

## 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)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, [jplunk@christcovenantms.org](mailto:jplunk@christcovenantms.org)

Elijah Vaughn, Director of Youth Ministries, [youth@christcovenantms.org](mailto:youth@christcovenantms.org)

Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, [women@christcovenantms.org](mailto:women@christcovenantms.org)

Christa Chapman, Director of Children's Ministry, [kids@christcovenantms.org](mailto:kids@christcovenantms.org)

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, [office@christcovenantms.org](mailto:office@christcovenantms.org)

Sue Tarver, Pianist

[www.christcovenantms.org](http://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*

Third Sunday after Easter

4.26.26

**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."

**This Morning's Servers**

Ushers: Andrew Duff & Chris Tingle

A/V Assistant: Brady Duff

Communion & Coffee: Chas & Jennifer Emerson

Hosts: The Beavers Family

**Next Sunday's Servers**

Ushers: Andrew Duff & Nick Manley

AV Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: The Frank & Tobermann Families

Hosts: Doug & Sassy Mauldin

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**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—April 26th**

8:45am—Coffee & conversation

9:00am—Worship w/ Communion

10:45am—Worship w/ Communion

5:00pm—Graduate recognition

**Monday—April 27th**

No activities planned

**Tuesday—April 28th**

No activities planned

**Wednesday—April 29th**

6:30am—Men's bible study

6:00pm—Kids' Club sing at Wesley Meadows

**Thursday—April 30th**

No activities planned

**Friday—May 1st**

No activities planned

**Saturday—May 2nd**

1:00pm—Matty Walden's bridal shower

**Looking Ahead**

- Covenant Presbytery—5.19 at First Pres. Clarksdale
- Women's Summer Book Club—dates & details coming soon!
- VBS—6.8-12
- General Assembly—6.22-26
- 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 4.25-5.2**

Zach Chapman • Adam, Leanna, Georgia & Colton Clark

**Illness/Medical Prayer Needs:** Dick & Emily Brankstone • Tyler & Brooke Mitchell, expecting their first child • Denise Lyon’s father, Roger, continuing rehab at home after surgery • Valerie Walden’s mom, continuing PT & rehab at home • David Scott, recovering from a heart procedure

**Prayer Requests:** Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Vaughn family transition • Capital Campaign (talk to an elder if you have questions)

**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**

5.3.26	Matthew 11:1-16	Doubt & King Jesus
5.10.26	Matthew 11:20-30	Rejection & Acceptance of King Jesus
5.17.26	Matthew 12:1-14	King Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath
5.24.26	TBD	Jackson Lin—Guest Preacher

**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:** Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O Lord, save your people!'

**PEOPLE:** O Lord, save your people! The women shall rejoice in the dance and the men shall be merry!

**PASTOR:** For the Lord will turn our mourning into joy. He will comfort us, and turn our sorrow into gladness. Come let us worship him! Christ is risen!

**ALL: He is risen indeed!**

*Jeremiah 31*

**\*Song of Adoration**

*Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder #172*

**\*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: Lord, we come confessing that when we were slaves to sin, we let sin reign in our mortal bodies, to make them obey their various passions.

**ALL: But the fruit we were getting at that time was from things which we are now ashamed.**

PASTOR: The end of those things is death. But now we have been set free from sin and become your slaves.

**ALL: and the fruit we now get leads to sanctification and abundant life.**

PASTOR: Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**ALL: Sin is no longer to be our master, since we are not under the law but under grace.**

*Romans 6:12-23*

### Silent Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8:38-39*

**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

*There Is A Fountain #253*

**Officer Installation:** Next Sunday, 5.3 during the 9:00am service, we will have officer ordination and installation.

**Assistant Pastor Search:** The session has had a productive season of interviews for several months with many candidates. A few were turned down and a few recently pulled out of the process for good reason. Be reminded that this man will lead men's, youth, and young adult ministries. The search is ongoing, please refer anyone to our website: [www/christcovenantms.org/careers](http://www.christcovenantms.org/careers)

**Matty Walden Bridal Shower:** Ladies, please join us to celebrate our bride-to-be, Matty Walden, on Saturday, 5.2 at 1:00 PM at the home of Merrel Patridge: 2805 Magnolia Dr. Hernando. Matty is registered on [theknot.com](http://theknot.com) and Pottery Barn.

**Day of Prayer & Fasting:** We will observe a day of prayer and fasting on 5.4. The Scriptural warrant for fasting is Matthew 6:16-18. The Session's rationale for these times of fasting are multiple: Capital campaign, adding new officers, adding new staff. Choose the type & length of fast. The simple approach to fasting is as you are able during the day, when you experience hunger pains, pray. Consult with your doctor if you have any health concerns. We will have a worship service at 5:30pm. Talk to a member of the session if you have any questions.

**Graduate Recognition Sunday:** Today at 5:00pm, make plans to celebrate our 2026 graduates: Brady Duff, Jack Harrell, Anne Mitchell Emerson & Sarah Louise Manley!

**RYM 2026:** RYM Payment is now due, sign up by May 1st. Register and pay on our website: [www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**Nursery Rotation:** This has changed to a sign up. Please find a date/ service that works for you and sign up on our website. See Christa for more information. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://Www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**VBS 2026:** Youth and Adult volunteers needed! Come join us as we serve the children in our community and teach them about The Great I AM! Please sign up on our website & let us know how you can help with VBS! Children's registration opens 5.1. [www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

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.

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 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.

## COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

### **\*Confession of Faith**

Elder Tim Chapman (9:00am service)

LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

**ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *Nicene Creed***

### **Kingdom Moment**

*Graduate Recognition (10:45 service)*

Brady Duff • Anne Mitchell Emerson • Jack Harrell • Sarah Louise Manley

### **Kingdom Prayers of the People**

#### **Offertory**

*Speak, O Lord*

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

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### **\*Prayer for Illumination**

#### **The Reading of God's Word**

*Matthew 10:11-42 (p. 765)*

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

"Ministry Struggles & King Jesus"

## 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: 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 promised 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: 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**

*Across The Lands*

**\*Benediction**

PASTOR: Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. Christ is risen!

*Ephesians 6:23-24*

**ALL: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**\*Gloria Patri**

### Sermon Notes

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

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

“Ministry Struggles & King Jesus”

*Matthew 10:11-42 (p. 765)*

The dynamics of ministry struggles

The reality of ministry struggles

The reward of ministry struggles

#### **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](http://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](mailto:office@christcovenantms.org).