

## 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

Presbyterian Church in America

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

1068 Thousand Oaks ~ Phone: 662.469.9330

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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

1st Sunday after the Epiphany  
1.11.26



**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."

Ushers: Andrew Duff

A/V Assistant: Bo Jones

Communion & Coffee: Donny & Ann Plunk

Hosts: Michael & Rebecca Emerson

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Katie Massey, Laura Patterson & Oliver Plunk

Sunday School—Tracy Duff

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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—January 11th**

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

#### **Wednesday—January 14th**

6:30am—Men's bible study

9:00am—Women's bible study

6:00pm—Women's bible study, Youth, Kids' Club

#### **Thursday—January 15th**

No activities planned

#### **Monday—January 12th**

4:00pm—Session meeting

5:30pm—Deacon meeting

6:00pm—Joint officer evening

#### **Friday—January 16th**

No activities planned

#### **Tuesday—January 13th**

5:30pm—Men's bible study

#### **Saturday—January 17th**

No activities planned

## Looking Ahead

- Community Group spring dates—1.18, 2.1, 2.15, 3.1, 3.29, 4.12, 4.26
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.22-3.1
- Spring Break—3.9-13

## **PRAYER NEEDS**

## Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 1.10-1.17

### **Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Dick & Emily Brankstone**

**Prayer Requests:** Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Officer training •  
• Helen Morgan, mourning the loss of Monte • The Plunk family, mourning the loss of Jodi's mom, Lin

## 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

|         |                 |                                    |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.18.26 | Matthew 7:21-29 | Living in the Kingdom: Foundations |
| 1.25.26 | Matthew 8:1-17  | Healings and King Jesus            |
| 2.1.25  | Matthew 8:18-22 | The Cost of following King Jesus   |
| 2.8.26  | Matthew 8:23-34 | Storms and King Jesus              |

**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 re-  
sponse, 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: Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

PEOPLE: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

PASTOR: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

## *Psalm 33*

### \*Song of Adoration

*O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing* #134

### \*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: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:

**ALL: Lord God, You require us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before You. We confess that we have not loved You or our neighbor in this way. We repent of this. Grant that Your Holy Spirit drives us to seek these things through Christ. Amen.**

*Micah 6:8*

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

### Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. *Psalm 130:3-4*

**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

*Steadfast*

**Sunday School:** Resumes today for all ages! Adult meet in the sanctuary where Pastor Jim will teach on "Practical Discipleship in the Reformed Faith," youth meet in the south end lounge area, Communicants' class will meet in the 4th/5th grade classroom for the next four Sundays and the 4th/5th grade Sunday school class will meet in the lobby office.

**Peru Mission - Christ Kids Ministry:** Christ Kids is a Child Sponsorship program within Peru Mission and is focused on children from underprivileged backgrounds. For \$50 per month, a sponsorship helps to provide the following life-changing benefits to a child: Education, supplies, Bible club, nutritious meals, health and dental care, pastoral care. Further information as well as ornaments with kids currently available from a member of the missions committee.

**Men's Bible Study:** *Forging Our Faith In Scripture* meets at 6:30am and continues for another three weeks. Please use the sign up link on our website to register so we can plan for space and class materials: [www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**Women's Bible Study:** Both morning and evening Wednesday studies resume this week and will be studying from Lydia Brownback's *Ephesians: Growing in Christ*. Childcare will be provided at both!

**Women's Winter Retreat:** Stay Salty, Burn Bright! January 30-31 at Camp Hopewell in Oxford. Tickets on sale now on our website: \$85 or \$100 (inc. Linens) and 1.16 is the deadline to sign up. [www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**RYM 2026:** RYM registration deposits are past due. \$150 per person to hold your spot. Save your spot and pay using the sign up page on our website: [www.christcovenantms.org/signup](http://www.christcovenantms.org/signup)

**Used Christmas Trees:** The Children's Team is collecting used magazines and artificial trees for VBS this summer. Contact Christa Chapman if you have anything to donate.

**Community Groups:** Meet at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get 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 spring dates: 1.18, 2.1, 2.15, 3.1, 3.29, 4.12, 4.26.

## 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:** What is true faith?

**ALL:** True faith is not only a certain knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in his word, but also an assured confidence, which the Holy Spirit works by the gospel in my heart; that not only to others, but to me also, remission of sin, everlasting righteousness and salvation, are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

*Heidelberg Catechism 21*

### Kingdom Prayers of the People

#### Offertory

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

*In Christ Alone*

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*Prayer for Illumination

#### The Reading of God's Word

*Matthew 7:13-20 (p. 762)*

**READER:** The grass withers, the flowers fade

**ALL:** But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

#### The Sermon

"Living in the Kingdom: Two Choices"

*Rev. Jim Plunk*

## 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:** In sending Christ the Light of the world, you revealed your glory to the nations. You sent a star to guide seekers of wisdom to Bethlehem, that they might worship Christ. Your signs and witnesses in every age lead people from every place to worship him. We praise you that in him we become your children, baptized into your service. 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**

*Jesus Messiah*

### **\*Benediction**

**PASTOR:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

### **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 Notes

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

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

"Living in the Kingdom: Two Choices"

*Matthew 7:13-20 (p. 762)*

Our two choices

### **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

The two results from our choices

### **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).

The one grace we receive