

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 31, 2019

"The business of our lives is not to please ourselves but to please God."
—Matthew Henry

"What makes life dreary is absence of motive.
What makes life complicated is multiplicity of motive.
What makes life victorious is singleness of motive."
—George Eliot

"The saints are the walking pictures of God."
—Thomas Watson

"Let us live as people prepared to die, and die as people who are
prepared to live."
—James S. Stewart

"...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
—the Apostle John

☒ CALL TO WORSHIP

Josh Johnson

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
(Psalm 27:1)

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.
(Isaiah 2:5)

...our Lord Jesus Christ...is the blessed and only Sovereign,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen or can see.

To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.
(from 1 Timothy 6:14-16)

☒ *Congregation stand as able.*

☒ HYMN OF PRAISE

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible Hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, And silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains, High soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains Of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, To both great and small,
In all life thou livest, The true life of all;
We blossom and flourish As leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, But naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, Pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, All veiling their sight;
All praise we would render, O help us to see
‘Tis only the splendor Of light hideth Thee!

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908). Music: Welsh melody.

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Margaret Ann Pyburn

Isaiah 60:1-5

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Arise, O God, and Shine"

2-page PDF

Words: William Hurn, 1813; alt. 1961. Music: Kevin Twit, 1996.

 **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

☒ HYMN OF SUPPLICATION

“May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow’r controlling,
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph,
Only through His pow’r.

May the peace of God, my Father,
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort,
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Words: Kate Wilkinson. Music: A. Cyril Barham-Gould.

READING FROM THE APOCALYPSE

Revelation 21:22-27; 22:5

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Christ Be in My Waking"

Chancel Choir

Wake up, O daughter of Zion!
Leave here your clothing of shame.
No more the orphan or harlot,
See, I give you a new name!

Chorus:

*Take up these garments of splendor;
Beautiful daughter, rise up!
Feel my great mercy surround you;
Dress in the gown of my love.*

"Beautiful bride," He has called you.
"Sought after, married, redeemed."
"You'll be the crown of my glory;
You, my most highly esteemed."

Glorious there in her chamber,
Wearing the robe of the king.
See him delight in her beauty;
With joy and gladness he sings:
(*Chorus*)

Words and Music: Wendell Kimbrough, 2014.

☒ 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.

Kindergarteners - 2nd graders are dismissed at this time (see page 20 for details).

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Bob Schaffeld

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-



cline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

☒ READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 5:7-14

Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

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.*

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

David Driskill

*Almighty God, Who dwells in unapproachable light,
in Whom there is no darkness at all,
and Who has called Your people to walk in Your light,
we sorrowfully confess that we have often chosen the dark places
rather than the light,
having grieved You and misled others by our conduct.
We are truly remorseful and earnestly repent
and plead with You to forgive us and to cleanse us of our sin
that we may enjoy fellowship in the light with You and one another
that the splendor and radiance of our Lord Jesus Christ
may be displayed to the nations,
both now and forevermore. Amen.*

☒ Assurance of Pardon

...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

—1 John 1:7

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.*

☒ **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, amen.

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 it 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.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, 1709. Music: Gregorian chant; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1824.

“Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross”

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain;
Free to all—a healing stream
Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed its beams around me.

(Refrain)

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o’er me.

(Refrain)

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.

(Refrain)

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869. Music: William H. Doane, 1869.

☒ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☒ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Refrain:

*Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou my God, shouldst die for me?*

☒ BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: March 31 - April 6, 2019

SUNDAY, March 31

- 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (Commons)
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and stages
(see page 20 for details)
- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)
Children's Worship | 3 years through 3rd grade
- 12:00 p.m. College Sunday School (Dining Room; lunch provided)
- 5:00 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Small Groups

MONDAY, April 1

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

TUESDAY, April 2

- 6:30 a.m. Sr. High Bible Study (Youth Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)
- 11:30 a.m. Women's Study: The Letters of John (E201)

WEDNESDAY, April 3

- 12:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Prayer Time (Children's Ministry Office)
- 6:00-7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

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

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)

Come to the Table. Ladies, you are invited to our second annual Spring event, Come to the Table! This evening of fellowship take groups of eight women into members' homes to enjoy food and fun and get to know new friends. The dinners begin at 6:30, and the cost is \$10. You can register at covpres.com/womens-ministry or at one of our information tables today and next Sunday. Nursery childcare is available by reservation until 8:00 p.m.; please send an email to nursery@covpres.com.

Holy Week at Covenant. Holy Week begins with our regular Sunday School and worship service schedule on Palm Sunday, April 14. We will have a Thursday evening meal and service (6:00 and 7:00 p.m. respectively) on Maundy Thursday, April 18, and our Good Friday service at 12:00 noon on April 19. Then join us Easter morning, April 21, for our Sunrise Service at 6:15 a.m. at Vulcan Park, a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00, and our two services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (We will not have Sunday School on Easter morning.)

Youth Summer Missions Trip. All rising 9th graders through graduating seniors, and their families, are invited to serve on our summer missions trip to Warm Springs, OR, July 13-20. Email John Fountain at jfountain@covpres.com for more information.

New England Missions Trip. For nine years Covenant has taken teams to New England to come alongside our sister PCA churches and to minister to children through our popular Explorer and Created for a Purpose camps. Once again, we are taking a team to Manchester, NH, and need 12-16 people to staff the camps July 22-26. This is a great trip for families, and we are holding an interest meeting (lunch included) on Sunday, April 7, immediately following worship in E305. Please contact Dan Edwards for information (dedwards@covpres.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE DINING ROOM*	<i>College students</i>
COMMUNITY E305	<i>All ages and life stages</i>
CORNERSTONE S104	<i>30s and 40s</i>
CROSSPOINTE S100	<i>20s and 30s</i>
FOUNDATIONS E304	<i>30s and 40s</i>
LIGHTHOUSE E301	<i>30s and 40s</i>
LIVING STONES E303	<i>40s and 50s</i>
KINGDOM BUILDERS E201	<i>50s and 60s</i>
OPEN DOORS S105	<i>70s and above</i>
UPPER ROOM S101	<i>60s and 70s</i>
THRESHOLD DINING ROOM	<i>Singles and young marrieds; 20s and 30s</i>
YOUTH YOUTH AREA	<i>Students grades 7-12</i>

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Marty Crawford, Church Administrator	mrcrawford@covpres.com
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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

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Karan Stuart, Receptionist	kstuart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Ministry Assistant, Children and Families	ltucker@covpres.com
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant	vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

2019

Ty Dedmon
Jeff Dyess
Rick Flynn
Heath Henderson
Tom McKnight
John Smith T
Richard Thompson

2020

Bill Bennett
Will Brooke
Michael Latta
Charlie Logan
Paul Loyless
Bob Schaffeld
Lee Sheppard
Steve Stigler
Mark Taylor
John Wood

2021

Eric Getty
Russell Martin
Daniel Murray
Warren Norville
Sandy Stradtman
Clay Wheeler

DEACONS

2019

Jim Bennett
Gary Gorham
Keith Harrelson
Jeff Hayes
Steve Killgore
Steve Pfitzer
Brent Powell
Matt Searson
John Shank
Todd Sitton
William Slappey
Billy Tapscott
Darrell Tucker

2020

Tripp Alexander
Paul Darden
Jay Evans
Bryan Flores
John Gant
John David Gray
Marty Martin
Bud Miller
Tyler O'Connor
John Shults
Danny Smith
Robert Stephens
Clark Worrell

2021

Nick Baggett
Ward Bailey
Samuel Bragg
Trey Clegg
Will Graham
Jeff Hicks
Jim Jenkins
Alan Spooner
Patrick Strong

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.

MARCH READING PLAN

	JUDGES	LUKE
30/31	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

APRIL READING PLAN

1	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-21
2	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:22-56
3	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-36
4	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:37-62
5	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-24
6/7	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 10:25-11:28
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:29-54

1 SAMUEL

9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-34
10	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 12:35-59
11	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-21
12	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 13:22-35
13/14	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 14
15	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-10
16	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:11-32
17	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-18
18	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 16:19-31
19	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-19

2 SAMUEL

20/21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 17:20-18:17
22	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 18:18-43
23	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-27
24	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 19:28-48
25	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-26
26	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 20:27-47
27/28	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 21
29	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:1-30
30	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 22:31-53