

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)

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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

Fourth Sunday in Epiphany
2.2.25

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: Charlie Smith & David Wright
A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe
Communion & Coffee: Matt & Valerie Walden
Hosts: Greg & Jill Karr
Nursery Helpers:
Church hour—Delena Beavers, Jodie Starnes & Colton Clark
Sunday School—Leanna Clark & Katie Massey

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—February 2nd

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

Monday—February 3rd

5:30pm—Deacon meeting

Tuesday—February 4th

9:00am—Covenant Presbytery
5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—February 5th

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—February 6th

No activities planned

Friday—February 7th

No activities planned

Saturday—February 8th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- 2025 Small Group Dates—2.2, 2.16, 3.2, 3.16, 3.30, 4.13, 4.27
- Leadership Development—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
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt—TBD
- Kids’ Club Choir Sings—Palm Sunday, 4.13. Kids arrive no later than 8:45am for rehearsal
- Holy Week—Palm Sunday, 4.13; Maundy Thursday, 4.14; Good Friday, 4.20; Easter Breakfast
- VBS—6.9-13
- General Assembly—6.23-27
- RYM 2025—7.8.25-7.12.25

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 2.1-2.9

Matt, Valerie, Matty & James Walden • Linda Whitley

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

2.9.25	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
3.2.25	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: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

PEOPLE: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

PASTOR: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

Psalm 149:1-4

***Song of Adoration**

Blessed Be the Name Of 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.

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.

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.

Micah 6:8

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

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

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
Psalm 130:3-4
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

Jesus Messiah

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. Next week, the last few minutes of Sunday school will be reserved for an update from the Land and Building Committee. Please bring a pic of what you think of as an ideal church that you like.

Peru Interest Meeting: Immediately following Sunday school, there will be a Peru interest meeting for all interested.

AV Team: If anyone is able and willing to help with slides on Sunday, see Seth Sipe.

Covenant Presbytery: This Tuesday, Pastor Jim will be in Hot Springs. AR attending Covenant Presbytery.

Women’s Winter Retreat: Thanks to all who attended our winter retreat! It was a refreshing time of fellowship and friendship-building. Let's rest assured--God is at work in our waiting!

Missions Emphasis Week: Missions Emphasis Week is scheduled for 2.23-3.2! Wes Baker will be preaching 2.23 followed by a churchwide luncheon. Justin Helms will be preaching 3.2. More details to come!

Small Groups: Meet tonight 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@christcovenatms.org.

Leadership Development: Pastor Jim is offering classes on “Gospel-centered Life” and “Reformed Theology” that meets 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**

PASTOR: We confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed

ALL: 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 again 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

The Apostles’ Creed

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

In Christ Alone

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

1 John 2:12-17 (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 Encouraged”

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: According to his commandment:

PEOPLE: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming 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

*Song of Sending O, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus #535

*Benediction

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

ALL: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing in the Series:
The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community
“A Loving Community Encouraged”
1 John 2:12-17 (p. 959)

An encouragement to the family to rejoice

An encouragement to the family to follow

An encouragement to the family to obey

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.