

## LEADERSHIP

### *Session*

Jim Plunk, Moderator  
Shaun Sipe, Clerk  
Bob Barber  
Tim Chapman  
Chas Emerson  
Scott Sartor

\*Sabbatical

\*\*Emeritus

\*\*\*Deacon on duty

### *Diaconate*

Chris Lyons, Chairman\*\*\*  
Robert Massey, Secretary  
Nick Manley  
Chris Tingle  
David Wright

Andrew Duff\*

Charlie Smith\*

Dick Brankstone\*\*

### Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, [jplunk@christcovenantms.org](mailto:jplunk@christcovenantms.org)

Heath Warbritton, Worship Coordinator, [heath@christcovenantms.org](mailto:heath@christcovenantms.org)

Rebecca Emerson, Children's Director, [rebeccanemerson@christcovenantms.org](mailto:rebeccanemerson@christcovenantms.org)

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, [office@christcovenantms.org](mailto:office@christcovenantms.org)

Justin & Carey Helms, Interim youth Interns, [carey.helms@ruf.org](mailto:carey.helms@ruf.org); [justin.helms@ruf.org](mailto:justin.helms@ruf.org)

[www.christcovenantms.org](http://www.christcovenantms.org)



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*"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,  
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

*2 Corinthians 4:5*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8.20.23

**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 Christ for Sinner's and Sufferers."

Ushers: Chris Lyons & David Wright

A/V Assistant: Steven Slater

Communion & Coffee: The Slater Family

Hosts: Maggie Manley

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Jennifer Emerson & JoAnn Harrison

Sunday School—Karol Barber & Katie Cantrell

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—August 20th**

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

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

11:00am—Sunday School

**Wednesday—August 23rd**

6:30am—Men's morning bible study

6:00pm—Youth, Kids' Club

**Thursday— August 24th**

6:00pm—Women's Fall Kick Off

**Monday – August 21st**

4:00pm—Session meeting

6:00pm—Joint officer meeting

**Friday– August 25th**

No activities planned

**Tuesday – August 22nd**

6:00pm—Men's evening bible study

**Saturday– August 26th**

No activities planned

**Looking Ahead**

- Small Group Dates—8.27, 9.17, 10.1, 10.15, 10.29, 11.12,
- Wilkerson/Abston Wedding Shower—9.10
- Fall Fest—10.22

**PRAYER NEEDS**

**Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 8-19-8.26**

Brian, Katie, Will & Caroline Cantrell • Tim, Christa, Zack, Sammy, Ben & Nathaniel Chapman

**Illness/Medical Prayer Needs:** Hull Emerson • Valerie Walden • Helen & Monte Morgan • Henry Johnson • Christa Chapman • Betty Walter • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Olivia McNeely • Tom & Jean Marie Harrison • John Wilcoxon • Foster Hale

**Prayer Requests:** Sam Abston & Hannah Wilkerson as they prepare for marriage 10.8

**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   | 8.20.23 | X             | X             |
| Mon   | 8.21.23 | Nehemiah 13   | 2 John        |
| Tues  | 8.22.23 | Esther 1      | 3 John        |
| Wed   | 8.23.23 | Esther 2      | Revelation 1  |
| Thurs | 8.24.23 | Esther 3      | Revelation 2  |
| Fri   | 8.25.23 | Esther 4      | Revelation 3  |
| Sat   | 8.26.23 | Psalm 87      | 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:** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

**PEOPLE:** Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

**PASTOR:** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!  
*Psalm 105:1-3*

**\*Song of Adoration**

*How Great Thou Art #44*

**\*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.

### Confession of Sin

**PASTOR:** Our God tells us to confess our sins, trusting that he is faithful to forgive us our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

**ALL:** Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that he cannot hear, but our iniquities have separated us from our God, and our sins have hidden his face from us so that he does not hear. Our mouths are filled with anger, our lips are quick to speak lies, and our eyes are filled with illicit desires. Our feet swift to run to evil and our thoughts are the thoughts of iniquity. Lord, in your grace, only you can intercede and bring health to us. Hear us as we confess our sins to you, for you only are strong enough to save us and bring us life! *From Isaiah 59*

### Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

**PASTOR:** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put with you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

*Ezekiel 36:25-26*

**ALL:** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. *Galatians 2:20*

### \*Song of Renewal

*There Is A Fountain Filled with Blood #253*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School:** Resumes today for all ages. Adults will begin w/ a mix of lessons on church history and member testimonials.

**Inquirers Class:** For anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about Christ Covenant, Pastor Jim will be leading a class that will meet Sundays after church through 8.27. Please use the sign up link to register so we can plan for class materials and childcare. <https://christcovenantms.org/signup>

**Children's Ministry:** Sunday school resumes today and Kids' Club resumes this Wednesday. If you believe your child is ready to make a profession of faith and join the church as a communing member, a communicant's class beginning 8.20. See Rebecca w/ questions. There is a sign up on our website if interested and we hope to start Sunday morning 8.20 and will meet during Sunday school. Please take a moment to register your child using this link: <https://christcovenantms.org/signup>

**Land Update:** The Session has formed an initial ad hoc committee for "Conceptual Site and Building Design" consisting of chairman RE Bob Barber, Jared Barkley, Jennifer Emerson, Rachel Wright, and Nick Manley. Pray for them as they begin their work this fall, and look for an update at our annual meeting.

**Women's Ministry:** 8.24, Fall Kick-off night (feat. a charcuterie board lesson with Coffee Central's Tina Tatum). More details coming soon! Wednesday, 9.6, both AM and PM Bible studies begin! We're digging into the book of James. Purchase a copy of *James: A 12-Week Study* by Greg Gilbert.

**Small Groups:** Resume next Sunday, 8.27, at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group.

**Volunteer Notifications:** Our new volunteer scheduling software is live! Here's is a link to a quick video to make sure you're set up to receive notifications along w/ some helpful hints about how to manage your schedule. <https://christcovenantms.org/notifications>

## 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.

## COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Mr. Scott Sartor (elder)

Mr. Tim Chapman (elder)

Mr. Chris Tingle (deacon)

### **Questions to the Candidates**

Rev. Jim Plunk

### **Question to the Congregation**

Do you, the members of this church acknowledge and receive these brothers as elders and deacons, and do you promise to yield to them all the honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this church, entitles them?

### **Prayer and the Laying on of Hands**

Chas Emerson

### **The Pronouncement**

Rev. Jim Plunk

### **The Charge to the Officers**

Bob Barber

### **The Charge to the Congregation**

Shaun Sipe

### **Kingdom Prayers of the People**

#### **Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision #642*

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

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### **\*Prayer for Illumination**

#### **The Reading of God's Word**

*Acts 2:1-13 (p. 909)*

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

“Equipping to Serve Jesus’ Mission in His Church”

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.

## 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: You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children. 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: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

PEOPLE: **Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Hallelujah!**

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**

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

### **\*Benediction**

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

**ALL: Amen!**

### **\*Gloria Patri**

#### SERMON NOTES

Continuing A New Series: "Joining the Mission of Jesus in his Church: Studies in the book of Acts."

"Equipping to Serve Jesus' Mission in His Church"

*Acts 2:1-13 (p. 909)*

When He equips us

How He equips us

Our response to His equipping 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](http://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](mailto:office@christcovenantms.org).

# Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

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Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the Risen Lord,  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;  
May Your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude.  
Kindness to the greatest and the least;  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made.  
Show Your power once again on earth;  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see.

# #44 How Great Thou Art

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O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy pow'r thro'out the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

When thro' the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

## *Repeat Chorus*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin.

## *Repeat Chorus*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art.

## *Repeat Chorus*

## #253 There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

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There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains:  
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there have I, as vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away:  
Washed all my sins away, Washed all my sins away;  
And there have I, as vile as he,  
Washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Your flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die:  
And shall be till I die, And shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r,  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more:  
Be saved to sin no more, Be saved to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.

Be saved to sin no more, Be saved to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.

## #642 Be Thou My Vision

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Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.