

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

2 Corinthians 4:5

1st Sunday in Lent

3.9.25

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: Charlie Smith & David Wright

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Bobbie Wilkerson

Hosts: Donny & Ann Plunk

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Catherine Sartor & Valerie Walden

Sunday School—Resumes next week

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 9th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

Monday – March 10th

No activities planned

Tuesday—March 11th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—March 12th

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

9:00am—Women’s morning bible study

6:00pm—Leadership Development, Women’s evening study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—March 13th

No activities planned

Friday—March 14th

No activities planned

Saturday—March 15th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- 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
- Peru Mission Trip—7.18-25

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 3.8-3.15
Paul & Donna Belenchia • Dick & Emily Brankstone

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Donna Belenchia, has been placed in hospice care. Pray for comfort for her, Paul & the family • Kim Murphree, diagnosed w/ breast cancer and having surgery 3.13

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Staff Search • Those affected by hurricanes and wildfires • Elijah & Emma Vaughn as they finish their last semester, prepare to move to Hernando and Elijah transitions to our youth director

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

3.16.25	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
4.6.25	1 John 4:13-21	A Loving Community Test IV– Applied Doctrine

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

PASTOR: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

PEOPLE: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

PASTOR: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Psalms 105:1-3

*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.

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.

Trisagion means “thrice holy”, and the hymn is theologically rich with deep historical roots. It is a plea for mercy to the Holy Trinity

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 now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51:15-17

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Trisagion

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove your heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25-26

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

Psalm 51:10

***Song of Renewal**

God Be Merciful to Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: We will not meet today and will resume 3.16 w/ a study on 1st Peter.

Feed the Flock: The Interfaith Council on Poverty has decided instead of the annual Flock Around the Block 5K, they are seeking sponsors for "Feeding the Flock" whose logos will go on a t-shirt that is being sold for a \$25 donation. Christ Covenant Church is a sponsor again this year. This is the only fundraiser for the year and will directly fund the Hernando food pantry, which serves local families. Denise Lyons has order forms for the shirts, which are due no later than 3.23 at noon.

Newcomer’s Luncheon: All visitors interested in learning more about Christ Covenant Church, please join us for a lunch at the Plunk’s home, 3.16 at noon. 3325 Scott Road, Hernando. Please use the sign up on our website so we can plan. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

Inquirer’s Class: For anyone interested in membership or learning more about Christ Covenant Church, please make plans to attend this class that meets during Sunday school. We will meet after on 4.6, 4.13, 4.27 & 5.4. This class is simply to take the next step in learning more about our church. Please complete the sign form on the sign up page of our website so we can plan for space and class materials. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

Nursey Update: We now have two nurseries staffed. Ms.Emma is working in the infant nursery, newborn to 18 months, and Ms. Maddy is in our toddler room. Stop by the nursery to welcome them!

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. Remaining dates for the spring are: 3.16, 3.30, 4.13 & 4.27

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.

Newton Family Newsletter: Visit the sign up page of our website to sign up for the Newton Newsletter to receive updates from their work in Kosovo

Leadership Development: Pastor Jim is offering classes on “Gospel-centered Life” and “Reformed Theology” that meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Remaining dates for the spring are: 3.19, 3.26, 4.2, 4.9, 4.23, 4.30

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.”

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: What is true faith?

ALL: True faith is not only a certain knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in his word, but also an assured confidence, which the Holy Spirit works by the gospel in my heart; that not only to others, but to me also, remission of sin, everlasting righteousness and salvation, are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

Heidelberg Catechism 21

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

1 John 3:11-18 (p. 960)

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 II– 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: 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

***Song of Sending** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness #32*

***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!

***Gloria Patri**

Sermon Notes

Continuing in the Series:

The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community
“A Loving Community Test II– Social Concern”
1 John 3:11-18 (p. 960)

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 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.