# The Lord's Day in Worship

#### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thanksgiving Sunday November 19, 2017

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday, and we lift up our hearts to Almighty God to thank Him for His great, unceasing mercies to us. Our second hymn this morning is one written by Pastor Martin Rinkart in 1636 in Eilenberg, Germany, in the midst of the Thirty Years War. During this tragic conflict, Eilenberg was besieged and invaded on many occasions. In one year, Pastor Rinkart conducted funerals for 5,000 people, including his wife. His faithful resolve to thank God in every circumstance has inspired God's people for centuries. Today in Germany, Rinkart's "Now Thank We All Our God" is one of the most widely sung hymns, second only to "A Mighty Fortress."

"A thankful heart is one of the primary identifying characteristics of a believer. It stands in stark contrast to pride, selfishness, and worry. And it helps fortify the believer's trust in the Lord and reliance of His provision, even in the toughest times. No matter how choppy the seas become, a believer's heart is buoyed by constant praise and gratefulness to the Lord."

—John MacArthur

"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor."

—George Washington

{ **GATHERED WORSHIP:** The Triune God Renews His People }

# **CALL TO WORSHIP**

## David Driskill

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; Pastor:

People: make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him; Pastor:

**People:** tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name; Pastor:

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! ALL:

Psalm 105:1-3

# **MATHEMATICAL PROPERTY OF INVITATION**

"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home; All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin. God, our Maker doth provide For our wants to be supplied; Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield; Wheat and tares together sown Unto joy or sorrow grown; First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his harvest home; From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away, Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast; But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, To thy final harvest home; Gather thou thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin, There, forever purified, In thy presence to abide; Come, with all thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

Words: Henry Alford, 1810-1871. Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893.

# **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right for us to do so.

Pastor: We indeed give thanks unto You, Holy Father

for the beauty of Your Creation and the wonder

of Your redeeming love. Our praises shall never cease

for Your Fatherly care and tender mercies

toward each one of us;

wherefore we all bow in humble gratitude

and return unto You the worship due Your Name,

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

## **READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Margaret Ann Pyburn

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." <sup>14</sup> When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

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

## M HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

"Now Thank We All Our God"



Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858. Music: Johann Cruger, 1647; harmonization by J.S. Bach (1685-1750).

# **MREADING FROM THE PROPHETS**

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

19 God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

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

## M HYMN OF TRUST

"Though Troubles Assail Us"

Though troubles assail us, and dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail us and foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us, whatever betide,
The promise assures us, "The lord will provide."

The birds, without garner or storehouse, are fed; From them let us learn to trust God for our bread. His saints what is fitting shall ne'er be denied So long as 'tis written, "The Lord will provide"

When Satan assails us to stop up our path,
And courage all fails us, we triumph by faith.
He cannot take from us, though oft he has tried,
This heart-cheering promise, "The Lord will provide."

No strength of our own, and no goodness we claim; Yet, since we have known of the Savior's great name, In this our strong tower for safety we hide: The Lord is our power, "The Lord will provide."

Words: John Newton, 1779. Music: Joanna (St. Denio) 1839.

# **GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS**

"God So Loved the World" *Chancel Choir* 

God so loved the world
That he gave his only begotten son
That who so believeth in him
Should not perish but have everlasting life.

Words: John 3:16. Music: Bob Chilcott.

# **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.

# **MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hollye Stigler

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

John Hamilton

## **READING FROM THE EPISTLES**

Philippians 2:1-4

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

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 stands forever.

Isaiah 40:6b, 8

# **MESSAGE**

"THE GREATEST BATTLE OF YOUR LIFE"
SANDY WILLSON

### 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.

This morning, we especially welcome to the table our new communing members:

Ella Kathryn Bishop Michael Chavar Cannon Gregory Cherry Wiley Burton Cooper Kate Darden Cotton Benjamin Vaughan Evans Caleb Barnard Flores Hannah Elizabeth Gidley Lankford Catherine Gurner William Fred Martin V Libby Nailen Hilary Louis Rome Evelyn Grace Squires Henry Martin Smith Lee Loftin Sheppard, Jr. Andrew Charles Wilson

Please bring your commitment card forward during communion and place it in the baskets provided.

## **Prayer of Confession**

ALL: Almighty and gracious God,
to humble Himself for our salvation,
and Who has called us to walk in His lowly steps,
we confess that we have failed to imitate Him,
but rather have sought to place ourselves above others
and have ungratefully spent Your gifts on ourselves rather than others.
Please forgive us for our pride and selfishness,
and restore in us the desire and power to do your will,
all for the glory of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ,
in Whose Name we pray, Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor: "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

-Isaiah 1:18

Dearly beloved of God, in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

**ALL:** Glory be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. 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.

# "Come, Thou Almighty King"



Words: Anonymous, 1797. Music: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796).

# **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**

Pastor:

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.

<sup>\*</sup>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

## "O Great God"

O great God of highest heaven,
Occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
Conquer every rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
That resist Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin,
Had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
Had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life,
Opened up Your Word to me,
Through the gospel or Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life
That's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
From the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
With my every thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
Glorify Your Name through me

Words and Music: CCLI Song #4804015. Bob Kauflin. ©2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (IMI)).

# "Oh How Good It Is"

Oh how good it is When the family of God Dwells together in spirit, In faith, and unity. Where the bonds of peace, Of acceptance, and love Are the fruit of His presence Here among us.

#### Chorus:

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out His word,
Till the whole earth sees The Redeemer has come,
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is On this journey we share,
To rejoice with the happy And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, The afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing Of belonging.
(Chorus)

Oh how good it is To embrace His command, To prefer one another, Forgive as He forgives. When we live as one, We all share in the love Of the Son with the Father And the Spirit. (Chorus)

Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty.

# **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

# **SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, The Son and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven, The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



#### 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)

**VIBRANT Event.** In partnership with Cahaba Park, Covenant is hosting VIBRANT today from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Featuring music from Adam Wright and The Corner Room and art from Wellon Bridgers, this event pairs live painting with the musical settings of hymns and Scripture.

**Gospel Manhood.** Men, our next Gospel Manhood lunch is this Thursday, November 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sandy Willson be speaking on "The Man and His Country."

**Sunday, November 26.** On Sunday morning, November 26 we will not meet for our Sunday School hour. Please join us for gathered worship at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Congretional Meeting | All-Adult Sunday School.** On December 3, we will have a Congregational Meeting and All-Adult Sunday School to approve the slate of new church officers and to hear from our Session on the progress that has been made with our Strategic Vision Committee.

**Christmas in Fairfield.** Christmas in Fairfield is a unique ministry, in partnership with Hope Health Clinic, that provides clothing for children in need and parents an opportunity to shop for and purchase toys for their children at reduced and affordable prices. There are several ways that you and your family can be involved before the event and at the shop on December 8. Please visit our information tables or covpres.com/fairfieldchristmas for more information.

**Lovelady Dinner & Concert.** Mark your calendars for December 12 to spend the evening with the women of the Lovelady Center. This annual event is a great time of food, fun, and music! Our musical guests this year will be Act of Congress. Please visit covpres.com/lovelady to find out how you can be involved in this special night.

# THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: November 19-25, 2017

**SUNDAY, November 19** 

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)

3:30-5:00 p.m. VIBRANT (Fellowship Hall) 5:00 p.m. Sr. and Jr. High Small Groups

**MONDAY, November 20** 

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

6:00-7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S103)

**TUESDAY, November 21** Women's Study: Young Mothers Study (E303)

9:30-10:30 a.m. Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Women's Study: The Book of Romans (Dining Room)
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Gospel Manhood: "The Man and His Country," Sandy Willson

11:30 am.-12:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

**THURSDAY, November 23** 

& FRIDAY, November 24 Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

# FINANCIAL UPDATE through October 31, 2017

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

<u>Budget</u> <u>Receipts</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$2,782,672 \$2,642,596 \$2,715,356

2017 Operating Surplus/(Deficit): (\$72,760)

2017 Operating Reserve: \$261,971

2017 Line of Credit: \$0

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

<u>Budget</u> <u>Funds Received</u> <u>Funds Disbursed</u>

\$172,381 \$225,506 \$172,381

FAITH PROMISE RESERVE: \$107,305

Pledges (252 commitments):

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

Ty Dedmon Lee Sheppard
Gary Gorham Todd Sitton
Merrill Johnston Darrell Tucker
Mark Miller John Wood

The Campaign for Covenant

# FAITHFUL over a LITTLE

\$3,506,682

Receipts:	\$2,843,764
Funds from sale of building:	<u>\$1,987,385</u>
Total funds provided:	\$4,831,149
Funds used for debt:	(\$1,983,644)
Funds available:	\$2,847,505
Costs to date:	(\$2,665,490)
Net funds available:	\$182,015

# SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

#### 10:30 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

**COMMUNITY** | E305 All ages and life stages

**CORNERSTONE** | S104 30s and 40s

**CROSSPOINTE** | S100 20s and 30s

**FOUNDATIONS** | E304 30s and 40s

**LIGHTHOUSE** | E301 30s and 40s

**LIVING STONES** | E303 40s and 50s

**KINGDOM BUILDERS** | E201 40s, 50s, and 60s

**OPEN DOORS** | S105 70s and above

**UPPER ROOM** | S101 *50s, 60s, and 70s* 

**THRESHOLD** | DINING ROOM Singles and newly married;

20s and 30s

**YOUTH** | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12



# CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

# SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT

December 3, 10, 17, & 24\*
Gathered Worship • 9:00 a.m.

## CHORAL ADVENT VESPERS

December 3 • 6:00 p.m.

A special evening worship service featuring "The Straight Highway," a presentation from our Chancel and Children's Choirs.

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT COVENANT

Family Candlelight Service • 4:30 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service • 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 31\*
Gathered Worship • 9:00 a.m.

\*No Sunday School

### STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator

David Driskill. Director of Ministries

Dan Edwards, Pastor to Children and Families

Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries

Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor

mcrawford@covpres.com

ddriskill@covpres.com

dedwards@covpres.com

ilink@covpres.com

swillson@covpres.com

#### MINISTRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Musical Arts

Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries

Austin Braasch, Student Ministries Intern

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production

Meg Cotney, Financial Secretary

Tyler Cuidon, Technical Director

Rachel Davis. Assistant Director of Girls Ministries

Katie Flores, Director of Pre-School Ministries

Phyllis Hamm, Assistant to Director of Ministries

Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus

Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor

Sara Litten, Director of Girls Ministries

Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media

Traci Parker, Director of Food Services

Tyrone Perry, Facilities Manager

Brooke Stewart, Covenant Day School Director

Karan Stuart, Receptionist

Laura Tucker, Ministry Assistant, Children & Families

Victoria Williams, Pastoral Assistant

rbarnes@covpres.com

jbennett@covpres.com

jabraasch129@gmail.com

kcaldwell@covpres.com

mcotney@covpres.com

tyler.cuidon@gmail.com

shields.rachel.c@gmail.com

kflores@covpres.com

phamm@covpres.com

bhay@covpres.com

koliver@covpres.com

slitten@covpres.com

sloyless@covpres.com

tparker@covpres.com

tperry@covpres.com

bstewart@covpres.com

kstuart@covpres.com

ltucker@covpres.com

vwilliams@covpres.com

## **RULING ELDERS**

2017 2018 2019
Paul Loyless AC Frese Ty Dedmon

Russell Martin Eric Getty Jeff Dyess
Mark Miller John Hamilton Rick Flynn

Norman Pless Daniel Murray Heath Henderson
Charlie Regan Warren Norville Tom McKnight
Lee Sheppard Jason Peevy John Smith T

Mark Taylor Ben Walker Richard Thompson

Clay Wheeler

Charles White

#### **DEACONS**

2017 2018 2019

Lee BakerBrandon BishopJim BennettAaron CoffeyNathan CollumsGary GorhamPaul DardenJohn HarrelsonKeith Harrelson

John GantRandall LancasterJeff HayesJonathan GidleyMatt SearsonSteve KillgoreGrant HainesPatrick StrongSteve PfitzerJohn JamesDarrell TuckerBrent Powell

Stephen Mince John Shank
Carey Rome Todd Sitton

Steve Stigler 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 • THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Morning	Psalm 66, 67	1 Chronicles 14:1-17	Luke 16:1-13
Evening	Psalm 19, 46	Acts 28:14b-23	

#### MONDAY

Morning	Psalm 89:1-18	1 Chronicles 15:1-29	Matthew 17:1-13
Evening	Psalm 89:19-52	Revelation 20:7-15	

#### **TUESDAY**

Morning	Psalm 97, 99, 100	1 Chronicles 16:7-36	Matthew 17:14-21
Evening	Psalm 94 95	Revelation 21:1-8	

#### **WEDNESDAY**

Morning	Psalm 101, 109	1 Chronicles 20:1-8	Matthew 17:22-27
Evening	Psalm 119:121-144	Revelation 21:9-21	

#### **THURSDAY**

Morning	Psalm 105:1-22	1 Chronicles 21:1-27	Matthew 18:1-9
Evening	Psalm 105:23-45	Revelation 21:22-22:5	

#### **FRIDAY**

Morning	Psalm 102	1 Chronicles 22:1-19	Matthew 18:10-20
Evening	Psalm 107:1-32	Revelation 22:6-13	

#### **SATURDAY**

Morning	Psalm 107:33-43, 108	Isaiah 65:17-25	Matthew 18:21-35

## Evening Psalm 33 Revelation 22:14-21

#### SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY • TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Morning	Psalm 118	Isaiah 19:19-25	Luke 19:11-27
Evening	Psalm 145	Romans 15:5-13	