



CHRIST COVENANT

Presbyterian Church in America

"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus
Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' Sake."
2 Corinthians 4:5

Ordinary Time
August 23, 2026
8:30am & 10:45am

WELCOME!

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.

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, 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 Orlund's book, *Gentle and Lowly; The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*.

This Morning's Servers

Ushers: Adam Clark & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Matthew & Jamie Frank

Hosts: The Smith Family

Next Sunday's Servers

Ushers: Adam Clark & Andrew Duff

AV Assistant: Brock Mills

Communion & Coffee: Nick & Maggie Manley

Hosts: The McNeely 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.

Preparing for Worship

With so many distractions for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read the 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.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

*Call To Worship

Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

PEOPLE: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

PASTOR: Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150

*Song of Adoration

Holy, Holy, Holy #100

*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 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 of Sin 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 confess our sins to Almighty God.

ALL: O God, you have not called us into darkness, rather you have brought us into the light of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. By your grace we are children of light, children of the day. You have called us to be awake and sober-minded, having put on the breastplate of faith and love as well as the helmet of hope of our salvation. In light of this gracious reality, we ask that you would forgive us for living contrary to who we are in Christ and for denying him in our words and actions. Restore us, that we may seek to do good and honor you, our loving and merciful Father.

1 Thessalonians 5

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live in him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

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**

Jesus, I Come

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.

You can give securely on our website: www.christ-covenantms.org

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: What do we believe concerning Christ the Mediator?

ALL: It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

Westminster Confession of Faith 8.1

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Isaiah 43

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

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God's Word

Matthew 13:44-58 (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

"Parables and King Jesus: The Precious Kingdom of Heaven"

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.

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

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 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

PEOPLE: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

PASTOR: You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people in Christ. 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

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSINGS

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.christ-covenantms.org or on our app on your smartphone.

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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.

***Song of Sending**

All Glory Be To Christ

***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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

ALL: Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Sermon Notes

"Parables and King Jesus: The Precious Kingdom of Heaven"

Matthew 13:44-58 (p. 769)

The value of the kingdom

The impact of the kingdom

The extension of the kingdom

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: This ministry meets today from 10am-10:30am for all ages. Adults meet in the sanctuary, youth in the south end lounge area and kids in the classrooms.

Men's Bible Study: Meets at 6:30am on Wednesdays this fall with a series on God's glory. Please join us.

Wednesday Night Activities: Have resumed! Youth and Kids' Club meet at 6:00pm. Bring a friend!

Assistant Pastor Search: We will welcome Adam Brokaw and his family for a formal visit next weekend. We will plan an evening meal and gathering for that Saturday at 5:00pm for everyone to spend time with them as well as time Sunday morning.

Community Groups: Meet tonight at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group. Community Group fall dates: 8.23, 9.6, 9.20, 11.1, 11.15

Women's Bible Study: Meets Wednesdays at 9AM or 6PM, starting this Wednesday! Childcare provided at both. We will use *Knowing His Great Name* by the Craddocks.

Youth Group Meals: Please sign up to provide a meal for our youth on Wednesday evenings. This great serve even if you don't have a youth: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Newcomer's Luncheon & Inquirer's Class: Let Jim know if you're visiting and interested in learning more about our church and membership.

CCC App: We have been using an app for a while now which contains bulletins, sermons, signups and calendars. Download it for your phone to help stay up to date. Teams and committees can also communicate through it.

Children's Ministry Staffing: We are looking to either fill a new half-time role to assist Christa, or a part-time role to take over from her. Please see Jim and Christa with any questions.

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 8.22-8.29

Jim, Jodi, Ellie, Charlotte & Oliver Plunk • Randy Reiter

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Dick & Emily Brankstone • Karol Barber, receiving treatment for cancer • Bo & Taryn Jones, expecting their 2nd child • William & Anna Kate Coleman, expecting their 2 child • David Scott, recovering from surgery • Norah Barkley, hospitalized with breathing trouble

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Capital Campaign (talk to an elder if you have questions) • The Mitchell family, welcoming new baby, Dutch, to the family

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and 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 (Wycliff Bible Translation - Mexico) • Brett & Valerie McAlpin (MTW, Leeds, England) • International Presbyterian Church, British Presbytery: Church Planting Committee

July YTD giving (FY is 7/1-6/30)

Budget: \$52,136

Actual: \$41,769

Difference: \$10,366

Building fund: \$102,188

Deacon fund: \$7,509

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 - August 23rd

8:30am - Worship w/ Communion
10:00am - Sunday school
10:45am - Worship w/ Communion
Various times - Community groups

Monday - August 24th

No activities planned

Tuesday - August 25th

No activities planned

Wednesday - August 26th

6:30am - Men's Bible study
9:00am - Women's Bible study
6:00pm - Women's Bible study, Youth, Kids' club

Thursday - August 27th

6:00pm - Missions Team meeting

Friday - August 28th

No activities planned

Saturday - August 29th

5:00pm - Fellowship dinner with the Brokaw family

Looking Ahead

- Labor Day Holiday (office closed) - 9.7
- Covenant Presbytery - 10.6
- Fall Fest - 10.18
- Joint Reformation Service - 10.25
- Thanksgiving Feast - TBD
- CPYC - 11.13-15
- Hanging of the Greens - 11.30
- Women's Christmas Tea - 12.13
- Lessons & Carols - 12.20
- Women's Annual Retreat - 1.15-16

LEADERSHIP

Session

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

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Chris Lyons, Treasurer
Adam Clark
Michael Emerson
Nick Manley
Robert Massey***
Charlie Smith
Chris Tingle*
David Wright

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks - Phone: 662-469-9330

Jim Plunk, Pastor, jplunk@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

