

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

First Sunday of Advent
11.30.25

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. If you are a visitor, please take a moment during the service to fill out a Visitor Card located in the back of the chair and put it in the offering plate. 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: Jack Tingle

Communion & Coffee: Donny & Ann Plunk

Hosts: Brit & Charlie Emerson

Nursery Helpers:

Church hour—Merrel Patridge, Monica Tingle & Anna Caroline Tingle

Sunday School—Carrie Foresman

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—November 30th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am – Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Hanging of the Greens

Monday – December 1st

No activities planned

Tuesday—December 2nd

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Wednesday—December 3rd

6:00pm—Youth Christmas party, Kids’ club choir sing at Wesley Meadows

Thursday—December 4th

No activities planned

Friday—December 5th

No activities planned

Saturday—December 6th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Holiday office closures—12.25-26, 1.1.26
- Women’s winter retreat—1.30-31
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.22-3.1

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 11.29.25-12.6.25

Doug & Sassy Mauldin • Mitch, Mary Ashley, Olivia & Mitchell McNeely

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Conner & Makailey Newton, expecting their third child due early December • Foster Hale, recovering from surgery on 11.10

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Officer training • Elijah & Emma Vaughn, welcomed baby Eric on 11.11

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

12.7.25	Matthew 6:19-34	Living in the Kingdom: Anxiety
12.14.25	Matthew 7:1-8	Living in the Kingdom: Judging
12.21.25	Matthew 7:7-12	Living in the Kingdom: Prayer II
12.28.25	TBD	TBD

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Prophecy Candle

Psalm 122 (p. 484) Will & Abbey Toberman
Romans 13:11-14 (p. 892)

READER: We light the first candle, the Prophecy Candle, to remind us that the promise of Christ’s Advent was prophesied many years before his birth. It also reminds us to look forward to his Second Advent, which will bring the full realization of those promises. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

PEOPLE: O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love. Psalm 59:16-17

*Song of Adoration Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #196

*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 confess our sins together:

ALL: To you, O Lord, we call; our rock, be not deaf to us, lest if you be silent to us, we become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of our pleas for mercy, when we cry to you for help, when we lift up our hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Psalm 28

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

Come, O Redeemer, Come

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from us; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve us.

Psalm 40

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

From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)

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;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hanging of the Greens: Today after service, all are encouraged to stay for festive and fun fellowship as we hang some simple decorations as a church family. Kids will meet for Sunday school and join the adults at the end to hang the crafts they’ve been working on.

Interfaith Council on Poverty: ICP will be providing personal items and children's gifts for families in need from our community this Christmas. Items are due at CCC Friday, 12.12.25 by noon, unwrapped with your name and the child code Also, there will be a community workday, and all are welcome to help organize and gather items for distribution at Holy Spirit Catholic Church 12.17.25 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Preteens and teens will need parental supervision to participate. Please see sign up page of our website for the link and follow the directions in the sign up: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

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.christcovenantms.org/signup

Christmas Services: We will have a Lessons and Carols service Sunday evening, 12.21 at 5:00pm. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be Wednesday, 12.24 at 5:00pm.

Youth Christmas Party: Youth, join us for our annual Christmas party at the home of Chas & Jennifer Emerson, 3200 Bolin Road, Hernando, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Wear your ugly sweater or Christmas pajamas, bring a \$15 dirty Santa gift & a friend! Sign up to help bring a dish for party on the sign up page of our website: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Kids’ Club Choir: Kids’ Club will sing at Wesley Meadows this Wednesday; sing in service, 12.8, please arrive at 8:45am. Contact a member of the children’s team with any questions!

Women’s Christmas Tea: Our Christmas Tea is 12.14 from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. Deadline to purchase is 12.5. Invite your friends and neighbors! Tickets are on sale now on our website or app. \$15 or \$30 household max: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Women’s Bible Study: Both morning and evening women’s bible study groups have concluded for the semester and will resume 1.14.25!

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 put in the offering plate. 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.

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

Membership vows

Wil & Mary Ashworth • Richie & Emily Schembechler

Sacrament of Baptism

Vesper Schembechler & Oliver Schembechler

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

Christ Our Wisdom

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

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Matthew 6:7-15 (p. 761)

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

“ Living in the Kingdom: Prayer”

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: Through the words of the prophets you promised your people the Redeemer, and gave hope for the day when justice shall roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We rejoice that Jesus Christ, your Son, the Savior has come and that he will come again in power and glory to make all things new. Therefore, with angels and arch-angels 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: Christ is the bread of life:

PEOPLE: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you 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

Psalm 67

*Song of Sending

*Benediction

PASTOR: Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Ephesians 6:23-24

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: Prayer”
Matthew 6:7-15 (p. 761)

The temptations of prayer

The method of prayer

The transformation of prayer

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 subscribe to our podcast 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.