

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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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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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

4th Sunday after Easter

5.18.25

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: Shaun & Shannon Sipe

Hosts: The Smith Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Laura Patterson, Ann Plunk & Oliver Plunk

Sunday School—Resumes in August

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—May 18th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—VBS helper meeting

Monday – May 19th

No activities planned

Tuesday—May 20th

9:00am—Covenant Presbytery

Wednesday—May 21st

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

Thursday—May 22nd

No activities planned

Friday—May 23rd

Office Closed

Saturday—May 24th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- VBS—6.9-13
- VBS choir sings in service—6.15
- General Assembly—6.23-27
- RYM 2025—7.8-7.12; Payment is now due, visit our website for the payment link
- Annual Meeting—8.3
- Sunday School Resumes—8.10
- Regular Wednesday Activities—resume 8.13

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 5.17-5.24

Greg & Jill Karr • Chris & Denise Lyons

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Kim Murphree, recovering from cancer surgery • GeGe Patridge, Bailey’s mother, recovering from hip surgery • Doug Mauldin, recovering from heart surgery

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Staff Search • Elijah & Emma Vaughn as they 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

5.25.25	Philippians 4:4-8	Worship and Prayer
6.1.25	Psalms 32	Worship and Confessing
6.8.25	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Worship and Forgiveness
6.15.25	Psalms 98	Worship and Praise

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

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! Jeremiah 31

*Song of Adoration All People That On Earth Do Dwell #1

*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.

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.

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.

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: 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 16:12-23

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

Romans 8:38-39

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Song of Renewal

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Sunday School: Resumes next fall! If you are interested in teaching Sunday school for the kids next fall, contact Christa!

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: Welcome to Elijah and Emma Vaughn who are moving into the house on Mount Pleasant soon with a planned start date for Elijah is 6.1. Check out the website for a shower pantry list to help set up their house: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

VBS Registration: Time to register your rising K4- 5th graders for VBS! Due to limited facilities our numbers will be capped. Please preregister your children early so they will have a spot this year for our VBS as we learn about Joseph from Pit to Palace. Volunteers, please remain after service today, 5.18. for a brief meeting. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

Covenant Presbytery: Covenant Presbytery 5.20 at Trinity Presbyterian in Corinth, MS

Women’s Book Club: We will be reading *JONI: An Unforgettable Story*, and we'll meet every Tuesday from 6.17 - 7.15 at 6:00 PM.

Out of Office: Pastor Jim will be out of town this week for classes in St. Louis and will be available by email. The church office will be closed 5.23 and 5.26

Stanphill Family Transition: Our previous youth director, Daniel, has accepted a call to be a senior pastor in Perry, GA and will move this summer. There will be a reception for them at Christ Presbyterian in Olive Branch at 6pm on Sunday June 1st.

Land Update: The Session has called a congregational meeting to be held after the worship service on Sunday June 1st to instruct the trustees to buy/sell/mortgage property on our behalf on Mt, Pleasant.

Work day: The deacons will have a work day on Saturday May 17th for the outside and inside of the house on Mt. Pleasant. Reach out to Andrew if you can help.

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: Let us now confess our common faith together concerning the Lord Jesus:
ALL: Our Lord Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, our God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Philippians 2:5-11

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *My Worth Is Not In What I Own*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Isaiah 55 (p. 576)*

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
“The Calling of Worship”

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: 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

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 Rock of Ages #500

*Benediction

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Christ is risen! Numbers 6:24-26

ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Beginning A New Series:

What Is Worship: A Walk Through Our Liturgy

“The Calling of Worship”

Isaiah 55 (p. 576)

Our worship begins with God

Our worship requires a response

Our worship displays a change

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.