

covenant
children's ministries

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Dear parents of young worshipers,

Welcome! We are delighted to have you and your children worshipping with us this morning. Our goal each Sunday is to glorify and enjoy the God Who made us and saved us by His grace.

This bulletin was designed to help your children follow along with this morning's worship service. Here are some ideas to guide you:

- * Have children use the **stickers** provided as they follow along with this morning's liturgy. We've included some **brief definitions** for various parts of the liturgy to help you as you guide your child through the worship service.
- * Encourage your children to **color (or draw)** the main points of this morning's sermon as you listen together.
- * Help your children as they listen for the answer to the **question for young worshipers** during the sermon.
- * Check out the back of the bulletin for suggestions on **preparing for next week's worship service!** (Practicing can be especially helpful for young worshipers who cannot yet read!)

If you have any questions about our church, please do not hesitate to ask.

**In Christ,
Pastor Wiersema**

MORNING WORSHIP



Prelude

Think about why we are here. Get ready to worship!



Call to Worship: from Psalm 20

God calls us to worship Him from His Word

PASTOR: *Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed.*

PEOPLE: He will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.

PASTOR: *Some trust in chariots and some in horses,*

PEOPLE: But we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

PASTOR: *They collapse and fall,*

PEOPLE: But we rise and stand upright.

ALL: **For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.**



Hymn of Adoration:

Hail to the Lord's Anointed #311

We respond to God's call to worship in praise and love!

1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2. He comes with com - fort speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4. O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,

Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth;
 from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed;

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.



Invocation

We ask God to be present with us as we worship Him.



Profession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

**We declare what we believe about God —
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Gloria Patri

We praise God for who He is.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly



Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er



shall be, world with-out end... A - men, a - men.

2nd Cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)
Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Corporate Confession of Sin: from Daniel 9

We confess our sins together as God's people.

PASTOR: *O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments*

ALL: **We have sinned and done wrong
and acted wickedly and rebelled,
turning aside from your commandments and rules.
We have transgressed your law and turned aside,
refusing to obey your voice.
O Lord, according to all your righteous acts,
let your anger and your wrath turn away.
O our God, listen to the prayer of your servants
and to our pleas for mercy.
For we do not present our pleas before you
because of our righteousness,
but because of your great mercy.
O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive.**



Silent confession

Confess your own sins quietly to God.



Assurance of Pardon: from Daniel 9 and Ephesians 2

God promises to forgive all those who trust in Jesus!

PASTOR: *People of God, to the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness. Indeed, God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.



Hymn of Assurance

His Mercy is More

We sing that we are forgiven and held secure by God.



1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done;
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam;
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all know - ing, He counts not their sum.
What Fa - ther, so ten - der, is call - ing us home.
His blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore;____
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;____
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;____



Our sins they are man - y, His mer - cy is more. Praise the Lord!____
Our sins they are man - y, His mer - cy is more.
Our sins they are man - y, His mer - cy is more.



His mer - cy is more.____ Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn;



Our sins they are man - y, His mer - cy is more... Praise the Lord!____



His mer - cy is more.____ Strong - er than dark - ness,



new ev - 'ry morn. Our sins they are man - y, His mer - cy is more.



Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 31:1-13

We hear God's word being read and thank him for it.

PASTOR: *This is the word of the Lord.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**



Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

**The pastor prays for God's Church, locally and globally,
then we pray the prayer Jesus taught His disciples.**

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,
for ever. Amen**



Offertory: Sometimes A Light Surprises

We give back to God a portion of what He has given us.



CHOIR:

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings; it is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings: when comforts are declining, He grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new; set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say, let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through: who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people too: beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed; and He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there; yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice; for, while in God confiding, I cannot but rejoice. Amen.

Children's Worship (8:30 service only)



*Parents, please bring participating **children ages 4-1st grade** to meet their Worship leader in the Narthex during the following hymn. Children can be picked up downstairs in Room 13. They are also invited stay with us during the remainder of the service!*



Hymn of Preparation:

Be Thou My Vision #642 (vv. 1-3,5)

We praise God as we prepare to listen to His Word.



- ▶ 1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
- ▶ 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
- ▶ 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight;
- ▶ 4. Rich - es I heed not, no man's emp - ty praise,
- ▶ 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



- ▶ naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
- ▶ I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
- ▶ be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,
- ▶ thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
- ▶ may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



- ▶ thou my best thought by day or by night,
- ▶ thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
- ▶ thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r:
- ▶ thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
- ▶ Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



- ▶ wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
- ▶ thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
- ▶ raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- ▶ high King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
- ▶ still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th cent.
Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

SLANE 10.10.10.10
Traditional Irish melody



Sermon: Joshua 8:1-35

Covenant Renewed (Pastor Noah)

We listen to God's Word preached to us.

1 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. 2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

3 So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. 4 And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. 5 And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. 6 And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them. 7 Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. 8 And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the LORD. See, I have commanded you." 9 So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

10 Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. 11 And all the fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai. 12 He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. 13 So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley. 14 And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. 15 And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness. 16 So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. 17 Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. 19 And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon

as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire. 20 So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers. 21 And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. 22 And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped. 23 But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.

24 When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. 25 And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai. 26 But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction. 27 Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua. 28 So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day. 29 And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. 33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

Question for young worshipers:

At the end of this chapter, who does it say was included in what Israel was doing?

COVENANT

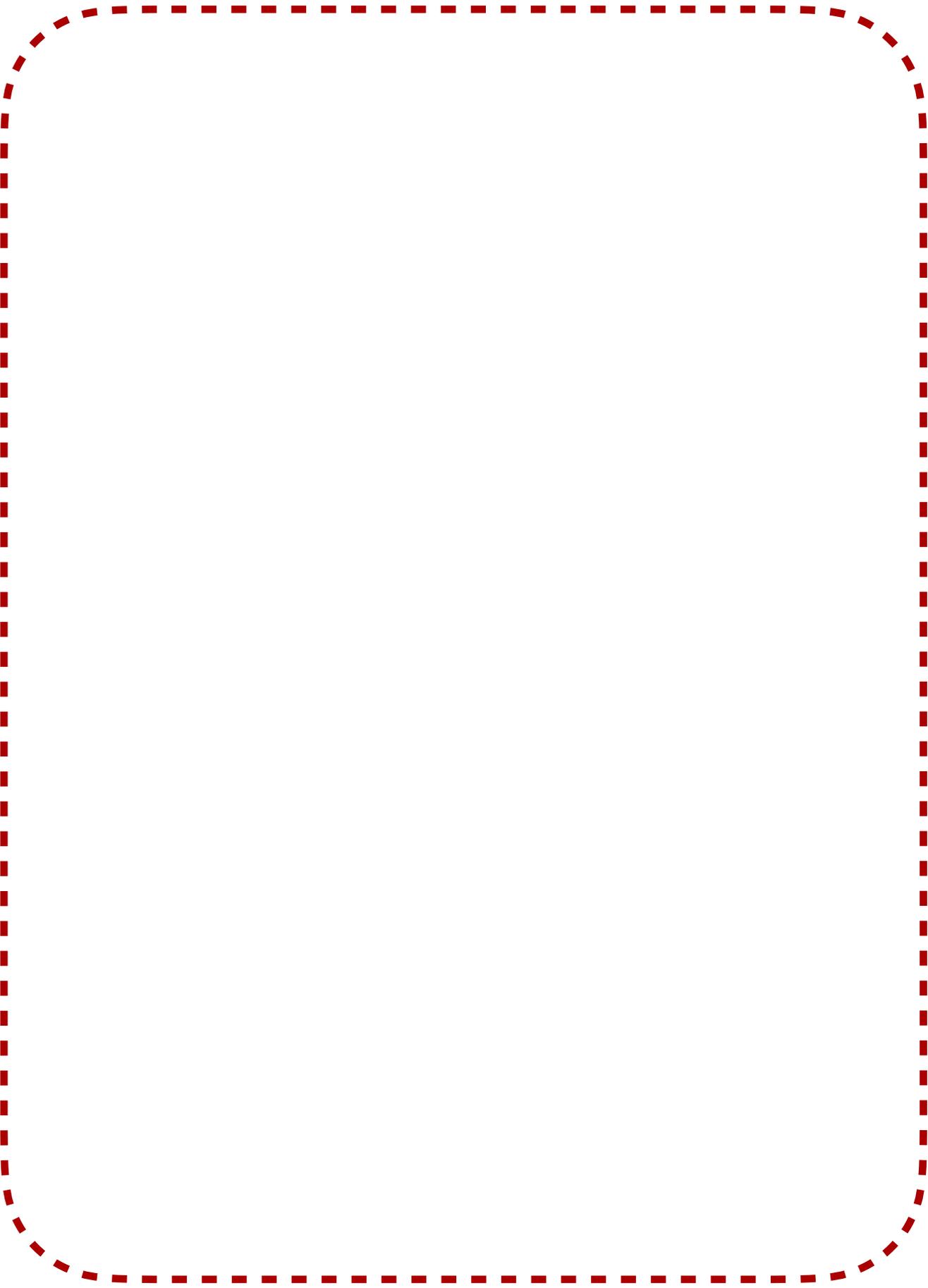
RENEWAL

1. Renewal in

warfare

2. Renewal in

worship





Celebration of the Lord's Supper:

Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me

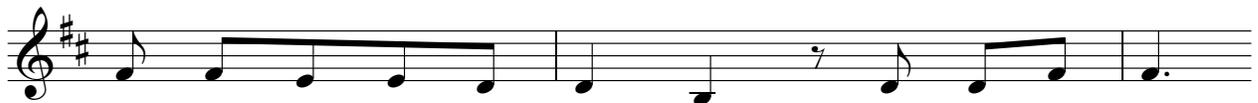
As Christians, we share this meal - reminding us of and strengthening our union with Christ and with one another - as Jesus told His disciples to do before He was crucified.



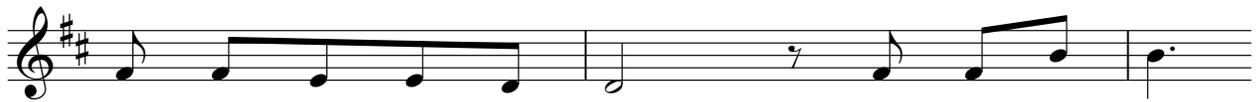
1. What gift of grace is Je - sus my re - deem - er, there is no
2. The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en, for by my
3. No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en, the fu - ture
4. With ev - 'ry breath, I long to fol - low Je - sus, for He has



more for heav - en now to give. He is my joy,
side, the Sav - ior He will stay. I la - bor on
sure, the price, it has been paid. For Je - sus bled
said that He will bring me home. And day by day,



my right - eous - ness and free - dom, my stead - fast love,
in weak - ness and re - joic - ing. For in my need,
and suf - fered for my par - don, and He was raised
I know He will re - new me un - til I stand



my deep and bound - less peace. To this I hold,
His pow - er is dis - played. To this I hold,
to o - ver - throw the grave. To this I hold,
with joy be - fore the throne. To this I hold,



my hope is on - ly Je - sus. For my life
my Sav - ior will de - fend me. Through the deep -
my sin has been de - feat - ed. Je - sus now
my hope is on - ly Je - sus. All the glo -



Parents, if you think your child or children are ready to come to the table, please contact your fold elder or a pastor.



is whol - ly bound to His. Oh, how strange and div - ine,
 est val - ley He will lead. Oh, the night has been won
 and ev - er is my plea. Oh, the chains are re - leased,
 ry ev - er - more to Him. When the race is com - plete



I can sing, "All is mine, yet not I, but through Christ in me."
 and I shall o - ver - come, yet not I, but through Christ in me.
 I can sing, "I am free, yet not I, but through Christ in me."
 still my lips shall re - peat, "Yet not I, but through Christ in me."



Benediction

The pastor proclaims a blessing on God's people



Doxology

We praise God and call others to praise Him!



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures



here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.



The Peace of Christ

We greet one another and are sent out on our way.

PASTOR: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

ALL: **And also with you!**

Musicians – Jonathan McGuire, Organ & Piano; Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals; Debbie Jacobs, Oboe

Unless noted otherwise, all Scripture notations are from The ESV Bible
[The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.] and all hymns are from the *Trinity Hymnal*.

CCLI songs are reprinted and streamed with permission under CCLI License #390623 and
CCLI Streaming License #21464884. All rights reserved.

Hymn of Assurance (“His Mercy Is More”): Words and Music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa, Arranged
by Paul Campbell & Jonathan McGuire. © 2016 Getty Music Song Songs, Messenger Hymns and
Love Your Enemies Publishing (Admin. by MusicServices.org and Love Your Enemies Publishing).
CCLI Song #7065053.

Offertory (“Sometimes a Light Surprises”): Words by William Cowper (public domain); music by Gustav
Holst, arr. Mark Hill, © 2005 by Hal Leonard Corporation.

Communion Hymn (“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”): Words and music by Jonny Robinson,
Michael Warren, Rich Thompson – © 2018 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing,
Integrity’s Alleluia! Music (all admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI Song # 7121852.

Join us for Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.!

Check in downstairs at the Children's Ministry Desk to learn more!

Preparing for next week's worship service

We know that **training our children to worship** does not happen overnight. Especially for children who are not yet able to read, worship services can be difficult to follow, much less participate in! By practicing some of the elements of the service at home as a family during the week as you are able, your child(ren) can be prepared for what to say and sing along with the congregation.

- **PRAY:** We need the Lord's help as we train our children in worship. Even our best efforts to prepare them will fall flat without His aid!
- **MEMORIZE:** Work on memorizing **The Apostles' Creed** and **The Lord's Prayer** with your child(ren). We say these almost every week! In addition, we almost always include one or more of the following songs: the **Doxology**, the **Gloria Patri**, and the **Threefold Amen**.
- **PRACTICE:** You can scan the QR code to find a Spotify playlist with hymns commonly sung in our service and other worshipful hymns.





By the grace of the Triune God, Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to form and send disciples with passion for God and compassion for people.

Statement of Faith

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and holds to that system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms.

2143 N. Ballas Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131

Phone: (314) 432-8700

office@cpctl.org www.cpctl.org