Nothing Less

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My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

Repeat Chorus

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Repeat Chorus

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Repeat Chorus

He Will Hold Me Fast

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When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

**He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.**

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

Repeat Chorus

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

Repeat Chorus 2x