

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2017

On this Lord's Day we commemorate and celebrate an event that occurred 500 years ago on October 31. Dr. Martin Luther, disturbed by the obfuscation of the gospel by the church of his day, posted 95 theses on the left-hand door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg to be debated in the academic circles of the University.

As Professor Kent Aland wrote some years ago, "The entire world broke apart because of an exegetical discovery." In other words, God raised up Luther (a far from perfect man) to restore to the church the biblical gospel of grace. Today we express our gratitude to God for this great act of mercy.

Over his lifetime, Luther faced challenges—even life-threatening challenges—from the pope and his cardinals. Perhaps the most famous of these encounters occurred at the Diet of Worms in April of 1521. The night before Luther appeared before Emperor Charles V and the cardinals who were assembled at the Diet to insist on Luther's recantation, Luther prayed this prayer:

My God, stand by me against all the world's wisdom and reason. Not mine, but yours, is the cause. I would prefer to have peaceful days and to be out of this turmoil, but yours, O Lord, is this cause. It is righteous and eternal. Stand by me, you true, eternal God. In no man do I trust. Stand by me, O God, in the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who shall be my defense and shield—yes, my mighty Fortress—through the might and strength of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Driskill

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

People: *Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*

Pastor: though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

People: *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.*

Pastor: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

People: *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.*

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

“A Mighty Fortress”

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God’s own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! His doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs, No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still,
His Kingdom is forever.

Words: Martin Luther, 1529; tr. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; based on Psalm 46.

Music: Martin Luther, 1529.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, who through the death of your Son has destroyed sin and death, and by His resurrection has restored innocence and everlasting life, that we may be delivered from the dominion of the devil, and our mortal bodies raised up from the dead: Grant that we may confidently and whole-heartedly believe this, and, finally, with your saints, share in the joyful resurrection of the just; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

A prayer of Martin Luther, 1483-1546

FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Danny Smith

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE CHURCH

“The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one Foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation, By water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

’Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

Words: Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900). Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876).

SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE CROSS

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Jesus, keep me near the cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
Shed its beams around me.
(Refrain)

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me.
(Refrain)

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river.
(Refrain)

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869. Music: William H. Doane, 1869.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

“For All the Saints”

Instrumental, Brass Quintet

William W. How (1823-1897).

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the LORD be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation such as those above.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Stone

Visitors, please take a moment to fill out the attendance cards located in the pew racks.

You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 20.

Children are dismissed at this time.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Michael Latta

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Philippians 1:9-11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Pastor: All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

People: *The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Isaiah 40:6b, 8

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All who are united in Christ Jesus by faith and are baptized, communing members of His visible Church are invited to come to the Lord's Table. If you are not communing but would like to participate, come forward and fold your hands, and you will receive a prayer of blessing from the server.

Prayer of Confession

*O Lord God, eternal and almighty Father,
we acknowledge and sincerely confess before your holy majesty
that we are miserable sinners, conceived and born in iniquity and sin,
prone to evil, and incapable of any good work,
and that in our depravity we make no end
of breaking your holy commandments.*

*Deign then, O most gracious and most merciful God and Father,
to bestow your mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Daily increase on us the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
that we, from our inner hearts, may become truly repentant,
and that your Holy Spirit may produce in us
the fruits of righteousness and holiness,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

—A prayer of John Calvin, 1509-1564

Assurance of Pardon

Celebrant: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.

—Ephesians 1:7-8

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

ALL: *Amen.*



Apostle's Creed

ALL: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived
by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*



Gloria Patri

ALL: *Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Words: Anonymous, 2nd century. Music: GLORIA PATRI (Charles Meineke, 1844).

Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer of Humble Access

ALL: *We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and
great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your Table,
but you are the same Lord
whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to commemorate in this breaking of bread
the death of your dear son Jesus Christ,
that we may feed on him in our hearts by faith,
and that we may evermore dwell in Him,
and He in us.
Amen.*

Prayer of Consecration

Celebrant: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast and united in ministry with your people in every place.

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

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.*

**If you desire gluten free bread, please walk down the center aisle, either upstairs or down, and the server will provide it accordingly. Congregation will sing the printed hymns during Communion.*

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou my inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Ancient Irish poem, ca. 8th century; tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905;
versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912. Music: Traditional Irish melody.

“Hallelujah, What a Savior”

“Man of Sorrows!” what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Full atonement, can it be?
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die;
“It is finished!” was His cry;
Now in heav’n exalted high:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt.

 **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

 **SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

 **BENEDICTION**

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Children's Worship Information. Following the Sunday morning worship service, parents will find their children attending Children's Worship in the following rooms:

3K - C224 (available for the entire worship hour)

4K - C221 (available for the entire worship hour)

Kindergarten - C221 (dismissed during Passing of the Peace)

1st through 3rd Grades - C316 (dismissed during Passing of the Peace)

New Members' Class. If you would like to join Covenant or would like more information about who we are, please come to our New Members' Class on Sunday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Dining Room (lunch is provided). This is a great time to hear from our pastors about Covenant's beliefs and mission. Please RSVP to Victoria Williams (vwilliams@covpres.com). Nursery care is available by reservation (nursery@covpres.com).

The Persecuted Church. Covenant is cohosting an event entitled "The Persecuted Church" on Saturday, November 4 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at Briarwood in their Fellowship Hall. Topics for the morning include raising awareness, committing to pray, and calling to action. Please register at briarwood.org/persecuted; breakfast will be provided.

Congregational Meeting, November 5. On Sunday, November 5 we will hold a brief congregational meeting immediately following gathered worship to receive our 2018 budget. In the coming weeks you will receive a pledge card for 2018. Please pray about how God is leading you to give of your resources to Covenant in the next year. Pledge Sunday will be November 19.

Communicants' Service, November 5. Our Communicants' Service will be held November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend the service and witness the next generation of Covenant members take their membership vows.

Feast Not Famine. Ladies, join us Thursday, November 9 for Feast Not Famine at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Heather Hagins will be our guest speaker. The cost is \$12 and you can make your reservations at covpres.com/feastnotfamine. Nursery care will be available by emailing nursery@covpres.com.

Chili Cookoff. Our Youth Ministry is hosting their annual Chili Cookoff on Sunday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. in The Pit outside the Youth Area. Please go to covpres.com to sign up to compete. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the chili! The cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 family maximum.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: October 29-November 4, 2017

SUNDAY, October 29

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)
9:00 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)
Children's Worship | 3 years through 3rd grade
10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages
(see page 23 for class details)
5:00 p.m. Sr. and Jr. High Small Groups

MONDAY, October 30

- 8:15 a.m. Women in Prayer (Ingram Link's office, 3rd floor)

TUESDAY, October 31

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Women's Study: Young Mothers Study (E303)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Women's Study: The Book of Romans (Dining Room)

WEDNESDAY, November 1

- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Weekly Prayer Time & Lunch
(Children's Ministry Office; RSVP: ltucker@covpres.com)
5:30-7:15 p.m. kidConnection (3K-6th grades; 3rd floor)
5:30-6:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S103)
6:15-7:15 p.m. Youth Activities (Youth Rooms)
Adult Bible Studies
 - Women's Study: Answering the Big Questions
(Marne Wood, E303)
 - Why the Reformation Matters: How One Stubborn
Monk Continues to Change the World
(Carl Beckwith and Piotr Malysz of Beeson; E201)7:30-9:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, November 2

- 12:00 noon Restoration Academy Lunch featuring Clint Cvacho,
founder and sponsor of the RA Outdoors Club
(register: <https://tinyurl.com/RANovlunch>)

SATURDAY, November 4

- 8:00-11:00 a.m. "The Persecuted Church"
Briarwood's Fellowship Hall
(information/registration: briarwood.org/persecuted)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, October 30-November 4).

FINANCIAL UPDATE *through* October 18, 2017

GENERAL FUND GIVING (181 commitments totaling \$2,306,030)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$2,658,054	\$2,500,579	\$2,610,519

2017 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$109,940)

2017 Operating Reserve: \$224,791

2017 Line of Credit: \$0

FAITH PROMISE GIVING (83 commitments totaling \$187,711)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Funds Disbursed</u>
\$157,531	\$220,321	\$157,531

FAITH PROMISE RESERVE: \$116,970

If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Marty Crawford in the church office or members of the Joint Finance Committee:

Ty Dedmon
Gary Gorham
Merrill Johnston
Mark Miller

Lee Sheppard
Todd Sitton
Darrell Tucker
John Wood

| *The Campaign for Covenant* |

FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

Pledges (252 commitments):

\$3,506,682

Receipts:	\$2,837,746
Funds from sale of building:	<u>\$1,987,385</u>
Total funds provided:	\$4,825,131
Funds used for debt:	<u>(\$1,983,644)</u>
Funds available:	\$2,841,487
Costs to date:	<u>(\$2,655,490)</u>
Net funds available:	\$185,997

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

10:30 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COMMUNITY E305	<i>All ages and life stages</i>
CORNERSTONE S104	<i>30s and 40s</i>
CROSSPOINTE S100	<i>20s and 30s</i>
FOUNDATIONS E304	<i>30s and 40s</i>
LIGHTHOUSE E301	<i>30s and 40s</i>
LIVING STONES E303	<i>40s and 50s</i>
KINGDOM BUILDERS E201	<i>40s, 50s, and 60s</i>
OPEN DOORS S105	<i>70s and above</i>
UPPER ROOM S101	<i>50s, 60s, and 70s</i>
THRESHOLD DINING ROOM	<i>Singles and newly married; 20s and 30s</i>
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	<i>Students grades 7-12</i>

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Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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RULING ELDERS

2017

Paul Loyless
Russell Martin
Mark Miller
Norman Pless
Charlie Regan
Lee Sheppard
Mark Taylor

2018

AC Frese
Eric Getty
John Hamilton
Daniel Murray
Warren Norville
Jason Peevy
Ben Walker
Clay Wheeler
Charles White

2019

Ty Dedmon
Jeff Dyess
Rick Flynn
Heath Henderson
Tom McKnight
John Smith T
Richard Thompson

DEACONS

2017

Lee Baker
Aaron Coffey
Paul Darden
John Gant
Jonathan Gidley
Grant Haines
John James
Stephen Mince
Carey Rome
Steve Stigler

2018

Brandon Bishop
Nathan Collums
John Harrelson
Randall Lancaster
Matt Searson
Patrick Strong
Darrell Tucker

2019

Jim Bennett
Gary Gorham
Keith Harrelson
Jeff Hayes
Steve Killgore
Steve Pfitzer
Brent Powell
John Shank
Todd Sitton
William Slappey
Billy Tapscott

DAILY WORSHIP RESOURCES

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. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • REFORMATION SUNDAY

Morning	Psalms 63, 98	Haggai 1:1-2:9	Luke 10:25-37
Evening	Psalms 103	Acts 18:24-19:7	

MONDAY

Morning	Psalms 41, 52	Zechariah 1:7-17	Matthew 12:43-50
Evening	Psalms 44	Revelation 1:4-20	

TUESDAY

Morning	Psalms 45	Ezra 5:1-17	Matthew 13:1-9
Evening	Psalms 47, 48	Revelation 4:1-11	

WEDNESDAY

Morning	Psalms 119:49-72	Ezra 6:1-22	Matthew 13:10-17
Evening	Psalms 49, 53	Revelation 5:1-10	

THURSDAY

Morning	Psalms 50, 59, 60	Nehemiah 1:1-11	Revelation 5:11-6:11
Evening	Psalms 66, 67	Matthew 13:18-23	Revelation 19:1-10

FRIDAY

Morning	Psalms 40, 54	Nehemiah 2:1-20	Matthew 13:24-30
Evening	Psalms 51	Revelation 6:12-7:4	

SATURDAY

Morning	Psalms 55	Nehemiah 4:1-23	Matthew 13:31-35
Evening	Psalms 138, 139	Revelation 7:4-17	

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Morning	Psalms 24, 29	Nehemiah 5:1-19	Luke 12:22-31
Evening	Psalms 8, 84	Acts 20:7-12	

