

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

—Luke 11:29-30

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

—Luke 24:30-32

Proper interpretation of any part of the Bible requires us to relate it to the person and work of Jesus.

—Graeme Goldsworthy

It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God's mission.

—Christopher Wright

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Josh Johnson

Congregation reads the italicized portions.

Psalm 119:12-18

Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!

*With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.*

In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

*I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.*

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.

*Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.*

☒ HYMN OF ADORATION

“O Worship the King”

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender! How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Words: based on Psalm 104; Robert Grant, 1833. Music: Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806; arr. in William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815.

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH*Joe Strickland*

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful and Gracious God, our Father,
We your covenant people confess that we are sinful,
And we are often blinded by our sin.
We do not see our need of grace and mercy,
we do not see the needs of our family and neighbors,
And we do not see the beauty of Jesus in Your Word.
We come to you pleading the merits of Christ's blood;
Open our eyes, that we may rightly see our sin
And delight in the Your mercies found in Christ Jesus.
In the name and for the sake of Jesus, our Redeemer, Amen.*

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

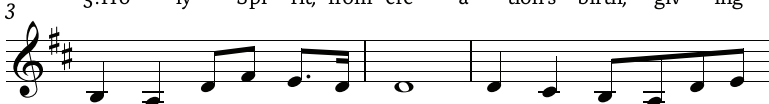
And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

—Acts 2:38

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.


HYMN OF GRACE
"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"


1. Ho - ly Spi - rit, liv - ing Breath of God, breathe new
 2. Ho - ly Spi - rit, come a - bide with - in; may Your
 3. Ho - ly Spi - rit, from cre - a - tion's birth, giv - ing



life in - to my will - ing soul; Bring the pre - sence of the
 joy be seen in all I do. Love e - nough to co - ver
 life to all that God has made. Show Your pow - er once a -



Ri - sen Lord, to re - new my heart and make me whole.
 ev - 'ry sin in each thought and deed and at - ti - tude.
 gain on earth, cause Your church to hun - ger for Your ways.



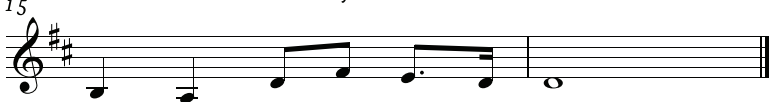
Cause Your Word to come a - live in me;
 Kind - ness to the great - est and the least;
 11 Let the frag - rance of our prayers a - rise;



give me faith for what I can - not see.
 gen - tle - ness that sows the path of peace.
 13 lead us on the road of sac - ri - fice,



Give me pass - ion for Your pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly
 Turn my striv - ing in - to works of grace; Breath of
 that in u - ni - ty the face of Christ will be



Spi - rit breathe new life in me.
 God, show Christ in all I do.
 clear for all the world to see.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Romans 15:1-7

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


HYMN OF HOPE
"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.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

Dan Edwards

“Our Song From Age to Age”

Worship Team

Oh God of power living Word, the One who made the stars,
Who with Your glory filled the earth, from dust made beating hearts;
You loved us when we fell away, poured mercy on our souls,
And promised grace would come to save to loose death’s iron hold.

You are our song from age to age,
Our voices unite to recount Your praise,
Again and again.

Oh God of promises fulfilled, the God who took on flesh,
Who did all that the Father willed, was humbled unto death;
You bore our cross of sin and shame, endured our agony,
With gladness we now bear Your name and worship at Your feet.

You are our song from age to age,
Our voices unite to recount Your praise,
Again and again.
You are our song from age to age,
We will proclaim Your power to save,
Again and again.

Congregation:

Oh God who surely guides our steps through tempests and through trials,
Our Shepherd King, Your way is best, though tears now veil our eyes;
Your steadfast love our perfect hope, our eyes are fixed on grace,
We have no doubt You’ll lead us home to finally see Your face.

You are our song from age to age,
Our voices unite to recount Your praise,
Again and again.
You are our song from age to age,
We will proclaim Your power to save,
Again and again.

Oh God of all of history, enthroned in realms of light,
 What eyes of faith have strained to see will one day fill our sight;
 With all the saints we'll lay our crowns before the Savior's feet,
 And sing as all the heav'ns resound for all eternity.

You are our song from age to age,
 Our voices unite to recount Your praise,
 Again and again.
 You are our song from age to age,
 We will proclaim Your power to save,
 Again and again.

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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.

Children 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.

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

Mark Taylor

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 24:36-49

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

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

"OPEN OUR EYES"

Robby Holt

The Pentateuch
Wisdom Literature

Historical Books
Prophetic Writings

The Law, The Prophets,
"Psalms" = ALL Wisdom Literature

"...everything written about me in ***the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms*** must be fulfilled."

-Luke 24:44

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 FAITH**

“Open Our Eyes”

When we see the risen Savior with the bread that he has blessed,
He becomes the living Servant, heav'nly food for holy rest.
Stay with us, for day is fading, feast with us, O secret King,
Show to us how Scripture's story speaks of you in everything.

Do not our hearts burn now? For you're here in power.

Jesus, show yourself the Author and Perfecter of our faith,
In your living and your dying, consummation of God's grace.
From creation to the exile, incarnation to the grave,
Resurrection to ascension; come, O Jesus, come to save.

Do not our hearts burn now? For you're here in power.

Chorus:

Open our eyes, shine on our sight, O risen Lord, reigning on high;
Give us your life, bread from the skies; Lift up our hearts, open our eyes.

You're the Word that spoke creation, you're the end of Moses' Law,
You're the goal of Abram's blessing, you're the King whom David saw;
You're the Day the prophets longed for, you're the covenant of grace,
You're the hero of the Scriptures, now we see you face to face.

Do not our hearts burn now? For you're here in power.

(Chorus)

Jesus, show yourself the Prophet, Jesus, show yourself the King,
Jesus, show yourself the Priest, all in all, and everything.

Words and Music: Bruce Benedict and Zachary Hicks. CCLI 7006727.

 **BENEDICTION**

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: September 13 - 19, 2020

15

SUNDAY, September 13

- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday School (Group A; see page 17)

MONDAY, September 14

- 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Time (Parlor)

TUESDAY, September 15

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Women's Study: Divine Design Discipleship (S104)
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Women's Study: Ephesians (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, September 16

- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays with the Holts (Fellowship Hall)
Upper Room, Community, Open Doors

SEASON OF PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 10:30 AM

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Marty Crawford, September 14-20).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesdays With the Holts. Getting to know Chrissy and Robby Holt is going to be challenging during this pandemic, so we have planned several small gatherings on Wednesday nights (6:00-7:00) throughout September and October. We will gather by groups of Sunday School classes for a time to hear from the Holts as well as a time of Q&A:

- September 16 – Upper Room, Community, Open Doors (Marty Crawford)
- September 23 – Threshold (Josh Johnson)
- September 30 – Crosspointe (Josh Johnson)
- October 14 – Cornerstone, Foundations, Lighthouse (David Driskill)
- October 28 – Kingdom Builders, Living Stones (Dan Edwards)

We will be asking for RSVPs so that we can plan spacing and childcare as needed. We hope you will come and get to know Chrissy and Robby better!

Baptisms. We are resuming monthly baptisms beginning September 20, with dates scheduled through November. If you would like to schedule a baptism, please contact Victoria Williams at vwilliams@covpres.com to choose a date.

Covenant Name Tags. Please wear your name tag while on campus and return them to the boxes provided at the exits so that we can reorganize them and store them for you. If you do not find your name tag or would like to request a name tag, please contact Victoria Williams at vwilliams@covpres.com.

Pray for Me Campaign. This is the second year for our youth and congregation to participate in the Pray for Me Campaign where we pair adults with teenage students to pray for them throughout the school year. We are inviting everyone to join us in praying for a teenage student in our Youth Ministry this year! Once you sign up to pray, we will match you with one or two teenage students to pray for during the school year. Please contact Sara Litten at slitten@covpres.com if you would like to sign up or would like more information.

Virtual School Volunteers. Birmingham City School students are all participating in virtual school for the first nine weeks of class. This affects several of our nursery workers and their children. In order to keep these ladies employed and to help their children, we are offering supervised classrooms at Covenant on M, T, W, and F from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. We need two volunteers each day to facilitate learning for these students. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jami Bennett at jbennett@covpres.com.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Sunday Evenings | Fall 2020

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. | Teaching (Sanctuary)

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. | Prayer and Discussion (Classrooms)

(Nursery available; Children's Sunday School and Youth Small Groups also meet at this time)

GROUP A

September 13, 27; October 11; and November 1, 15

COMMUNITY All ages and life stages

CROSSPOINTE Young families; 30s

LIGHTHOUSE 30s and 40s

LIVING STONES 40s and 50s

OPEN DOORS 70s and above

UPPER ROOM 60s and 70s

GROUP B

September 20; October 4, 18; and November 8, 22

COLLEGE College students

CORNERSTONE 30s and 40s

FOUNDATIONS 30s and 40s

KINGDOM BUILDERS 50s and 60s

THRESHOLD Singles and young marrieds;
20s and 30s

Teaching Elders by Sunday School Community:

Community, Open Doors, Upper Room | Marty Crawford

Cornerstone, Foundations, Lighthouse | David Driskill

Living Stones, Kingdom Builders | Dan Edwards

College, Crosspointe, Threshold | Josh Johnson

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Robby Holt, Senior Pastor	rholt@covpres.com
Marty Crawford, Assistant Pastor (Church Administrator, Senior Adults, Missions)	mcrawford@covpres.com
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John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families)	jfountain@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

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Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)	dedwards@covpres.com
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Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

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Traci Parker, Director of Food Services	tparker@covpres.com
Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator	jrichardson@covpres.com
Karan Stuart, Receptionist	kstuart@covpres.com
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)	vwilliams@covpres.com

RULING ELDERS

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

2022

Ty Dedmon
 John Hamilton
 Mark Hogewood
 John James
 David O'Dell
 Norman Pless
 Kurt Senn

DEACONS

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

2022

Jim Bennett
 William Edwards
 Merrill Johnston
 Randall Lancaster
 Mark Midyette
 Stephen Mince
 Clyde Prather
 John Shank
 Matt Thomas
 Greg Tomlinson

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 2020.

SEPTEMBER READING PLAN

	PSALMS	1 CORINTHIANS
1	□ 146-148	□ 12:12-31
2	□ 149-Proverbs 1	□ 13
	PROVERBS	
3	□ 2-4	□ 14
4	□ 5-6	□ 15:1-34
5/6	□ 7-10	□ 15:35-16:24
		2 CORINTHIANS
7	□ 11-12	□ 1
8	□ 13-14	□ 2
9	□ 15-16	□ 3
10	□ 17-18	□ 4
11	□ 19-20	□ 5:1-6:13
12/13	□ 21-26	□ 6:14-8:15
14	□ 27-28	□ 8:16-24
15	□ 29-30	□ 9
16	□ 31-Ecclesiastes 2	□ 10
	ECCLESIASTES	
17	□ 3-4	□ 11:1-15
18	□ 5-6	□ 11:16-33
19/20	□ 7-12	□ 12-13
	SONG OF SOLOMON	GALATIANS
21	□ 1-3	□ 1
22	□ 4-6	□ 2
23	□ 7-Isaiah 1	□ 3
	ISAIAH	
24	□ 2-3	□ 4
25	□ 4-6	□ 5
26/27	□ 7-11	□ 6-Ephesians 1
		EPHESIANS
28	□ 12-14	□ 2
29	□ 15-17	□ 3
30	□ 18-20	□ 4