

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

Bob Barber*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

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

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

Eighth Sunday in Epiphany
3.2.25

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 congregational 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: Matthew Frank
Communion & Coffee: Keith & Kim Murphree
Hosts: The Smith Family
Nursery Helpers:
Church hour– Claire Becker, Britt Emerson & Brady Duff
Sunday School– Jamie Frank & Paula Murphree

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying and offering responses as they are able. For older children, we offer opportunities to hear a lesson that is age appropriate. For ages 4 years old and under, we offer Children’s Church during the sermon portion of the service. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. For younger children, infants to age 3, we provide a nursery throughout the service for parents who would prefer not to have their children with them.

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 2nd

9:00am—Preservice prayer
9:15am—Coffee & Conversation
9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion
11:00am—Sunday School
Various times—small groups

Monday – March 3rd

4:00pm—Session meeting
5:30pm—Deacon’s meeting
6:00pm—Joint officer meeting

Tuesday—March 4th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—March 5th

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study
9:00am—Women’s morning bible study
6:00pm—Women’s evening study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—March 6th

6:00pm—Men’s gathering

Friday—March 7th

No activities planned

Saturday—March 8th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- 2025 Small Group Dates—3.2, 3.16, 3.30, 4.13, 4.27
- Leadership Development—3.5, 3.19, 3.26, 4.2, 4.9, 4.23, 4.30
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt—4.6, 3:00pm-5:00pm at the Mt. Pleasant property
- 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 & service
- Graduate Luncheon—4.27
- Men’s Gatherings—4.7, 5.8
- 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 3.1-3.8
Zach, Claire, Carter & Harrison Becker • Jeremy, Delena, Judah, Cora Bell, Monroe & Mae Beavers

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Donna Belenchia, continuing treatments • Kim Murphree, diagnosed w/ breast cancer and having surgery 3.13 • Gee Gee Patridge, mother of Bailey Patridge, fell and requires hip surgery next week

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

Sermon Preview

3.9.25	1 John 3:11-18	A Loving Community Test II– Social Concern
3.16.25	1 John 3:19-24	A Loving Community Assured
3.23.25	1 John 4:1-6	A Loving Community Test II– Belief
3.30.25	1 John 4:1-6	A Loving Community Test II– Belief

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.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship** Elder Tim Chapman
LEADER: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice,
PEOPLE: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
LEADER: And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,
PEOPLE: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”
Revelation 7:9-12

***Song of Adoration** *Fairest Lord Jesus #170*

***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.

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

LEADER: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: Merciful Father who calls us to first believe the Gospel and then to share the good news with others, we confess that we often love our comfort and reputation more than we desire to obey your Great Commission. We have sought the approval of man rather than Yours. Forgive us, Lord, and kindle a passion in us to see every tongue, tribe, and nation gathered at Your throne. You are worthy. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

LEADER: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1

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! What A Friend for Sinners! #498

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Meet today after service and will hear from the Newton’s in Kosovo via call in. We will not meet during spring break and will resume 3.16 w/ a study on 1st Peter.

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.

Men’s Gathering: On Thursday March 6th at 6pm at the new property on Mt. Pleasant, the men will gather for a campfire cookout and invite boys of all ages to join! We will have burgers and hotdogs. Contact Bailey with questions.

Peru Mission Trip: We will be taking a short term team to work alongside the church plant in Chimbote July 18th-25th. Please see Bob or Karol if you’re interested.

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

Missions Emphasis Week: Missions Emphasis Week wraps up today! Justin Helms from RUF Memphis and current youth intern along with his wife, Carey, is preaching this morning.

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.

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**

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 *RUF—University of Memphis*

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Christ Our Wisdom*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Psalm 63:1-8 (p. 449)*

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

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

The Sermon Justin Helms
“God’s Right Hand Upholding Campus”

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving

Rev. Jim Plunk

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: 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

Psalm 67

*Benediction

PASTOR: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

ALL: Amen!

*Dismissal for Missions Emphasis Week

PASTOR: 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 believe 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 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.