

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Now the big point [of Genesis 15] is what this tells us about *God*. He takes the trouble to enter into covenant—he is willing to go to great lengths to help his people go on believing his promises. He knows the struggles faith has in holding on to his promises, so he stoops down and puts 'handles' on his promises."

—Dale Ralph Davis

"Abraham believes God's word. But he needs a strengthened assurance... But what assurance can be supplied? Is there some way by which the word of promise can be confirmed? The Lord graciously assures the patriarch by formal ratification of a covenant-bond."

—O. Palmer Robertson

☒ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

☒ **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

☒ **HYMN OF ADORATION**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
 Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
 Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
 Who wert and art and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
 Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
 Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee;
 Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
 God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826). Music: John B. Dykes (1823-1876).

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5:1-4

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving Father,

You have said that they are blessed who are poor in spirit;

who live in humble dependence upon you;

who are contrite and lowly of heart.

We confess that we have not been humble and repentant people

who are poor in spirit.

You also said that they are blessed who mourn,

who are grieved by their sin and know deeply

the sorrow of sinning against you.

We confess that we have not been grieved by our sin,

but have pursued it with haste and eagerness.

Forgive us, Lord of mercy,

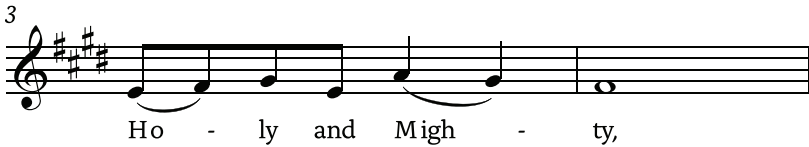
and revive the spirit of the lowly,

revive the heart of your contrite people,

In Jesus' name, Amen.

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Trisagion"



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☒ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;
I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners...

—Isaiah 57:18

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

Romans 4:16-25

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF FAITH

"By Faith"



1. By faith we see the__ hand of God
2. By faith our fa - thers__roamed the earth
3. By faith the pro - phets__ saw the day
4. By faith the church was__ called to go
5. By faith this moun - tain__ shall be moved



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,
 with the pow'r of His pro - mise in their hearts,
 when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear
 in the pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost
 and the pow'r of the gos - pel shall pre - vail,



in the lives of those who prove His faith - ful - ness,
 of a ho - ly ci - ty built by God's own hand,
 with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
 to de - liv - er cap - tives and to preach good news
 for we know in Christ all things are pos - si - ble



who walk by faith and__ not by sight. (v. 2)
 a place where peace and__ jus - tice reign. (chorus)
 and rise tri - um phant from the grave. (v. 4)
 in ev - 'ry cor - ner__ of the earth. (chorus)
 for all who call up - on His name. (chorus)

Chorus:

We will stand as chil- dren of the pro - mise;



we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's re - ward.



'Til the race is fin- ished and the work is done,



we'll walk by faith and_ not by sight.

Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend. CCLI 5469291.

☒ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Psalm 68:4-6

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;

his name is the LORD;

exult before him!

⁵*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows*

is God in his holy habitation.

⁶*God settles the solitary in a home;*

he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.


GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS
"Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"
Congregational Hymn


1. What gift of grace is Je - sus my Re - deem - er!
 2. The night is dark, but I am not for - sak - en,
 3. No fate I dread, I know I am for - giv - en.
 4. With ev - 'ry breath I long to fol - low Je - sus,



There is no more for heav - en now to give.
 for by my side the Sav - ior, He will stay.
 The fu - ture sure, the price, it has been paid.
 for He has said that He will bring me home.



He is my joy, my right - eous - ness and free - dom,
 I lab - or on in weak - ness and re - joic - ing,
 For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my par - don,
 And day by day I know He will re - new me




my stead - fast love, my deep and bound - less peace.
 for in my need, His pow - er is dis - played.
 and He was raised to o - ver - throw the grave!
 un - til I stand with joy be - fore the throne!



To this I hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus.
 To this I hold: my Shep - herd will de - fend__ me.
 To this I hold: my sin has been de - feat - ed.
 To this I hold: my hope is on - ly Je - sus__



For my life is whol - ly bound to His.
 Through the deep - est val - ley He will lead.
 Je - sus now, and ev - er, is my plea.
 All the glo - ry ev - er - more to Him.



Oh how strange and di - vine, I can sing, "All is mine!"
 Oh the night has been won, and I shall o - ver-come!
 Oh the chains are re - leased, I can sing, "I am free!"
 When the race is com-plete, still my lips shall re - peat:



Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Words and Music: Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson. CCLI: 7121852.

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the LORD be with you.

And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 16 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

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 15

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

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

Robby Holt

A series of horizontal lines provided for writing a message.

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

"Grace Unmeasured"



1. Grace un - meas - ured, vast and free, that knew me from e -
2. Grace a - bound - ing, strong and true, that makes me long to



ter - ni - ty, that called me out be - fore my birth to
be___ like You, that turns me from my self - ish pride to



bring You glo - ry on___ this earth.
love the cross on which___ You died.



Grace a - maz - ing, pure and deep, that saw me in my
Grace un - end - ing all my days; You'll give me strength to



mis - er - y, that took my curse and owned my blame so
run_ this race, and when my years on earth are through, the



I could bear Your right - eous name.
praise will all be - long_ to You.

Men:



Women: (Grace, grace, grace) paid for my sins and brought me to life, _



(Grace, grace, grace) clothes me with pow'r_ to do what is right, _



(Grace, grace, grace) will lead me to heav'n_ where I'll see Your_ face,



and nev - er cease to thank You for Your_ grace._

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THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: January 24-30, 2021

SUNDAY, January 24

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

MONDAY, January 25

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

WEDNESDAY, January 27

- 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 (Dan Edwards, January 25-31).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Studies. Our Esther study and Divine Design Discipleship are both scheduled to begin 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 will feature David Driskill and David O'Dell discussing Matthew 6.

Gospel-Centered Sexuality. Join us Wednesday, January 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall (socially distanced and masked) for a night of encouragement on God's good design for sexuality in a broken world. Gil Kracke, licensed counselor with Covenant Counseling, will lead a brief time of teaching, and then we will have a time of Q & A. Nursery available for ages 5 years and under by reservation only. Email Laura Tucker for information and to RSVP (ltucker@covpres.com)

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

