

## 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)**

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

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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*

2nd Sunday after Easter

5.4.25

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 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: Andrew Duff & Chris Lyons

A/V Assistant: Jack Tingle

Communion & Coffee: Matt & Valerie Walden

Hosts: The McNeely Family

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Rebecca Emerson & Taryn Jones

Sunday School—Tracy Duff & Valerie Walden

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 4th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday – May 5th

No activities planned

Tuesday—May 6th

No activities planned

Wednesday—May 7th

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

6:00pm—Kids’ Club

Choir sing at Wesley Meadows

7:15pm—Music rehearsal

Thursday—May 8th

6:00pm—Men’s gathering

Friday—May 9th

No activities planned

Saturday—May 10th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Children’s Volunteer Appreciation—5.14, 6:00pm
- 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
- Annual Meeting—8.3
- Sunday School Resumes—8.10
- Regular Wednesday Activities—resume 8.13

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 5.3-5.10  
Isaac, Kimberlyn, Kiara, Maximilien & Margot Harrison • Rick & Joann Harrison

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Kim Murphree, undergoing treatment for 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

|         |                   |                                      |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5.11.25 | 3 John            | A Loving Community of Hospitality II |
| 5.18.25 | Isaiah 55         | The Calling of Worship               |
| 5.25.25 | Philippians 4:4-8 | Worship and Prayer                   |
| 6.1.25  | Psalms 32         | Worship and Confessing               |

**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: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
PEOPLE: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.  
PASTOR: Oh, magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together!  
Christ is risen!  
ALL: He is risen indeed! Psalm 34:1-3

**\*Song of Adoration** Come, Thou Almighty King #101

**\*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.

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: And we were dead in our trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

*Ephesians 2:1-3*

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**

PASTOR: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved.

*Ephesians 2:4-5*

**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**

*Blessed Assurance #693*

**Sunday School:** Today is the last meeting for this semester. If you are interested in teaching Sunday school for the kids next fall, contact Christa!

**Kid’s Club Choir:** Will sing at Wesley Meadows this Wednesday. Please arrive at the church by 6:00pm then we will carpool. No meal will be served

**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. They will head to North Carolina this week and return at the end of the month. 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.

**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 Jospeh from Pit to Palace. Volunteers, please let Christa know if you need child-care for your younger children while you are working. [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://Www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**VBS:** If you're interested in helping w/ VBS this summer, please contact Christa! Crafts, snacks, teaching, music, drama, decorating, tear down, security, there are many roles to fill! Volunteer sign up is on our website and we have many positions to fill! [Www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://Www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

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

**Women’s Bible Study:** Our spring semester meetings have concluded and our summer book club will begin Tuesday evening, 6.17 at the church. We will be reading *JONI: An Unforgettable Story*, and we'll meet every Tuesday from 6.17 - 7.15 at 6:00 PM.

**Men’s Bible Study:** The evening group has concluded for the semester but the Wednesday morning group continues to meet at 6:30am.

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 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: We confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen** *The Apostles’ Creed*

**Kingdom Moment**

William Coleman

*Father’s in the Field*

**Kingdom Prayers of the People**

**Offertory**

*Christ is Mine Forevermore*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

**\*Prayer for Illumination**

**The Reading of God’s Word**

*2 John (p. 962)*

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 Loving Community of Hospitality I”

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 We Will Feast in the House of Zion

\*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 5:24-26

ALL: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

\*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing in the Series:

The Letters of John: A Loving God, A Loving Community

A Loving Community of Hospitality I

2 John (p. 962)

The boundaries of hospitably and friendship

The limits of hospitably and friendship

The fruits of hospitality and friendship

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.