

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
Nick Manley
Robert Massey
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Charlie Smith***

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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

Reformation Sunday
10.26.25

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. 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: Brady Duff

Communion & Coffee: Jodi, Ellie, Charlotte & Oliver Plunk

Hosts: Greg & Jill Karr

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Katie Massey, Laura Patterson & Ellie Plunk

Sunday School—Shannon Sipe

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—October 26th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Monday – October 27th

No activities planned

Tuesday—October 28th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—October 29th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

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

Thursday—October 30th

No activities planned

Friday—October 31st

No activities planned

Saturday—November 1st

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Community groups—11.2, 11.16
- Hanging of the Greens—11.30
- Kids’ Club sing at Wesley Meadows—12.3
- Ladies Christmas Tea—12.14
- Lessons & Carols service—12.21, 5:00pm
- Christmas Eve service—12.24
- Women’s winter retreat—1.30-31
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.22.26-3.1.26

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 10.25-11.2
Cody, Blair, Jack, Baylor & Griffin Harrell • Isaac, Kimberlyn, Kiara, Maximillien & Margot Harrison

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Conner & Makailey Newton, expecting their third child due early December • Elijah & Emma Vaughn, expecting their first child due 11.4 • Foster Hale, recovering from surgery on 10.17 & one more upcoming surgery. 11.10

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Newton transition

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) • Conner and Makailey Newton (18.26 Network)

Sermon Preview

11.2.25	Matthew 5:33-37	Living in the Kingdom: Oaths
11.9.25	Matthew 5:38-48	Living in the Kingdom: Retaliation
11.16.25	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18	Living in the Kingdom: Private Righteousness
11.23.25	Matthew 6:5-15	Living in the Kingdom: Prayer

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: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling,
PEOPLE: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
Psalm 2:11-12

*Song of Adoration
Great Is Thy Faithfulness #32

*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

PASTOR: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalms 51:15-17

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove your heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:25-26

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 Am Resting, Resting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the Sanctuary, youth in the south end, kids in the classroom and toddlers in the nursery.

Joint Reformation Service: We are joining with Christ Fellowship to worship at Christ Pres, Olive Branch for Reformation Sunday. Tonight at 6:00pm.

Thanksgiving Feast & Bake Off: Make plans to join 11.9 from 4:00pm-6:00pm! There will be 3 categories for the bake off. Men, women and children. Enter to win the much coveted 'Bake off spoon,' and as this year's winner, judge next year's delights! Sign up to bring a dish to pass: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Officer Nominations: The session has opened officer nominations for elder and deacon through Sunday, 11.2. A nominations guide is available to explain the process.

Men's Events: Our next men's gathering is Monday, 11.3. This year's men's retreat will be held 11.21 – 11.22 at Pinecrest Retreat Center in LaGrange, TN. Register using the sign up page on our website.

Interfaith Council On Poverty: In addition to regular (not family) sized mashed potatoes, ICP has requested that Christ Covenant Church also supply 16oz or 18oz jars of smooth peanut butter to the local food pantry. Donations can be left in the basket in lobby!

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**

PASTOR: 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 Moment

Jared Barkley

Mission Updates

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

The Power of the Cross

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Matthew 5:31-21 (p. 760)

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: Divorce”

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: You commanded light to shine out of darkness, divided the sea and dry land, created the vast universe and called it good. You made us in your image to live with one another in love. Through long generations you have been faithful and kind to all your children. 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: According to his commandment:

PEOPLE: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming 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 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God #92

*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 5:21-26

ALL: Amen

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing the series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:
Studies in the Gospel of Matthew
“Living in the Kingdom: Divorce”
Matthew 5:31-32 (p. 760)

God’s plan for marriage is a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman

God hates divorce but allows it due to our sin

God cares about abuse

God allows for remarriage in some circumstances

What should I do now?

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.