The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Season of the Trinity August 19, 2018

Nothing is a surprise to God; nothing is a setback to His plans; nothing can thwart His purposes; and nothing is beyond His control. His sovereignty is absolute. Everything that happens is uniquely ordained by God. Sovereignty is a weighty thing to ascribe to the nature and character of God. Yet if He were not sovereign, He would not be God. The Bible is clear that God is in control of everything that happens.

—Joni Eareckson Tada

When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head.

— C.H. Spurgeon

"God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass..."

—Westminster Confession of Faith, III, i

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me. It was not I that found, O Savior true; no, I was found of thee.

Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea. 'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee! For thou wert long beforehand with my soul; always thou lovedst me.

—Anonymous

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Driskill

M HYMN OF PRAISE

"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, Sets stars within their courses And stills the tempest's 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).

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE PSALMS

Kim Killgore

(Congregational responses are italicized.)

Psalm 135:1-7

Praise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;

sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

M CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"All Creatures of our God and King"

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, allelu...
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225; tr. by William H. Draper, 1926.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN.

M PRAYER OF ADORATION

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

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

◯ SONG OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"Isaiah 43"



God;__ the Ho-ly One of Is - ra-el, your Sav - ior!___



GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone" Rachel Barlotta, Soloist

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view.

The work which His goodness began,
The arm of His strength will complete;
His promise is yea and amen,
And never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now,
Not all things below nor above
Can make Him His purpose forego,
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands
Eternity will not erase;
Impressed on His heart it remains
In marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure,
As sure as the earnest is given.
More happy, but not more secure,
The glorified spirits in heaven.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778); Bob Kauflin. Music: Bob Kauflin. ©1998 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI).

M PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors and members, please take a moment to fill out the pew pad. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 20.

Children are dismissed at this time.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Bill Bennett

M READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

All flesh is like grass,

And all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flowers fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

MESSAGE

"FROM ALL ETERNITY"
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.

The congregation will read aloud the portions that are *italicized*.

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth and all that in them is, Who sustains all things by Your power, Who has, from all eternity, freely elected a people to be Your own, and Who will bring all creation to its intended end, we acknowledge with grief and sorrow that we have thought too little of You and too much of ourselves: we have failed to worship, serve, and trust You as we ought; we have relied upon our own selfish passions, rather than submitting to Your will.

Please forgive us,

and renew our hearts that we may humbly bow before Your Majesty and bring glory to Your holy Name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Massurance of Pardon

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-more than that, who was raised-who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

-Romans 8:31-34

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.

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.

◯ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise Him, all creatures here below Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen

Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Music: Old 100th; Genevan Psalter, 1551 Edition; attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561.

Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer of Humble Access

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 and the Lord's Prayer

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:

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.

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

Congregation, please sing the Hymns for the Eucharist during Communion.

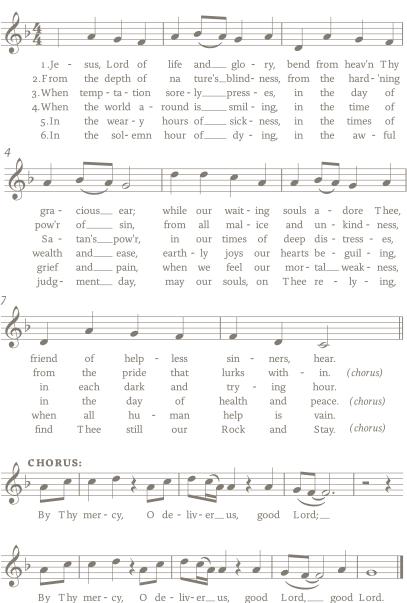
"Whate'er My God Ordains is Right"





Words: Samuel Rodigast. Music: David Braud. ©1998 David Braud Music.

"By Thy Mercy"



Words: James John Cummins. Music: Greg Thompson.

M PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

B GLORIA PATRI

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.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: August 19-25, 2018

SUNDAY, August 19

8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages (see page 22)

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

Children's Worship | 3K through 2nd grade

12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting

to accept the slate of officers from the Nominating Committee

12:15 p.m. Youth Small Group Leaders Lunch (Youth Rooms)

5:00 p.m. Congregational Prayer

MONDAY, August 20

6:00 p.m. Mother's Day Out Orientation (Nursery Floor)

TUESDAY, August 21

10:30-11:30 a.m. Covenant Day School Meet-the-Teacher

(come and go)

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 & 4K • C221 (available for the entire worship hour) **Kindergarten • C221** (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace) **1st - 2nd Grade • C316** (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)

Congregational Meeting. This morning we will have a meeting to vote to accept the slate of officer nominations from the Nominating Committee. Please remain in the Sanctuary for this meeting.

Congregational Prayer. Our next congregational prayer time is August 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome to come and pray for Covenant!

Reconciliation Service. On Sunday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. we will hold a worship service focused on reconciliation. All communing members of Covenant are encouraged to attend.

College Ministry Opportunities. Josh Johnson, is reaching out to college students in Birmingham and inviting them to Covenant. We would like to include the Covenant family in this ministry as well. We are looking for families to "adopt" a student and take the initiative to reach out to them for a meal, a hang out, or just invite them over to do laundry. You can also volunteer to host larger events in your home, such as game nights and group dinners. Please contact Josh if you are interested (jjohnson@covpres.com).

Women's & Men's Ministries. Our women's Bible studies kick off in September. We have several opportunities, both morning and evening, and you can find all the details at covpres.com/upcoming-events. Gospel Manhood begins September 18 with guest speaker Randy Pope of Perimeter Church in Georgia.

Lighthouse Family Retreat 2019. Are you looking for a domestic mission trip for Spring Break or summer 2019? Lighthouse exists to strengthen families living through childhood cancer, and their retreats help families find respite and hope in God. As a retreat volunteer, you (and your family) would come alongside a family and serve them by making beds, doing laundry, and preparing/serving meals—basically being the hands and feet of Christ! Join other Birmingham churches at Covenant to hear about the Spring Break trip (March 24-30, 2019), and the Summer trip (July 2019) at an informational meeting on Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. in room E201. If you have any questions, please contact Clay or Kate Wheeler (claywheeler99@gmail.com; katewheeler24@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAYS@COVENANT

Fall Session: September 5 - November 14*

Join your Covenant family each week for a time of food, fellowship, and study. Like any family, we need to spend time together, check in with each other, and break bread together. As we study God's word and pray with each other, this midweek time plays an important role in our growth as a church family. We have something for everyone!

SCHEDULE

5:15-5:45 p.m. 40 Days of Prayer

5:30-6:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

serving lines remain open until 6:00; \$6/adult, \$4/child with a \$25 family max

5:30-7:15 p.m. Nursery Activities

(infants through 2 year olds; Nursery Level)

kidConnection**

(3 year olds through 6th grade; 3rd Floor)

6:15-7:15 p.m. Youth Activities (7th-12th grades; Youth Rooms)

Chancel Choir (first rehearsal August 29, S103)***

Adult Bible Studies

Believing & Living the Gospel:

Six Weeks to Sane Thinking, Julie Sparkman Ethical Living, Sandy Willson & David Driskill

Sharing the Gospel:

Evangelism & Apologetics, Josh Johnson Ministry and Committee Meetings (as needed)

*no activities October 31, 2018 **dinner included, please register at covpres.com ***rehearsal begins at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE DINING ROOM*	College students
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	60s and 70s
THRESHOLD DINING ROOM	Singles and newly married; 20s and 30s
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	Students grades 7-12

^{*}The college class meets at 12:00 p.m. and includes lunch.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator mcrawford@covpres.com
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor ddriskill@covpres.com
Dan Edwards, Pastor to Children and Families dedwards@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries ilink@covpres.com
Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor swillson@covpres.com

MINISTRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rick Barnes. Director of Musical Arts rbarnes@covpres.com Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries jbennett@covpres.com Austin Braasch, Student Ministries Intern jabraasch129@gmail.com Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production kcaldwell@covpres.com Meg Cotney, Financial Secretary mcotney@covpres.com Tyler Cuidon, Technical Director tyler.cuidon@gmail.com Rachel Davis. Assistant Director of Girls Ministries shields.rachel.c@gmail.com Katie Flores, Director of Pre-School Ministries kflores@covpres.com John Fountain, Director of Youth Ministry ifountain@covpres.com Phyllis Hamm. Ministry Assistant phamm@covpres.com Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus bhay@covpres.com Josh Johnson, Director of Young Adults ijohnson@covpres.com Sara Litten. Director of Girls Ministries slitten@covpres.com Stacev Lovless. Director of Communications and Media sloyless@covpres.com Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor koliver@covpres.com Traci Parker. Director of Food Services tparker@covpres.com Tyrone Perry, Facilities Manager tperry@covpres.com Brooke Stewart, Covenant Day School Director bstewart@covpres.com Karan Stuart. Receptionist kstuart@covpres.com Laura Tucker, Ministry Assistant, Children & Families ltucker@covpres.com Victoria Williams, Administrative Assistant vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

2018 2019 2020 AC Frese Ty Dedmon Bill Bennett Eric Getty Jeff Dyess Will Brooke John Hamilton Rick Flynn Michael Latta Daniel Murray Heath Henderson Charlie Logan Warren Norville Tom McKnight Paul Loyless Jason Peevy John Smith T Bob Schaffeld Ben Walker Richard Thompson Lee Sheppard Clay Wheeler Steve Stigler Charles White Mark Taylor

John Wood

DEACONS

2018 2020 2019 Brandon Bishop Tripp Alexander Jim Bennett Paul Darden Nathan Collums Garv Gorham Jay Evans John Harrelson Keith Harrelson Bryan Flores Randall Lancaster Jeff Haves Matt Searson John Gant Steve Killgore John David Gray Patrick Strong Steve Pfitzer Darrell Tucker Marty Martin Brent Powell **Bud Miller** John Shank Tyler O'Connor Todd Sitton John Shults William Slappey Danny Smith Billy Tapscott Robert Stephens Clark Worrell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Darden	Keith Harrelson	Nancy Pless
Jeff Dyess	Randall Lancaster	Clyde Prather
Dave Driskill (Pastoral Liaison)	Michael Latta	Joe Strickland
Will Gurner	Kate McKnight	Barbara Thompson
John Hamilton	Mary T Miller	

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 2018.

AUGUST READING PLAN

	PSALMS	ROMANS
1	□ 65-67	□ 2
2	□ 68-69	□ 3
3	□ 70-72	□ 4
4/5	□ 73-74	□ 5
6	□ 75-76	□ 6
7	□ 77-79	□ 7
8	□ 80-84	□8
9	□ 85-87	□ 9:1-10:4
10	□ 88-89	□ 10:5-21
11/12	□ 90-95	□ 11
13	□ 96-98	□ 12
14	□ 99-101	□ 13
15	□ 102-104	□ 14
16	□ 105-106	□ 15:1-21
17	□ 107-108	□ 15:22-33
18/19	□ 109-112	□ 16-1 Corinthians 1
		1 CORINTHIANS
20	□ 113-115	□ 2
21	□ 116-119:48	□ 3
22	□ 119:49-104	□ 4
23	□ 119:105-176	□ 5
24	□ 120-123	□ 6
25/26	□ 124-129	□ 7
27	□ 130-133	□ 8
28	□ 134-137	□ 9
29	□ 138-141	□ 10:1-22
30	□ 142-144	□ 10:23-11:1
31	□ 145-147	□ 11:2-16