

## LEADERSHIP

### *Session*

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

\*Sabbatical

\*\*Emeritus

\*\*\*Deacon on duty

### *Diaconate*

Andrew Duff, Chairman  
Chris Tingle, Secretary  
Nick Manley\*\*\*  
Robert Massey  
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons\*

David Wright\*

Dick Brankstone\*\*

### Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

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

Elijah Vaughn, Director of Youth Ministries, [youth@christcovenantms.org](mailto:youth@christcovenantms.org)

Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, [women@christcovenantms.org](mailto:women@christcovenantms.org)

Christa Chapman, Director of Children's Ministry, [kids@christcovenantms.org](mailto:kids@christcovenantms.org)

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

Sue Tarver, Pianist

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



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# CHRIST COVENANT

Presbyterian Church in America

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

*2 Corinthians 4:5*

2nd Sunday in Lent

3.1.26

**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. 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: Nick Manley & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Kim & Keith Murphree

Hosts: The Becker Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Blair Harrell, Taryn Jones & Baylor Harrell

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. A nursery is provided for infants through toddlers to age 4.

**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—March 1st**

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Missions Emphasis potluck

Various times—Community groups

**Monday—March 2nd**

4:00pm—Session meeting

**Tuesday—March 3rd**

No activities planned

**Wednesday—March 4th**

6:30am—Men's bible study

9:00am—Women's morning study

6:00pm—Women's evening study, Men's gathering, Youth, Kids' Club

**Thursday—March 5th**

No activities planned

**Friday—March 6th**

No activities planned

**Saturday—March 7th**

No activities planned

**Looking Ahead**

- Community Group spring dates—3.1, 3.29, 4.12
- Spring Break—3.9-13
- Holy Week—3.29, Palm Sunday (kids sing in service); 4.2, Maundy Thursday; 4.3, Good Friday; 4.5, Easter Sunday
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt—3.22, alternate date, 3.29
- Graduate Luncheon—4.26
- RYM 2026—7.7-12

**PRAYER NEEDS**

**Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 2.28-3.7**

Matt, Valerie, Matty & James Walden • Jacob, Kaitlin, Woodrow, Ames & McClain Warren

**Illness/Medical Prayer Needs:** Dick & Emily Brankstone • Tyler & Brooke Mitchell, expecting their first child • Denise Lyon’s father, Roger, hospitalized after surgery • Valerie Walden’s mom, Bonnie, recovering from a stroke in a Birmingham rehab center

**Prayer Requests:** Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Officer training: elder candidates; Jared Barkley & Zack Becker; deacon candidates; Adam Clark and Michael Emerson • Vaughn family transition

**OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS**

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

Peru Mission (Chimbote Church Plant) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis), Justin & Carey Helms (LSU) • Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State) • Reclaimed Ministry • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico)

**Sermon Preview**

3.8.26	Matthew 9:1-8	Forgiveness & King Jesus
3.15.26	Matthew 9:9-17	Discipleship & King Jesus
3.22.26	Matthew 9:18-26	Hope & King Jesus
3.29.26	Matthew 21:1-7	Entry of King Jesus

**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.

**Gospel Welcome**

**Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship** Elder Chas Emerson  
LEADER: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

PEOPLE: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.  
LEADER: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. *Psalm 145:1-3*

**\*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

**Sunday School:** All are welcome to stay for a churchwide luncheon and hear from our mission partners!

**Mercy Need:** There is an employee with the Desoto County Sheriff office in need of in home OT/PT services. If you know of a way to help, please contact a deacon.

**Feed The Flock:** Interfaith Council on Poverty has begun their only fundraiser of the year! You can sponsor individually or as a business for \$200 and your name will go on the back of a tshirt. A donation of \$25 can also be made and you'll receive a tshirt for your donation. Information can be found in the lobby or talk to Denise Lyons!

**Two Service Transition:** From March 22nd through May 17th, we will offer worship services at 9am and 10:45am without Sunday school. We will go back to one service for the summer and resume this two service schedule in August. Please reach out to an elder with questions.

**Men's Gathering:** Guys, join the men of CCC for a gathering this Wednesday, 3.4 at 6:00pm at the Partridge's home; 2805 Magnolia Drive, Hernando.

**Missions Emphasis Week:** Joining us this morning to wrap up Missions Emphasis Week is Dale Ellison who is preaching for us. Everyone is invited to remain after service for a potluck!

**Wycliffe Bible Translators:** A special love offering will be collected this morning in support of one of our mission partners, Ricky Kroeger from Wycliff Bible Translators in Oaxaca, Mexico helping to translate the New Testament and select Old Testament books into the Zapotec indigenous language. Ricky and his family (wife Arely, daughter Lizzie, son Robert) have recently begun their home-assignment period. This will be approximately 1 year in duration and is a time of building connections and raising support. The time on home-assignment also brings with it considerable increases to their expenses in addition to their current budget.

**Community Groups:** Meet 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. Community Group spring dates: 3.1, 3.29, 4.12, 4.26.

**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**

**LEADER:** Let us confess our sins together:

**ALL: O Lord, we confess that transgression speaks deep in our hearts, so that we do not reverence you as our good Father, and, in turn, we cease to act wisely and do good. Cleanse us of our foolishness and set us once again on your way that is good and right and beautiful. Amen.**

*Psalm 36:1-4*

### **Silent Confession**

### **Song of Confession**

*Trisagion*

### **Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**

**LEADER:** For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

*Psalm 36:9*

**ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

*Psalm 51:10*

### **\*Song of Renewal**

*10,000 Reasons*

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort** are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

## 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 found in the lobby. 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**

**LEADER:** 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 Moment**

Dale Ellison

*Peru Mission*

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

#### **Offertory**

*The Sands Of Time Are Sinking*

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

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

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

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

*Zephaniah 3 (p. 741)*

**READER:** The grass withers, the flowers fade

**ALL:** But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

#### **The Sermon**

Dale Ellison

"Pure Speech For The Nations"

## COMMUNING WITH GOD

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Rev. Jim Plunk

#### **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

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: We need not hide ourselves from you, before whose justice no one can stand. Your mercy was proclaimed by the apostles and the prophets, and shown forth to us in Jesus Christ. You give your law to guide us, and you promise new life that we may live to serve you among our neighbors in all we do and say. 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: Christ is the bread of life:

**PEOPLE: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you 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

*Psalm 67*

### **\*Song of Sending**

#### **\*Benediction**

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**ALL: Amen**

### **\*Dismissal for Missions Emphasis Week**

PASTOR: Let us go as God's children, called by Him into the Christian Community of Christ Covenant Church in Hernando, Mississippi through the saving and sanctifying grace of Jesus Christ, and being led by the Holy Spirit, we seek to heed our Lord's command to go into all the nations making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**BOYS AND GIRLS: We confess that though we are few in number, the Spirit is present and faith is alive in our midst and that our Lord has taught us if we have even the tiniest faith as a mustard seed, we shall be able to do great things in His name;**

**MEN AND WOMEN: Lord, help us to rely on your promises, trust fully in your Gospel, and be obedient to your Great Commission. Send us out as those who are encouraged and ready to share your Gospel with the world.**

### **\*Gloria Patri**

#### **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 on our app 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).