

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

Eighteenth Day of Pentecost

10.5.25

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: Andrew Duff & Nick Manley

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Matthew & Jamie Frank

Hosts: The Mills Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service— Erin Funderburk, Valerie Walden & Mary Whitten Funderburk

Sunday School—Rachel Wright

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 5th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

Various times—small groups

Wednesday—October 8th

No activities planned

Thursday—October 9th

No activities planned

Friday—October 10th

No activities planned

Saturday—October 11th

No activities planned

Monday – October 6th

No activities planned

Tuesday—October 7th

9:00am—Covenant Presbytery

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Looking Ahead

- Fall break—10.6-10.10
- CPYC—11.14-16, registration begins 10.8
- Hanging of the Greens—11.30
- Ladies Christmas Tea—12.14
- Lessons & Carols service—12.21, 5:00pm
- Christmas Eve service, - 12.24

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 10.5-10.11
Reed, Rosemary, Sophia, Daniel & Nathan Fancher • Matthew, Jamie, Eli, Leo & Liam Frank

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 • Josh Belenchia, son of Paul Belenchia, awaiting test results • Foster Hale, upcoming surgeries 10.17 & 11.10

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search

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

10.12.25	Matthew 5:21-26	Living in the Kingdom: Anger
10.19.25	Matthew 5:27-30	Living in the Kingdom: Lust
10.26.25	Matthew 5:31-32	Living in the Kingdom: Divorce
11.2.25	Matthew 5:33-37	Living in the Kingdoms: Oaths

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 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** *All Creatures of our God & King #115*

***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 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

LEADER: 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

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Will not meet this week

Fall Break: Pastor Jim is out of town this week. If you have a need, please reach out to an elder.

Communicants Class: If you have a child who hasn’t professed faith, we are making available a parent guide to explain what you should be discussing with your child. After reviewing the guide, feel free to express interest to an elder if you feel they are ready to become a communing member, and we will begin plans for a series of classes.

Officer Nominations: The session will open officer nominations for elder and deacon Sunday October 12th-Sunday November 2nd. A nominations guide is available to explain the process.

Fall Fest: Fall Fest will be Oct 19th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Church. We are collecting candy and treats for the Fall Fest! Please bring your candy/ treats and place in the bins in the lobby. Also, we will need individually wrapped cookies and treats for the pumpkin walk, please let Christa Chapman know if you would be willing to help!

Christmas Tea Hostesses: Save the Date! Women's Christmas Tea is Sunday, 12.14 from 4-6 PM. We're looking for ladies to host or co-host a table! Contact Hillary or Jill if interested. Online sign-up available soon.

CPYC: Youth, make plans to attend 11.14-16! Chaperones needed! Visit the sign up page on our website for registration: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Men’s Events: Our next men’s gathering will be Wednesday, 10.15. This years 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.

Thanksgiving Feast & Bake Off: Make plans to joins 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 years winner, judge next years delights! Sign up to bring a dish to pass: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Joint Reformation Service: We are joining with Christ Fellowship to worship at Christ Pres OB for Reformation Sunday, 10.26 at 6:00pm.

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. John Craft
RUF—Rhodes College

Kingdom Prayers of the People
Offertory *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*
***Doxology** *(Children under 4 dismissed at this time)*

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**
The Reading of God’s Word *Matthew 5:17-20 (p. 760)*

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

The Sermon Elder Bob Barber
“Living in the Kingdom: The Law”

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 Rev. John Craft
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

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

***Song of Sending** *Satisfied*
***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

Continuing the series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:
Studies in the Gospel of Matthew
“Living in the Kingdom: The Law”
Matthew 5:17-20 (p. 760)

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.