

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"From whence does this interest in Hagar's origins spring? It has been pointed out by several commentators that in Sarai's oppression of the Egyptian slave-girl there is a foreshadowing of Israel's Exodus experience—only in reverse. This seems very probable. Yet it seems to me that there is also another theme at work here. Briefly put, this theme is the continuing contrast between the apparent prosperity and fruitfulness of Egypt compared with the apparent barrenness of the Promised Land."

—Iain Duguid

"Self-love is, no doubt, the usual foundation of human jealousy... the fear lest another should by any means supplant us."

—Charles Spurgeon

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

—Psalm 34:18

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 68:4-6

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;

*ALL: his name is the LORD;
exult before him!*

Leader: Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

*ALL: God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.*

 **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

 Congregation stand as able.

 **HYMNS OF ADORATION**

"O Father, You Are Sovereign"

O Father, You are sovereign
In all the worlds You made;
Your mighty Word was spoken,
And light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons
And bounds the ocean's shore,
Set stars within their courses
And stills the tempests' roar.

O Father, You are sovereign
In all affairs of man;
No powers of death or darkness
Can thwart Your perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending,
Supreme in time and space,
You hold Your trusting children
Secure in Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign
The Lord of human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows
To gold of heav'nly gain,
All evil overruling,
As none but Conq'ror could,
Your love pursues its purpose—
Our souls' eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign!
We see You dimly now,
But soon before Your triumph
Earth's every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us
Our faith springs up anew:
Our Sovereign Lord and Savior,
We trust and worship You!

Words: Margaret Clarkson. Music: Melchior Teschner, ca. 1615 (ST THEODULPH).

 "Be Still My Soul"

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on,
When we shall be forever with the Lord;
When disappointment, fear, and grief are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joy restored;
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Words: Kathrina von Schlegel, translated by Jane Borthwick. Music: FINLANDIA,
Jean Sibelius.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5:5-6

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful Father in heaven,
We naturally recoil at meekness:
humility, gentleness, honest self-assessment,
And we sinfully exalt ourselves over others
And protect our sinful hearts with hurtful words and harmful actions.
Forgive us, Lord, and make us like Jesus,
who himself was meek and lowly in heart.
We also confess that we daily hunger and thirst for
approval of man, for wealth and security, and for the ease of life.
Forgive us, and enable us to hunger and thirst for sanctification,
to be holy as you are holy,
because in your grace you satisfy such desires with yourself.
In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"My Worth is Not in What I Own"

verses 1 & 2



1. My worth is not in what I own,
2. My worth is not in skill or name,



not in the strength of flesh and bone,
in win or lose, in pride or shame,



but in the cost-ly wounds of love at the cross. *(to verse 2)*
but in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

(to refrain)

Refrain:



I re-joice in my Re-deem-er, great-est Treas-ure, well spring



of my soul. I will trust in Him, no oth-er, my soul is



sa-tis-fied in Him a-lone.

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Graham Kendrick ©2014 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) / Makeaway Music (Admin by musicservices.org).

 **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

—2 Chronicles 7:14

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.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

 **GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS**

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Congregational Hymn

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh for grace to trust Him more!

Oh how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!
(Refrain)

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.
(Refrain)

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior friend;
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.
(Refrain)

Words: Louisa M. R. Stead, 1882. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882.

☒ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.
And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 19 for all of our Ministry Announcements. Please fill out the attendance sheet provided with your worship guide and leave it in your pew or at your table.

Children's Worship. Children ages 3 years old (by 9/1/2020) through Kindergarten sitting in the Fellowship Hall are invited to Children's Worship during the Passing of the Peace. Children will walk with staff to C222, C223, or C224, and staff will then walk children back to the Fellowship Hall, prior to the benediction, to join their parents.

Enfold Disability Ministry. Our church seeks to embrace and enfold people affected by disability. Please let an usher know how we can support and accommodate your needs during worship.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

SHEPHERDING ELDERS AND WOMEN'S SHEPHERDING TEAM

by Sunday School Community

COMMUNITY

AC Frese, Brenda Hembree

CORNERSTONE

Will Brooke, Ty Dedmon,

Heath Henderson, Jason Peevy,

Kurt Senn, Mark Taylor,

Maggie Brooke, Alieta Casey,

Kate Graham, Ashley Senn

CROSSPOINTE

Bill Bennett, Daniel Murray,

Bob Schaffeld, Lee Sheppard,

Sarah Allen, Kem Bennett

Cary Murray, Carol Schaffeld

FOUNDATIONS

Paul Loyless, Clay Wheeler,

Leslie Brooks, Kate Wheeler

KINGDOM BUILDERS

Rick Flynn, John Hamilton,

Charlie Logan, David O'Dell,

Norman Pless, Sandy Stradtman,

Ben Walker, Martha Bailey,

Connie Edwards, Sissy Flynn,

Kathy Girardeau, Lauren Hayes,

Lynne Jenkins, Eva Shank

LIGHTHOUSE

Bryan Balogh, Michael Latta,

Tom McKnight, Richard Thompson,

Charles White, Tricia Prather,

Barbara Thompson, Mary White

LIVING STONES

Jeff Dyess, Mark Hogewood,

John James, Robert Luttrell,

Charlie Regan, John Smith T,

Jessica Dyess, Catherine Hogewood,

Ashley Mince

OPEN DOORS

Warren Norville

THRESHOLD

Nathan Collums, Eric Getty,

Steve Stigler, Emily Getty,

Kristi Gidley, Misty Powell,

Hollye Stigler

UPPER ROOM

Win Jones, Henry Kendall,

John Wood, Joan Kendall,

Mary Williamson

Genesis 16

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ²And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!” ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. ⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” ¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” ¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her,

“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

¹²He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

¹³So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.”

¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh

and Bered. ¹⁵And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

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 GRACE

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"



1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.
 2. What truth can calm the troub- led soul? God is good, God is good.
 3. Un - to the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"



What is our on - ly con - fi - dence? That our souls to Him be - long.
 Where is His grace and good - ness known? In our great Re - deem - er's blood.
 and what re - ward will heav - en bring? Ev - er - last - ing life with Him.



Who holds our days with - in His hand? What comes a - part from His com mand?
 Who holds our faith when fears a - rise? Who stands a - bove the storm - y trial?
 There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be de stroyed,



And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in which we stand. —
 Who sends the waves that bring us nigh un - to the shore, the rock of Christ? —
 and we will feast in end less joy, when Christ is ours for - ev - er - more. —

Refrain:



O sing Ha - le - lu - jah! Our hope springs e - ter - nal;



O sing ha - le - lu - jah! Now and ev - er we con - fess



Christ our hope in life and death.

Words: Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Matt Papa ©2020 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) / Messenger Hymns (BMI) / Jordan Kauflin Music (BMI) / Matthew Merker Music (BMI) / Getty Music Hymns and Songs (ASCAP) / Love Your Enemies Publishing (ASCAP) / adm at MusicServices.org CCLI #7147502.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: January 31 - February 6, 2021**SUNDAY, January 31**

8:15 a.m.	Gathered Worship
10:30 a.m.	Gathered Worship
5:00-6:30 p.m.	9th-12th Grade Small Groups

MONDAY, February 1

8:15 a.m.	Women's Prayer Time (Zoom; covpres.com/womens-ministry)
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TUESDAY, February 2

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Women's Study: Esther, The Hidden Hand of God (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, February 3

5:00-6:00 p.m.	6th Grade Small Groups
6:00-7:30 p.m.	7th-8th Grade Small Groups
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Gospel-Centered Sexuality (Fellowship Hall)

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (John Fountain, February 1-7).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Studies. Our Esther study and Divine Design Discipleship begin this Tuesday, February 2. Each study will be socially distanced with the Divine Design Discipleship teaching time in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. and the Esther teaching time in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Please visit covpres.com/womens-ministry for all the details.

Scripture Memory. Our pastors are asking each person in our congregation to memorize Psalm 68:4-6 during this season after Epiphany. We will use these verses in our worship services over the next few months, and we ask that you spend time learning these words and "laying them up in your heart and in your soul" (Deuteronomy 11:18).

Sunday School Podcast. Our weekly Sunday School podcasts from the Gospel of Matthew can be accessed through iTunes (search for "Covenant Presbyterian Church") and at covpres.com/see-hear/audio. This week's lesson features Josh Johnson and Walt Davis, RUF Pastor (Samford) discussing Matthew 7.

Women's Ministry Event. Co-sponsored by Covenant's Women's Ministry and Samford's Legacy League, Susan Yates, best-selling author and international speaker, will be speaking at Covenant on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Susan will be speaking on "Finding Hope in Uncertain Times." In order to follow our COVID protocols, seating is limited for this event, and you must purchase a ticket (\$15). Visit samford.edu/legacyleague for more information and to purchase tickets.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

COLLEGE | COMMONS

College students

CROSSPOINTE | S100

Young families; 30s

THRESHOLD | E304

*Singles and young marrieds;
20s and 30s*

(Pastor: Josh Johnson)

COMMUNITY | E305

All ages and life stages

OPEN DOORS | S105

70s and above

UPPER ROOM | S101

60s and 70s

(Pastor: Marty Crawford)

CORNERSTONE | S104

30s and 40s

FOUNDATIONS | DINING ROOM

30s and 40s

LIGHTHOUSE | E301

30s and 40s

(Pastor: David Driskill)

LIVING STONES | E303

40s and 50s

KINGDOM BUILDERS | E201

50s and 60s

(Pastor: Dan Edwards)

YOUTH | YOUTH AREA

Students grades 7-12

(Pastor: John Fountain)

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
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Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

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

RULING ELDERS

2021

Eric Getty

Daniel Murray

Warren Norville

Sandy Stradtman

Clay Wheeler

2022

Ty Dedmon

John Hamilton

Mark Hogewood

John James

David O'Dell

Norman Pless

Kurt Senn

2023

Will Brooke

Nathan Collums

Jeff Dyess

Michael Latta

Charlie Logan

Bob Schaffeld

John Smith T

Steve Stigler

DEACONS

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

2023

Tripp Alexander

Joseph Cascio

Richard Cox

Jay Evans

Bryan Flores

Gary Gorham

Jeff Hayes

John Shults

Joe Strickland

Darrell Tucker

STEERING COMMITTEE

Will Brooke, Member At-large

Nathan Collums, Family Ministry Chair

Marty Crawford, Pastoral Liaison (Missions)

Ty Dedmon, Shepherding Ministry Chair

David Driskill, Pastoral Liaison (Shepherding)

John Fountain, Pastoral Liaison (Family)

Michael Latta, Clerk of the Session

Ingram Link, Ministry Liaison (Women)

Stephen Mince, Chair of the Diaconate

John Shank, Finance Committee Chair

Lee Sheppard, Personnel Committee Chair

John Smith T, Assistant Clerk of the Session

Steve Stigler, Missions Ministry Chair

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. You can use them along with the readings, prayers, and hymns from your worship guide each week.

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 2021.

JANUARY READING PLAN

	GENESIS	MATTHEW
1	□ 1-3	□ 1
2/3	□ 4-8	□ 2-3
4	□ 9-11	□ 4
5	□ 12-14	□ 5
6	□ 15-17	□ 6
7	□ 18-20	□ 7
8	□ 21-23	□ 8
9/10	□ 24-28	□ 9
11	□ 29-30	□ 10
12	□ 31-32	□ 11:1-19
13	□ 33-34	□ 11:20-30
14	□ 35-36	□ 12
15	□ 37-38	□ 13:1-23
16/17	□ 39-44	□ 13:24-58
18	□ 45-46	□ 14:1-21
19	□ 47	□ 14:22-36
20	□ 48-49	□ 15:1-28
21	□ 50-Exodus 1	□ 15:29-16:4
	EXODUS	
22	□ 2-4	□ 16:5-28
23/24	□ 5-8	□ 17
25	□ 9-10	□ 18:1-20
26	□ 11-12	□ 18:21-35
27	□ 13-16	□ 19:1-15
28	□ 17-19	□ 19:16-30
29	□ 20-22	□ 20:1-16
30/31	□ 23-26	□ 20:17-21:32

