

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

Diaconate

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

Robert Massey, Secretary*
Nick Manley*
Dick Brankstone**

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@christcovenantms.org

Christa Chapman, Director of Children's Ministry, kids@christcovenantms.org

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

Justin & Carey Helms, Interim youth Interns, carey.helms@ruf.org; justin.helms@ruf.org

Sue Tarver, Pianist

Like us on Facebook: Christ Covenant Church (PCA), Hernando, MS

www.christcovenantms.org



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Resurrection Sunday
4.20.25

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 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 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 & Chris Tingle

A/V Assistant: Matt Walden

Communion & Coffee: Jodi, Ellie, Charlotte & Oliver Plunk

Hosts: Greg & Jill Karr

Church Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Sassy Mauldin, Shannon Sipe & Liam Frank

Sunday School—Resumes next Sunday

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 * CHILDREN’S CHURCH SCHEDULE

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 20th

9:00amPreservice Prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

Wednesday–April 23rd

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

5:00pm—Children’s team meeting

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

Monday – April 21st

Office closed

Thursday– April 24th

No activities planned

Tuesday – April 22nd

6:00pm—Men’s bible study

Friday– April 25th

No activities planned

Saturday– April 26th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Covenant Presbytery—5.20 at Trinity Presbyterian, Corinth, MS
- 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 4.19-4.26
Drew, Erin, Mary Whitten & Lane Funderburk • Collins, Rebecca Hayley & Ford Fyfe

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

4.27.25	1 John 5:13-21	A Loving Community Assured II
5.4.25	2 John	A Loving Community of Hospitality I
5.11.25	3 John	A Loving Community of Hospitality II
5.18.25	Isaiah 55	The Calling of 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.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Prelude *Up From the Grave He Arose*

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?
PEOPLE: Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.
PASTOR: Christ is risen!
PEOPLE: He is risen indeed!
PASTOR: This is the Day that the Lord has made!
PEOPLE: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Alleluia!

*Song of Adoration *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today #277*

*Invocation (followed by the Lord’s Prayer)
PASTOR: Let us pray that we may walk in the risen life of Christ in glory:
PEOPLE: Lord of life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: Grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honor, glory and might, now and for all eternity. Amen.
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.

In proclaiming the resurrection, we remind ourselves from Romans 6 and 1 Corinthians 15 that in Christ's resurrection we have now been made fully alive to obey him with our whole selves as new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). We also look forward to the assured day when we will no longer struggle with or need to confess our sin as we will be raised into his presence.

The Paschal troparion has been sung as a refrain between verses of scripture since at least the 5th century on Easter. We join the ancient church, as we do each Easter, singing it together rejoicing in Christ's resurrection.

Proclamations of the Resurrection

PASTOR: Let us now proclaim the reality of the resurrection:

ALL: He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us into his presence.

WORSHIP TEAM: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the grave He's giving life, He's giving life!

PASTOR: How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do we not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

ALL: We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life.

ALL SINGING: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the grave He's giving life, He's giving life!

PASTOR: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised from the dead. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

ALL: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive!

ALL SINGING: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the grave He's giving life, He's giving life!

PASTOR: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

ALL: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

*Song of Renewal

Agnus Dei

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

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 date for the spring is 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

Graduate Luncheon: 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.

RYM: RYM payments are now due. Visit the sign up page of our website for the payment link. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

Youth Director: Elijah and Emma Vaughn will be arriving on 5.4 to move into the house on Mount Pleasant. They will head to North Carolina on 5.6 and return on 5.30. A planned start date for Elijah is 6.1.

Men’s Gathering: There will be a men’s gathering 5.8. Details to follow! Contact Bailey if you have any questions.

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 : Christian, what do we confess concerning the gospel?

ALL: Concerning the gospel, we confess, as a matter of first importance, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures and because this is true we can and do proclaim loudly: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory! O Death, where is your victory? O Grave, where is your sting?’ Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 15

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

In Christ Alone

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

1 John 5:6-12 (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

“Testimony Of A Loving God”

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: By your power you raised Jesus from death to life. Through his victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In his rising to life you promise eternal life to all who believe in him. We praise you that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us. 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 holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving. Let us partake of the feast!

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication 6

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending Crown Him With Many Crowns #295

*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

PEOPLE: He is risen indeed!

PASTOR: Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Gloria Patri

SERMON NOTES

Continuing in the Series:

The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community
“Testimony Of A Loving God”
1 John 5:6-12 (p. 961)

Proof of the means of God’s love

Proof of the reality of God’s love

Proof of the fruit of God’s 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.