

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Adam Clark
Michael Emerson
Nick Manley
Robert Massey***
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**



Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Elijah Vaughn, Director of Youth Ministries, youth@christcovenantms.org

Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, women@christcovenantms.org

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

Jamie Frank, Office Administrator, office@christcovenantms.org

Sue Tarver, Pianist

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

Sixth Sunday after Easter

5.17.26



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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 Sinners and Sufferers."

This Morning's Servers

Ushers: Robert Massey & Charlie Smith

A/V Assistant: Bo Jones

Communion & Coffee: Denise Lyons & Catherine Sartor

Hosts: The Patridge Family

Next Sunday's Servers

Ushers: Charlie Smith & Chris Tingle

AV Assistant: Brady Duff

Communion & Coffee: The Mills Family

Hosts: The Becker Family

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—May 17th

8:45am—Coffee & conversation

9:00am—Worship w/ Communion

10:45am—Worship w/ Communion

Wednesday—May 20th

6:30am—Men's bible study

Thursday—May 21st

No activities planned

Monday—May 18th

No activities planned

Friday—May 22nd

No activities planned

Tuesday—May 19th

9:00am—Covenant Presbytery

Saturday—May 23rd

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Youth Redbirds Game—6.5
- General Assembly—6.22-26
- RYM 2026—7.7-12
- Joint Officer Retreat—7.31-8.1
- Annual Meeting—8.9
- Sunday school resumes—8.16
- Wednesday activities resume—8.19

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 5.16-5.23
Michael. Rebecca, Trent & Lucy Emerson • Reed, Rosemary, Sophia, Daniel & Nathan Fancher

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Dick & Emily Brankstone • Tyler & Brooke Mitchell, expecting their first child

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)

YTD Giving	\$	508,494.13
YTD Budget	\$	479,046.00
	\$	29,448.39
Deacon's Fund	\$	7,729.17
Land & Building Fund	\$	349,840.39

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** Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
PEOPLE: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
PASTOR: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Christ is risen!
ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Psalm 149:1-4

***Song of Adoration** Sing To The King

***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

PASTOR: Let us now confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, we have sinned. Therefore, we will acknowledge our sin to you and we will not cover up our iniquity. Instead, we will confess our transgression trusting that you will forgive the iniquity of our sin through your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm 32

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: 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

Agnus Dei

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sabbatical: Jim and family are on sabbatical from May 20th-July 26th and he will be back in the office Monday July 27th. They will be out of town and/or worshipping elsewhere and Jim won't have his phone or email. For any shepherding needs, please reach out to an elder.

Summer Worship Schedule: Given feedback from individuals and the children's and youth teams, changes are being made to our worship for the summer and fall. As planned, we will go back to one worship service as of 5.24. This time will be 9:30am as is our custom. No later than Sunday 8.2, we will resume two worship services at 8:30am and 10:45am. On 8.16, we will resume Sunday school from 10-10:30am.

Women’s Summer Book Club: *Aging with Grace: Flourishing in an Anti-Aging Culture* by Betters and Hunt. June 16, 23, & 30; July 7, 14. 6:00 PM at the church.

ICP Donation Update: Christ Covenant is committed to supply: REGULAR SIZE (NOT FAMILY) INSTANT POTATOES and 16 or 18 OZ JARS OF SMOOTH PEANUT BUTTER. Please leave your donations in the basket in the foyer. While all donations are appreciated, please only bring the potatoes and peanut butter mentioned above. It has been a few weeks since Christ Covenant has made a donation of the items we committed to provide. Thank you for your continued support!

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

RYM 2026: RYM Payment is now due. Register and pay on our website: www.christcovenantms.org/signup. Also, we are in need of chaperones. Let us know if you can go!

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

VBS 2026: 6.8-12, we are gearing up for another fun VBS! Our Theme is *The Great I AM*. Pre-registration is live for children and volunteers. Please consider how you can help as we serve our community. www.christcovenantms.org/signup

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 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**

PASTOR: Christian, who is Jesus Christ?

ALL: The Lord Jesus is the beloved Son of God, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. Amen.

Colossians 1:14-20

Kingdom Moment *The Sacrament of Baptism & Membership Vows*
Drew Scott (9:30am)

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Yet Not I, But Christ In Me*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Matthew 12:1-14 (p. 769)*

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
“King Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath”

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 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: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

PEOPLE: **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, 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** *Behold The Lamb*

***Benediction**

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Christ is risen!

Hebrews 13:20-21

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

”King Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath”

Matthew 12:1-14 (p. 769)

Sabbath and being human

Sabbath and the gospel

Sabbath and practical living

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 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.