The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thanksgiving Sunday November 24, 2019

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

...the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

...In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

—Abraham Lincoln, 1863

◯ CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Crawford

M HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

"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 the 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, 1844. Music St. GEORGE'S WINDSOR (Elvey).

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Taylor Brown

Exodus 16:1-8

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks he to God.

© CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Now Thank We All Our God"





Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858. Music: Johann Cruger, 1647.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

1 Corinthians 10:1-11

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

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

SONG OF GUIDANCE

"Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O, Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty, Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand; Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me 'til I want no more, Feed me 'til I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Bear me thro' the swelling current, Land me safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

Words: William Williams, 1745. Music: John Hughes, 1907.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Jesus Thank You"

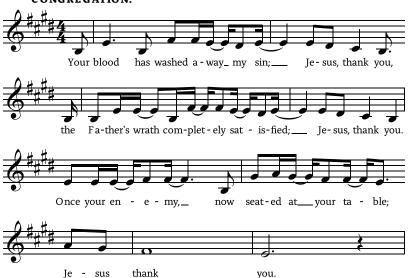
Liz Richardson (soloist), Chancel Choir, and Congregation

Soloist

1.The myst'ry of the cross, I cannot comprehend; The agonies of C alvary.

You, the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

CONGREGATION:



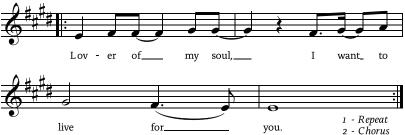
Soloist

2. By the perfect sacrifice I've been brought near; Your enemy You've made Your friend. Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace, Your mercy and Your kindness know no end. (chorus with congregation)

Soloist

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You Lover of my soul, I want to live for You...

CONGREGATION:



Words and Music: Pat Sczebel (CCLI #4475341).

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.

Children's Worship Information:

Children ages 3 to 4 may attend Children's Worship for the entire worship service, while kindergarteners through 2nd graders are dismissed during the Passing of the Peace. Following the worship service, parents will find their children attending Children's Worship in the following rooms:

3K • C224/C225 (available for the entire worship hour)

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

Kindergarten • C221 (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)*

1st & 2nd Grades • C316 (dismissed during the Passing of the Peace)*

*Children on the main level will dismiss through the door leading into the Fellowship

Hall, and children in the balcony will dismiss through the door closest to the elevator.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors and members, please take a moment to fill out the pew pad with your full name and names of any family members attending with you. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 19.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Jeff Dyess

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 6:22-35

On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat." 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

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.

MESSAGE

"the things that matter"			
Sandy Willson			
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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. An usher will prompt each pew when it is time to come forward to receive the bread and the cup, and then you will return to your seat. If you are not communing but would like to participate, please come forward and cross your hands in front of your chest, and the one serving communion will pray a brief prayer for you or pronounce a blessing over you.

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

Prayer of Confession

Josh Johnson

Gracious God, from Whom comes every good and perfect gift, and Who deserves high thanksgiving for all Your tender mercies, we acknowledge with great sorrow that we have often been an ungrateful people, grumbling over our discomforts and inconveniences, treating our privileges as entitlements, and forgetting the enormous blessings procured for us at Calvary's Cross. Please forgive us for our hard-heartedness, and renew within us a grateful spirit that we may unceasingly praise Your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

M Assurance of Pardon

Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

-Psalm 100:4b-5

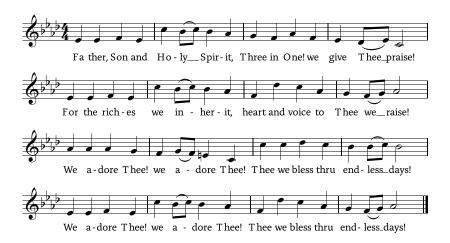
The almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit.

⋈ Apostles' Creed

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.

⊠ Congregational Response



Words of Institution

from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Mark 14:22-25

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.

If you desire gluten free bread, please walk down the center aisle, either upstairs or down, and the server will provide it accordingly.

HYMNS FOR THE EUCHARIST

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

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch a treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything—
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart—
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music: Stuart Townend, © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing).

"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"

I will sing the wondrous story Of the Christ who died for me; How He left the realms of glory For the cross on Calvary

Refrain:

Yes I'll sing the wondrous story Of the Christ who died for me; Sing it with His saints in glory, Gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost: but Jesus found me, Found the sheep that went astray; Raised me up and gently led me Back into the narrow way. (Refrain)

Days of darkness still may meet me, Sorrow's path I oft may tread, But His presence still is with me, By His guiding hand I'm led. (Refrain)

He will keep me till the river Rolls its waters at my feet, Then He'll bear me safely over, Made by grace for glory meet.

Words and Music: Francis H. Rawley and Roland H. Pritchard.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

© CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: November 24 - 30, 2019

SUNDAY, November 24

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages

(see page 20)

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

Children's Worship | Rising 3k through 2nd grades

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Small Groups

MONDAY, November 25

8:15 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Ingram Link's office)

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, November 27

12:00 p.m. through Church Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

FRIDAY, November 29

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Please see our full calendar of Covenant events at covpres.com/calendar.

Congregational Meeting. We will have a brief congregational meeting on December 8, immediately following worship, to elect our class of 2022 Church Officers and our 2020 Nominating Committee members. Please remain in the Sanctuary.

Christmas in Fairfield. Wondering how you can help with Christmas in Fairfield? We still funds to fill the toy shop! Please consider donating to this special event; make checks out to Covenant marked for Christmas in Fairfield and drop them in offering plate or in the church office. Thank you!

Lovelady Dinner & Concert. The Lovelady Dinner & Concert is December 3, and Charles Billingsley will be back in concert! Each year we invite the ladies from the Lovelady Center and their children to join us at Covenant for this Christmas event. This is one of the highlights of the Advent season at Covenant! To sign up, please visit covpres.com/lovelady.

Nursery Bonus Fund. Every year Covenant collects money to provide a year-end bonus for the wonderful women who care for our children in the Nursery. Please prayerfully consider giving to these women who give so much to Covenant. You can place your donation in the envelopes circulated in Sunday School, drop it in the offering plate, or drop it off at the Nursery desk by December 8. Thank you!

Family Promise. Covenant is hosting the families of Family Promise the week of December 8. There are several different ways to help, from making dinner for the families to spending the night at Covenant during the week. Please sign up in your Sunday School classes. Contact Barbara Thompson with any questions, babsfthompson@gmail.com.

Lessons & Carols. Our annual Lessons & Carols service is Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. This service will be presented by our Chancel Choir and Children's Choir, with a full orchestra. There will be a dessert fellowship immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Nursery childcare will be provided.

Act of Congress at Covenant. Join us for a Christmas concert with Act of Congress on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Act of Congress, one of Alabama's best-known acoustic bands, will be performing traditional and contemporary Christmas songs. You do not want to miss this opportunity to hear them live! (Nursery childcare available by reservation; nursery@covpres.com)



CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT COVENANT

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN ADVENT December 1, 8, 15, & 22 Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 8 • 6:00 p.m.

 $An \ evening \ of \ worship \ presented \ by \ our \ Chancel \ and \ Children's \ Choirs$

ACT OF CONGRESS

December 15 • 6:00 p.m.

A concert of traditional and contemporary Christmas songs

CHRISTMAS EVE AT COVENANT Candlelight Service • 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMASTIDE SUNDAY

December 29

Gathered Worship • 10:30 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE | COMMONS College students*

COMMUNITY | E305 All ages and life stages

CORNERSTONE | S104 30s and 40s

CROSSPOINTE | S100 Young families; 30s

FOUNDATIONS | E304 30s and 40s

LIGHTHOUSE | E301 30s and 40s

LIVING STONES | E303 40s and 50s

KINGDOM BUILDERS | E201 5os and 6os

OPEN DOORS | S105 70s and above

THRESHOLD | DINING ROOM Singles and young marrieds;

20s and 30s

UPPER ROOM | S101 *60s and 70s*

YOUTH | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12

^{*}College students gather in Commons Area at 12:00 for class and lunch.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator,

Senior Adults, Missions)

mcrawford@covpres.com

David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults, Shepherding)

Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Children)

Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries

Sandy Willson, Interim Senior Pastor

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ilink@covpres.com

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MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music

Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries

Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries

Katie Flores, Director of Pre-School Ministries

John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Youth)

Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus

Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities

Josh Johnson, Assistant Pastor

(Young Adults, Adult Discipleship)

Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries

Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries

Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School

Laura Tucker, Director of Elementary Ministries

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell. Director of Design and Production

Meg Cotney, Director of Finance

Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services

Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)

Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media

Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)

Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor

Traci Parker, Director of Food Services

Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator

Karan Stuart, Receptionist

Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)

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RULING ELDERS

2019 2020 2021 Ty Dedmon Bill Bennett Eric Getty Russell Martin Jeff Dyess Will Brooke Rick Flynn Michael Latta Daniel Murray Heath Henderson Charlie Logan Warren Norville Sandy Stradtman Tom McKnight Paul Loyless

Bob Schaffeld

Clay Wheeler

Richard Thompson Lee Sheppard

Steve Stigler Mark Taylor John Wood

DEACONS

John Smith T

2019 2020 2021

Nick Baggett Tripp Alexander Jim Bennett Paul Darden Ward Bailey Gary Gorham Samuel Bragg Jay Evans Keith Harrelson Bryan Flores Trey Clegg Jeff Hayes Will Graham Steve Killgore John Gant Jeff Hicks John David Gray Steve Pfitzer Jim Jenkins Brent Powell Marty Martin Alan Spooner **Bud Miller** Matt Searson Tyler O'Connor Patrick Strong John Shank

Todd Sitton John Shults
William Slappey Danny Smith
Billy Tapscott Robert Stephens
Darrell Tucker Clark Worrell

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 2019.

NOVEMBER READING PLAN

	JEREMIAH	TITUS
1	□ 31-32	□ 2
2/3	□ 33-37	□3 - Philemon
		HEBREWS
4	□ 38-39	□1
5	□ 40-42	□ 2
6	□ 43-45	□ 3
7	□ 46-48	□ 4
8	□ 49-50	□ 5
9/10	□ 51 - Lamentations 2	□ 6-7
	LAMENTATIONS	
11	□ 3-5	□ 8
	EZEKIEL	
12	□ 1-3	□ 9
13	□ 4-6	□ 10:1-25
14	□ 7-9	□ 10:26-39
15	□ 10-12	□ 11:1-22
16/17	□ 13-16	□ 11:23-12:29
18	□ 17-19	□ 13
		JAMES
19	□ 20-21	□ 1
20	□ 22-23	□ 2
21	□ 24-26	□ 3
22	□ 27-28	□ 4
23/24	□ 29-33	□ 5 - 1 Peter 1
		1 PETER
25	□ 34-35	□ 2
26	□ 36-37	□ 3
27	□ 38-39	□ 4
28	□ 40	□ 5
		2 PETER
29	□ 41-42	□1
30/December 1	□ 43-46	□ 2-3