

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 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

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

1.25.26

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: Nick Manley & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Brock Mills

Communion & Coffee: Chas & Jennifer Emerson

Hosts: The Tingle Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Claire Becker, Mary Hellen Wilkerson & Cora Bell Beavers

Sunday School—Bobbie Wilkerson

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 25th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday—January 26th

No activities planned

Tuesday—January 27th

6:00pm—Focus group

Wednesday—January 28th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

5:00pm—Children’s team meeting

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

Thursday—January 29th

6:00pm—Focus group

Friday—January 30th

4:45pm—Women’s Retreat arrival

Saturday—January 31st

3:00pm—Women’s Retreat wrap-up

Looking Ahead

- Community Group spring dates—2.1, 2.15, 3.1, 3.29, 4.12, 4.26
- Ash Wednesday—2.18
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.22-3.1
- Spring Break—3.9-13
- Holy Week—4.2, Maundy Thursday; 4.3, Good Friday; 4.5, Easter Sunday

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 1.24-1.31
Richard, Emily, Vesper & Oliver Schembechler • Randy, Brittany, Oliver & Worth Scott

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 • Jodi, traveling to the UK for her Mum’s funeral. 1.29

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

2.1.25	Matthew 8:18-22	The Cost of Following King Jesus
2.8.26	Matthew 8:23-34	Storms and King Jesus
2.15.26	Matthew 9:1-8	Forgiveness and King Jesus
2.22.26	TBD	TBD

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall all vows be
performed.
PEOPLE: O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.
PASTOR: Blessed is the one you choose to bring near, to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your
temple! Psalm 65:1-2, 4

*Song of Adoration Come, Christians Join To Sing #302

*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.

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: Lord Almighty, you have done all that is necessary for our life and our good and our salvation; yet when you look for justice, you see bloodshed. When you look for righteousness, you hear cries of distress. When you look for love, you find only selfishness. Forgive us for the yield of bad fruit in our lives this week, even this morning. Prune and cultivate us and restore our souls. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Isaiah 5

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives transgression...? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Micah 7:18

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

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the sanctuary for the focus group, 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.

Capital Campaign Focus Groups: We will have feasibility study presentations at 11am on 1.26, 2.1, and 2.8 and at 6pm 1.27, 1.29, and 2.3 all at the church. Pick one or two to come hear and participate regarding plans for our new building project.

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 week. Please use the sign up link on our website to register so we can plan for space and class materials: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

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

Women's Winter Retreat: Stay Salty, Burn Bright! This Friday and Saturday at Camp Hopewell in Oxford. Registration has closed, talk to Hillary if you have any questions. Don’t forget your mug!

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.”

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 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** Elder Bob Barber
LEADER: We confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed
ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *There Is A Redeemer*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *Matthew 8:1-17 (p. 762)*

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
“Healings and King Jesus”
5

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: 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

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending *Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us #599*

*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*

ALL: **Amen**

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

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

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

“Healings and King Jesus”

Matthew 8:1-17 (p. 762)

Jesus ministers to outsiders

Jesus shows compassion to outsiders

Jesus saves outsiders

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.