

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

2nd Sunday after Christmas

1.4.26

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: Charlie Smith & Chris Tingle

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Greg & Jill Karr

Hosts: The Becker Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Catherine Sartor, Kymberleigh Riley & Noelle Riley

Sunday School—resumes 1.11.26

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 4th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Unhanging of the Greens

Monday—January 5th

No activities planned

Tuesday—January 6th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—January 7th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

Thursday—January 8th

No activities planned

Friday—January 9th

No activities planned

Saturday—January 10th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Wednesday activities resume—1.14.25
- 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 1.3-1.10

Victoria Penney • Donny & Ann Plunk

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, grieving the loss of Jodi’s mom

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

1.11.26	Matthew 7:13-20	Living in the Kingdom: Two Choices
1.18.26	Matthew 7:21-29	Living in the Kingdom: Foundations
1.25.26	Matthew 8:1-17	TBD
2.1.25	Matthew 8:18-22	TBD

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** Elder Chas Emerson
LEADER: 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!
LEADER: 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** *Sing To The King*

***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.

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

LEADER: 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

LEADER: 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: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is well-pleased.

Luke 2:14

*Song of Renewal

Agnus Dei

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Resumes next Sunday for all ages! Communicants class will begin in the new year during the Sunday school hour. Dates to come!

Un-Hanging of the Greens: Many hands make light work! Please stay after service today to help put up our Christmas decorations.

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 for sponsorship are located on the tree by the church office.

Men's Bible Study: Forging Our Faith In Scripture begins next semester starting 1.14 at 6:30am and continues for four weeks. Please use the sign up link on our website to register so we can plan for space and class materials: www.christcovenantmr.org/signup

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): www.christcovenantms.org/signup

RYM 2026: RYM registration deposits are due January 8th. \$150 per person to hold your spot. Save your spot and pay using the sign up page on our website: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Guest Preachers: This morning, Jermaine Van Buren from RUF—Jackson State will be preaching

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.”

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**

LEADER: 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 Rev. Jermaine Van Buren
RUF Jackson State University

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory *Speak, O Lord*

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *Romans 8:31-39 (p. 888)*

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade
ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon Rev. Jermaine Van Buren
“Beloved by God”

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 us your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary, your word became flesh, and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. His name is above every name, the Prince of peace and Savior of all. In him we have been brought out of darkness into your marvelous light. 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 *Behold The Lamb*

*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
“Beloved by God”
Romans 8:31-39 (p. 888)

Who is under the hatred of God?

Who are the Beloved of God?

What is so special about God’s Love?

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.