

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)

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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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

4th Sunday in Lent

3.15.26

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: Charlie Smith & Chris Tingle

A/V Assistant: Brock Mills

Communion & Coffee: Chas & Jennifer Emerson

Hosts: Charlie & Brit Emerson

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Erin Funderburk, Sassy Mauldin & Mary Whitten Funderburk

Sunday School—Tracy Duff

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 15th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday—March 16th

4:00pm—No activities planned

Tuesday—March 17th

No activities planned

Wednesday—March 18th

6:30am—Men's bible study

9:00am—Women's morning study

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

Thursday—March 19th

3:00pm—Interfaith Council on Poverty meeting at CCC

Friday—March 20th

No activities planned

Saturday—March 21st

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Community Group spring dates—3.29, 4.12
- Graduate Luncheon—4.26
- Matty Walden bridal shower—5.2
- RYM 2026—7.7-12
- Joint Officer Retreat—7.31-8.1
- Annual meeting—8.2

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 3.14-3.21

Bobbie & Mary Hellen Wilkerson • Cindy Williams

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

3.22.26	Matthew 9:18-26	Hope & King Jesus
3.29.26	Matthew 21:1-7	Entry of King Jesus
4.5.26	Matthew 28	The Resurrection of King Jesus
4.12.26	Matthew 9:27-35	Sight and 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** Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

PEOPLE: Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

PASTOR: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

ALL: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. *Psalm 100:1-4*

***Song of Adoration** *Rejoice, The Lord Is King #310*

***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 confess our sins together:

ALL: Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:9a, 13

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Trisagion

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: But you are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

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

Psalms 51:10

*Song of Renewal

Marvelous Grace #465

Sunday School: Today is our final meeting. We will hear testimonials from officer candidates in anticipation of officer elections later this spring. Next Sunday, we transition to two services!

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! Deadline is 3.27

Two Service Transition: Next Sunday 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.

Easter Egg Hunt: Our Annual Rejoice Party will be held at the church property on 3.22 from 3:30-5:30. Adults please bring a lawn chair and each participant for the egg hunt brings a basket and 24 prefilled plastic eggs. Please see our sign up and invite your friends! Rain out date is 3.29.

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: 3.29, 4.12, 4.26.

Holy Week Schedule: Palm Sunday service, 3.29, Maundy Thursday service, 4.2 at 5:30pm; Good Friday service, 4.3 at 12:00pm, Easter services at 9:00am & 10:45am.

Kids' Club Choir: Kids' Club Children's Choir will sing during Palm Sunday 3.29 in the 10:45am Service. Young choir meets in their classroom at 10:15am to warm up. Older choir will meet in the sanctuary after 1st service.

RYM 2026: RYM Signups are now open! The link to register can be found on the Get Involved page on our website www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Nursery Update: As we transition to two services, please see our nursery sign up to cover a shift in the nursery. We will have two workers in each nursery. You are signing up to be an extra hand or sub if needed. Thank you for showing your love to the next generation. Please see Christa Chapman for more information.

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.

COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith**

PASTOR: Let us now confess our faith together:

ALL: I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead. His eye to watch, His might to stay, His ear to hearken to my need. Wisdom of my God to teach, hand to guide, His shield to ward, The Word of God to give me speech, His heavenly host to be my guard. Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity; invocation of the same. Three in One, and One in Three. Of Whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word: to the Lord of my salvation, Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer

Kingdom Moment

The Sacrament of Baptism

Mabel Anne Newton

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Arise, My Soul Arise

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

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God's Word

Matthew 9:9-17 (p. 763)

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

"Discipleship & King Jesus"

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 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.

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: 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

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**

How Firm A Foundation #94

***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

***Gloria Patri**

Sermon Notes

Continuing the series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

“Discipleship & King Jesus”

Matthew 9:9-17 (p. 763)

Who does Jesus call to be his disciple?

How does Jesus call and grow his disciples?

Why does Jesus call his disciples?

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 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.