

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

Palm Sunday

4.13.25

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 Ortland’s book, “Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner’s and Sufferers.”

Ushers: David Wright & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Nick & Maggie Manley

Hosts: The Patridge Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Denise Lyons, Christa Chapman, Mary Whitten Funderburk
Sunday School—Erin Funderburk & Hillary Hale

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—April 13th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

3:00pm—Easter egg hunt

Various times—Small groups

Wednesday—April 16th

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

7:15pm—Music rehearsal

Thursday—April 17th

5:30pm—Maundy Thursday service

Monday – April 14th

4:00—Session meeting

Friday—April 18th

12:00pm—Good Friday service

Tuesday—April 15th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Saturday—April 19th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Graduate Luncheon—4.27
- Kids’ Club Choir—5.8, sings at Wesley Meadows
- VBS—6.9-13
- General Assembly—6.23-27
- RYM 2025—7.8-7.12; Payment is now due, visit our website for the payment link

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 4.12-4.19
Ethan, Carrie, Steven Wait & Saylor Foresman • Matthew, Jamie, Eli, Leo & Liam Frank

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Kim Murphree, diagnosed w/ breast cancer and is recovering from surgery • GeGe Patridge, Bailey’s mother, recovering from hip surgery

Prayer Requests: The Belenchia family as the mourn the loss of Donna • Land and Building Committee • Staff Search • Those affected by natural disasters • 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

4.20.25	1 John 5:6-12	Testimony Of A Loving God
4.27.25	1 John 5:13-21	A Loving Community Assured II
5.4.25	2 John	A Loving Community of Hospitality I
5.13.25	3 John	A Loving Community of Hospitality II

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 *The King of Glory Comes*

***Call to Worship**
PASTOR: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
PEOPLE: He shall speak to the nations, his rule shall be from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.
PASTOR: For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! Save us, we pray, O Lord! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Zechariah 9:9-10, 17

***Song of Adoration** *O Worship the King #2*

***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: Meets after service w/ a Q & A session w/ Pastor Jim

Easter Breakfast: Join us for a celebratory breakfast Easter Sunday! All, including visitors, are welcome! Breakfast will start at 8am sharp to allow for time to clean up before worship. Volunteers to help gladly received, contact Jodi to help.

Women’s Game Night: Ladies, jump in your pajamas (or something comfy!) and join us at the church for a fun night of board games, snacks, and friendship. Bring an app or snack to share. April 25th, 6:00-10:00 PM.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Join us this afternoon from 3:00pm-5:00pm at the Mt. Pleasant property. Please bring 2 dozen candy stuffed eggs and a basket for each child participating in the hunt! Also, bring your own folding chair and boots for the kids in case it’s soggy. Visit the sign up page of our website for the sign up: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

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. Remaining dates for the spring are: 4.13 & 4.27

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: 4.23 & 4.30

Holy Week Schedule: Maundy Thursday service, 4.17 at 5:30pm; Good Friday service, 4.18 at 12:00pm, Easter Breakfast at 8:00am followed by service at 9:30am.

Youth: Stay after church 4.27 to celebrate our 2025 graduates! Visit the sign up page on our website for a sign up to bring a dish to pass. Also, RYM payments are now due. Visit the sign up page of our website for the payment link. Www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Kids' Club: Will not meet April 16th due to Holy Week services. Our last meeting Kids’ Club will be April 30th. To end our semester, the children's choirs will be singing at Wesley Meadows May 7th. We will meet at the church Wed, May 7th for a quick warm up and then parents will transport the children to Wesley Meadows to sing at 6:30. The residents always love to have the children fill the meeting room with their joyful songs!

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: To you, O Lord, we call; our rock, be not deaf to us, lest if you be silent to us, we become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of our pleas for mercy, when we cry to you for help, when we lift up our hands toward your most holy sanctuary. *Psalm 28*

Silent Confession
Song of Confession *Trisagion*

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort
PASTOR: O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from us; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve us. *Psalm 40*
ALL: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. *Galatians 2:20*

*Song of Renewal *Steadfast*

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** *Elder Tim Chapman*

LEADER: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
ALL: That I belong---body and soul, in life and in death---not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. *Heidelberg Catechism 1*

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory *Kids’ Club Choir*
***Doxology** *(Children under 4 dismissed at this time)*

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *1 John 5:1-5 (p. 961)*

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 Final Test of A Loving Community”

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: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

PEOPLE: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hallelujah!

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

The Power of the Cross

*Benediction

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

ALL: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing in the Series:

The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community
“A Final Test of A Loving Community”

1 John 5:1-5 (p. 961)

Right doctrine is proven by our love

Right love is proven by our obedience

Obedience is possible by right doctrine

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
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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.