

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

Diaconate

Chris Lyons, Chairman***
Andrew Duff
Chris Tingle
Charlie Smith
David Wright

Bob Barber*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Robert Massey*

Nick Manley*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@christcovenantms.org

Christa Chapman, Director of Children's Ministry, kids@christcovenantms.org

Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, women@christcovenantms.org

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

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

Third Sunday in Epiphany
1.26.25

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 a 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: Jack Tingle

Communion & Coffee: Shaun & Shannon Sipe

Hosts: The Beavers Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Rebecca Fyfe, Katie Massey & Georgia Clark

Sunday School—Mary Ashley McNeely & Laura Patterson

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying, and offering responses as they are able. Children ages 4 and under will be dismissed to the toddler nursery after the doxology and before the sermon where we read a story from a children's Bible, sing songs, and do memory work. from the Scriptures. We have a separate nursery for infants and crawlers where they will be cared for and loved as they play. The classroom off the lobby is a designated quiet space for nursing moms during service.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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—January 26th

9:00am—Preservice prayer
9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am - Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion
11:00am—Sunday school
12:00pm—Peru interest meeting

Monday – January 27th

No activities planned

Tuesday—January 28th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—January 29th

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study
9:00am—Women’s morning bible study
5:00pm—Children’s team meeting
6:00pm—Leadership Development, Women’s evening bible study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—January 30th

No activities planned

Friday—January 31st

Office closed
Women’s winter retreat

Saturday—February 1st

Women’s winter retreat

Looking Ahead

- 2025 Small Group Dates—2.2, 2.16, 3.2, 3.16, 3.30, 4.13, 4.27
- Leadership Development—1.29, 2.5, 2.12, 2.19, 3.5, 3.19, 3.26, 4.2, 4.9, 4.23, 4.30
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.23-3.2
- RYM 2025—7.8.25-7.12.25

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 1.25-2.1
Austin, Jodi, Spencer & Sadie Starnes • Chris, Monica, Jack & Anna Caroline Tingle

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Donna Belenchia, continuing treatments

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Staff Search • Those affected by hurricanes and wildfires

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Gonzalo, Wes) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • Hunter Brewer (Trinity Collierville) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Justin & Carey Helms (University of Memphis), Ro Taylor (Delta State University), Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State), Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis) • Daniel and Kendall Myrick (Reclaimed Ministry) • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico) • Conner and Makailey Newton (18.26 Network)

Sermon Preview

2.2.25	1 John 2:12-17	A Loving Community Encouraged
2.9.25	1 John 2:18-27	A Loving Community Test I– Belief
2.16.25	1 John 2:28-3:10	A Loving Community Test II– Sin and Obedience
2.23.25	TBD	Missions Emphasis Week

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 loves. 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.

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship
Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

PEOPLE: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

PASTOR: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.
Psalm 33

*Song of Adoration
Sing to the King

*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.

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 confess our sins to Almighty God.
ALL: O God, you have not called us into darkness, rather you have brought us into the light of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. By your grace we are children of light, children of the day. You have called us to be awake and sober-minded, having put on the breastplate of faith and love as well as the helmet of hope of our salvation. In light of this gracious reality, we ask that you would forgive us for living contrary to who we are in Christ and for denying him in our words and actions. Restore us, that we may seek to do good and honor you, our loving and merciful Father. *1 Thessalonians 5*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live in him. *1 Thessalonians 5:9-10*
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** *Nothing but the Blood #307*

Sunday School: Meet today after service! We began a new study on Creation Stewardship. Adults remain in the sanctuary, youth gather in the south end of the building and kids meet in the classrooms. There will be a Peru interest meeting this morning, after Sunday school. The last few minutes of Sunday school on 2.9, will be reserved for an update from the Land and Building Committee.

Peru Interest Meeting: There will be a brief information meeting for medical and non-medical interest in our summer mission trip to Peru after Sunday school this week.

Missions Emphasis Week: Missions Emphasis Week is scheduled for 2.23-3.2! Wes Baker will be preaching 2.23 & Justin Helms 3.2. More details to come!

Small Groups: Meet at the homes of various members based on location. If you wish to be placed in a group, please talk to an elder.

Nursery Help: The Children’s Committee has hired one nursery worker but is still in search of one more for Sunday worship from 9-12. If you have a recommendation please contact Christa Chapman at: kids@christcovenantms.org.

Women’s Winter Retreat: Annual retreat will be 1.31-2.1 at Camp Hopewell in Oxford. Details and sign-up for the retreat can be found on our website: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Wednesday Activities: Men’s morning study, Women’s Bible Study, morning (w/ nursery) and evening studies have resumed! Ladies, please purchase your copy of *Knowing the Bible: 1 & 2 Samuel*. Youth and Kids’ Club have also resumed!

Leadership Development: Pastor Jim is offering classes on “Gospel-centered Life” and “Reformed Theology” this Spring that will meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm.

Disaster Response: For more information on how to donate or volunteer regarding victims of Hurricane Helene, use the members page on our website to find the link for Mission to North America. On the California wildfires: MNA Disaster Response is in contact with local leadership in the Pacific Presbytery as well as local PCA churches in the impact zone. To date church structures seem to be ok, but many PCA congregants have lost their homes. Assessments are still coming in as the fires continue to rage.

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.”

The term “catholic” refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, or geographic barriers.

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 Tim Chapman

LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen. *The Nicene Creed*

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Speak, O Lord*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *1 John 2:7-11(p. 959)*

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 Loving Community Test I– Social Concern”

COMMUNING WITH GOD

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

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: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. 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: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

PEOPLE: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, 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

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

Amazing Grace #460

*Song of Sending

*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.

Ephesians 6:23-24

ALL: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing a New Series:

The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community

“A Loving Community Test I– Social Concern”

1 John 2:7-11 (p. 959)

The command to love

The struggle to love

The ability to love

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 on our app. 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.