

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—Ephesians 2:10

The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly.

—Søren Kierkegaard

One of the most important advantages the Bible gives us is that it provides information that is not available anywhere else. Our universities provide us with a wealth of knowledge acquired by human investigation of the natural world. We learn by observation, analysis and abstract speculation. We compare and contrast varied opinions from notable scholars. But with all the skills of knowledge that we have at our disposal in this world, there is no one who can speak to us from a transcendent perspective, no one who can reason with us, as the philosophers say, *sub species aeternitatis* (from the eternal perspective).

—R.C. Sproul

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marty Crawford

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

☒ HYMN OF ADORATION

“We Come, O Christ, to You”
to the tune of “Rejoice the Lord is King”

We come, O Christ, to you,
True Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist,
In whom all life began.
In you alone we live and move
And have our being in your love.

You are the way to God,
Your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge
And Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand;
Your love has met your law’s demand.

You are the living truth;
All wisdom dwells in you,
The source of every skill,
The one eternal True!
O great I AM! in you we rest,
Sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true life
To know you is to live
The more abundant life
That earth can never give.
O risen Lord! we live in you:
In us each day your life renew!

We worship you, Lord Christ,
Our Savior and our King;
To you our youth and strength
Adoringly we bring:
So fill our hearts that all may view
Your life in us and turn to you!

Words: Edith Margaret Clarkson. Music: DARWALL.

 **PRAYER OF ADORATION****READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH**

Justin Richardson

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

 **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Westminster Confession of Faith 1.6

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Psalm 25"



Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

5



make Thy way plain be-fore_____ my face.

9



— Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

13



make Thy way plain be-fore_____ my face.---

Words: Psalm 25. Music: Luke Brawner.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Our merciful and gracious Father in Heaven,
 We come before your glory and majesty and confess our sins:
 We often neglect your inerrant, infallible Word,
 And tend to rely on our own strength and wisdom
 Rather than on the gospel,
 which is the power of God for salvation.
 We wrongly and sinfully use your Word to shame and belittle,
 To win arguments, and to silence doubters.
 Gracious Lord, we seek your forgiveness on the merit of Christ's finished work,
 And we ask that by Your Spirit you would keep us nearer to the truth,
 For Your Word is truth.
 In the name of King Jesus we pray, Amen.*

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR MERCY

“Trisagion”

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy, have mercy on us.

Words: Book of Common Prayer. Music: Fernando Ortega. CCLI 6485614.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

—Psalm 32:5

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins,
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation
of His Holy Spirit.

🎵 HYMN OF GRACE

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder,
He has quenched Mt. Sinai’s flame.

Let us love the Lord who bought us,
Pitied us when enemies,
Called us by His grace and taught us,
Gave us ears and gave us eyes:

He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood,
He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation
Threaten hard to bring us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror’s crown.

Let us wonder; grace and justice
Join and point to mercy’s store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more:

He who washed us with his blood, He who washed us with his blood,
He who washed us with his blood, Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us,
Now their praises fill the sky:

He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood,
He has washed us with his blood, He will bring us home to God.

He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood.
(x4)

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 55:6-13

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
7let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
12“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

John Fountain

“Ancient Words”

Congregational Hymn

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world;
They resound with God’s own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope,
Give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where’er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home.

Chorus:

Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith,
Handed down to this age;
Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved,
For our walk in this world;
They resound with God’s own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.
(Chorus, x3)

We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

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 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 16 for all of our Ministry Announcements.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Kurt Senn

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory is like the flower of the field.
*The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

 **HYMN OF HOPE**

“God Has Spoken by the Prophets”
to the tune of “Come Thou Fount”

God has spoken by the prophets,
 Spoken the unchanging Word;
 Each from age to age proclaiming
 God, the One, the righteous Lord!
 ‘Mid the world’s despair and turmoil,
 One firm anchor holdeth fast;
 God eternal reigns forever,
 God, the first, and God, the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
 Christ, the everlasting Son;
 Brightness of the Father’s glory,
 With the Father, ever one.
 Spoken by the Word incarnate,
 God of God, ere time was born;
 Light of light to earth descending,
 Christ, as God in human form.

God yet speaketh, by the Spirit,
 Speaketh to our hearts again;
 In the age long Word expounding,
 God’s own message, now as then;
 Thru the rise and fall of nations,
 One sure faith yet standing fast;
 God abides the Word unchanging,
 God, the first, and God, the last.

Words: G. W. Briggs. Music: EBENEZER, Thomas John Williams.


BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: September 6 - 12, 2020

SUNDAY, September 6

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, September 7 Church Office closed for Labor Day

TUESDAY, September 8

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Women's Study: Ephesians (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, September 9

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mother's Day Out begins

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (David Driskill, September 7-13).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covenant Name Tags. In order to help the Holts—and all of our church family—get to know each other, we have provided churchwide name tags! The name tags are available in the foyer each Sunday; please pick up your name tag and wear it while on campus. We have boxes near the exits for you to return your name tag each week so that we can reorganize them and store them for you. If you do not find your name tag, please contact Victoria Williams at vwilliams@covpres.com.

Covenant Comprehensive COVID-19 Policy. Our Re-entry Committee has created a comprehensive plan for Covenant's fall ministries and events as COVID-19 continues to effect public gatherings. Please review this plan at covpres.com/covid19.

Enfold Disability Ministry. Our desire is for everyone at Covenant to participate fully in our ministries. We are all growing in the Lord together, and our members and visitors with disabilities are vital to the body of Christ. To that end, we have created Enfold Disability Ministry in order to help everyone connect with the Lord and with others. We are seeking people to pray for those in our congregation who are affected by disability, and we are also beginning a book discussion group in October. This ministry is being led by Katie Flores, and you can contact her for more information (kflores@covpres.com) or visit covpres.com/enfold.

Volunteer Opportunity. Many of you know that Birmingham City Schools are not offering in-person instruction the first nine weeks of the school year. This affects several of our nursery workers and their children. In order to keep these ladies employed and to help their children, Covenant would like to offer two rooms with supervising church members on M, T, W, and F from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. We hope to have one room for elementary children with a hands-on volunteer helping with online activities, and a second room for middle and high schoolers with a volunteer mainly for supervision. If you are interested in helping to facilitate virtual learning for these students, please contact Jami Bennett at jbennett@covpres.com.

Pray for Me Campaign. This is the second year for our youth and congregation to participate in the Pray for Me Campaign where we pair adults with teenage students to pray for them throughout the school year. We are inviting everyone to join us in praying for a teenage student in our Youth Ministry this year! Once you sign up to pray, we will match you with one or two teenage students to pray for during the school year. Please contact Sara Litten at slitten@covpres.com if you would like to sign up or would like more information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Sunday Evenings | Fall 2020

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. | Teaching (Sanctuary)

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. | Prayer and Discussion (Classrooms)

(Nursery available; Children's Sunday School and Youth Small Groups also meet at this time)

GROUP A

September 13, 27; October 11; and November 1, 15

COMMUNITY All ages and life stages

CROSSPOINTE Young families; 30s

LIGHTHOUSE 30s and 40s

LIVING STONES 40s and 50s

OPEN DOORS 70s and above

UPPER ROOM 60s and 70s

GROUP B

September 20; October 4, 18; and November 8, 22

COLLEGE College students

CORNERSTONE 30s and 40s

FOUNDATIONS 30s and 40s

KINGDOM BUILDERS 40s and 50s

THRESHOLD Singles and young marrieds;
20s and 30s

Teaching Elders by Sunday School Community:

Community, Open Doors, Upper Room | Marty Crawford

Cornerstone, Foundations, Lighthouse | David Driskill

Living Stones, Kingdom Builders | Dan Edwards

College, Crosspointe, Threshold | Josh Johnson

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
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MINISTRY STAFF

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Karan Stuart, Receptionist	kstuart@covpres.com
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)	vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

2020

Bill Bennett
 Will Brooke
 Michael Latta
 Charlie Logan
 Paul Loyless
 Bob Schaffeld
 Lee Sheppard
 Steve Stigler
 Mark Taylor
 John Wood

2021

Eric Getty
 Russell Martin
 Daniel Murray
 Warren Norville
 Sandy Stradtman
 Clay Wheeler

2022

Ty Dedmon
 John Hamilton
 Mark Hogewood
 John James
 David O'Dell
 Norman Pless
 Kurt Senn

DEACONS

2020

Tripp Alexander
 Paul Darden
 Jay Evans
 Bryan Flores
 John Gant
 John David Gray
 Marty Martin
 Bud Miller
 Tyler O'Connor
 John Shults
 Danny Smith
 Robert Stephens
 Clark Worrell

2021

Nick Baggett
 Ward Bailey
 Samuel Bragg
 Trey Clegg
 Will Graham
 Jeff Hicks
 Jim Jenkins
 Alan Spooner
 Patrick Strong

2022

Jim Bennett
 William Edwards
 Merrill Johnston
 Randall Lancaster
 Mark Midyette
 Stephen Mince
 Clyde Prather
 John Shank
 Matt Thomas
 Greg Tomlinson

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers, and hymns. The scripture readings are from Ligonier Ministries and are designed around a one-year cycle that will allow you to read through the New Testament or the entire Bible in 2020.

SEPTEMBER READING PLAN

	PSALMS	1 CORINTHIANS
1	□ 146-148	□ 12:12-31
2	□ 149-Proverbs 1	□ 13
	PROVERBS	
3	□ 2-4	□ 14
4	□ 5-6	□ 15:1-34
5/6	□ 7-10	□ 15:35-16:24
		2 CORINTHIANS
7	□ 11-12	□ 1
8	□ 13-14	□ 2
9	□ 15-16	□ 3
10	□ 17-18	□ 4
11	□ 19-20	□ 5:1-6:13
12/13	□ 21-26	□ 6:14-8:15
14	□ 27-28	□ 8:16-24
15	□ 29-30	□ 9
16	□ 31-Ecclesiastes 2	□ 10
	ECCLESIASTES	
17	□ 3-4	□ 11:1-15
18	□ 5-6	□ 11:16-33
19/20	□ 7-12	□ 12-13
	SONG OF SOLOMON	GALATIANS
21	□ 1-3	□ 1
22	□ 4-6	□ 2
23	□ 7-Isaiah 1	□ 3
	ISAIAH	
24	□ 2-3	□ 4
25	□ 4-6	□ 5
26/27	□ 7-11	□ 6-Ephesians 1
		EPHESIANS
28	□ 12-14	□ 2
29	□ 15-17	□ 3
30	□ 18-20	□ 4