

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

Diaconate

Chris Lyons, Chairman
Robert Massey, Secretary
Nick Manley***
Scott Sartor
David Wright

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Andrew Duff*

Charlie Smith*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

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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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8.13.23

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 & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Chris Tingle

Communion & Coffee: Donny & Ann Plunk

Hosts: Denise Lyons

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Hillary Hale

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—August 13th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

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

11:00am—Officer election & Annual meeting

Wednesday—August 16th

Office Closed

6:30am—Men's morning bible study

6:00pm—Youth

Thursday— August 17th

No activities planned

Monday – August 14th

No activities planned

Friday– August 18th

No activities planned

Tuesday – August 15th

6:00pm—Men's evening bible study

Saturday– August 19th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Officer Installation—8.20
- Teacher Training—8.16, 5:30pm. Food & childcare provided
- Sunday School—resumes 8.20
- Kids' Club—resumes 8.23
- Small Groups resume—8.27
- Wilkerson/Abston Wedding Shower—9.10

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 8.12-8-19

Paul & Donna Belenchia • Dick & Emily Brankstone

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 | 8.13.23 | X | X |
| Mon | 8.14.23 | Nehemiah 8 | 1 John 1 |
| Tues | 8.15.23 | Nehemiah 9 | 1 John 2 |
| Wed | 8.16.23 | Nehemiah 10 | 1 John 3 |
| Thurs | 8.17.23 | Nehemiah 11 | 1 John 4 |
| Fri | 8.18.23 | Nehemiah 12 | 1 John 5 |
| Sat | 8.19.23 | Psalms 86 | 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: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling,

PEOPLE: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2:11-12

***Song of Adoration**

To Christ the Lord

***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 now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: Lord God, You require us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before You. We confess that we have not loved You or our neighbor in this way. We repent of this. Grant that Your Holy Spirit drives us to seek these things through Christ. Amen.

From Micah 6:8

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

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

Amazing Grace! #460

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Resumes for all ages 8.20. 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 beginning 7.30 through 8.27, not meeting today. Please use the sign up link to register so we can plan for class materials and child-care. <https://christcovenantms.org/signup>

Annual Meeting: Today after worship, we will have a luncheon for our annual meeting where we will hear updates on our new budget, membership, missions, general assembly, and many of our other ministries. Members, please stay for the officer election immediately following service. Tim Chapman and Scott Sartor will both appear on the ballot for the office of elder, and Chris Tingle will appear on the ballot for the office of deacon at an election to be held today immediately following the worship service at the church. If elected, installation will be 8.20

Children's Ministry: Sunday school resumes 8.20 and Kids' Club resumes 8.23. 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>

Teacher Training: We will have teacher training 8.16 at 5:30pm at the church. Childcare and food provided.

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.

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 Chas Emerson

LEADER: Christian, who is Jesus Christ?

ALL: **The Lord Jesus is the beloved Son of God, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. Amen.** *Colossians 1:14-20*

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

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

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

*Prayer for Illumination

The Reading of God's Word

Acts 1 (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

"Preparing to Join Jesus' Mission in His Church"

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**

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

***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

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

"Preparing to Join Jesus' Mission in His Church"

Acts 1 (p. 909)

The promise of Jesus

The power of Jesus

The people of Jesus

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.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

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**We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,”
We will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.**

We will not be burned by the fire,
He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

Repeat Chorus

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning, O how long?
O God of Jacob be my strength.

Repeat Chorus

Every vow we broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom!

**We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“You have done great things,”
We will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.**

To Christ the Lord

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To Christ, the Lord, let ev'ry tongue its noblest tribute bring:
When He's the subject of the song, who can refuse to sing?
Survey the beauties of His face, and on His glories dwell,
Think of the wonder of His grace, and all His triumphs tell.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon His awful brow;
His head with radiant glories crowned, His lips with grace o'erflow.
No mortal can with Him compare, among the sons of men:
And fairer He, than all the fair that fill the heav'nly train.

He saw me plunged in deep distress, He fled to my relief;
For me He bore the shameful cross and carried all my grief.
His hand a thousand blessings pour upon my guilty head:
His presence gilds my darkest hours and guards my sleeping bed.

To Him I owe my life and breath, and all the joys I have;
He makes me triumph over death, and saves me from the grave.
To heav'n the place of His abode He brings my weary feet;
Shows me the glories of my God and makes my joy complete.

Since from His bounty I receive such proofs of love divine,
Had I a thousand hearts to give, Lord, they should all be Thine.
A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet Your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

A thousand men could not compose a worthy song to bring,
Yet Your love is a melody our hearts can't help but sing!

#460 Amazing Grace!

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Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's
praise than when we've first begun.

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

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What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer,
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now, and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With ev'ry breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.