The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ascension Sunday June 2, 2019

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: "If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth." For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

....We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in Him, we can be there by love.

—Augustine

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Ravished from our wistful eyes! Christ, awhile to mortals given, Re-ascends His native heaven.

There the glorious triumph waits, Lift your heads, eternal gates! Wide unfold the radiant scene, Take the King of glory in!

—Charles Wesley

MULITARY OF ASCENSION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

David Driskill

Arise, O Lord, in your strength. We will praise you for your glory!

Let us pray with joy to Christ at the right hand of God, saying: *You are the king of glory!*

You have raised the weakness of our flesh. Heal us from our sins, And restore to us the full dignity of life. *You are the king of glory!*

May our faith lead us to the Father as we follow the road you trod. *You are the king of glory!*

You have promised to draw all people to yourself; let no one of us be separate from your body *You are the king of glory!*

Grant that by our longing we may join you in your kingdom where your humanity and ours is glorified. *You are the king of glory!*

You are true God, and you will be our judge, so lead us to contemplate your tender mercy. You are the king of glory!

M PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O King of glory and Lord of hosts, who ascended triumphantly above the heavens, do not abandon us, but send us the promised one, the Spirit of truth.

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

M HYMN OF PRAISE

"Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love"





Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Matt Papa, Aaron Keyes, Luke Brown.

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Judson Smith

Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all peoples
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
⁹The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

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

M HYMN OF CHRIST

"Arise, My Soul, Arise"

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears; The bleeding Sacrifice on my behalf appears: Before the throne my Surety stands, Before the throne my Surety stands, My name is written on His hands.

Chorus:

Arise, arise, arise, arise my soul arise! Arise, arise, arise my soul arise— Shake off your guilty fears and rise!

He ever lives above for me to intercede,
His all redeeming love, His precious blood to plead;
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
His blood atoned for ev'ry race,
and sprinkles now the throne of grace.
(Chorus)

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary; They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me. "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Don't let that ransomed sinner die!" (Chorus)

My God is reconciled, His pardoning voice I hear; He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear; With confidence I now draw nigh, With confidence I now draw nigh, And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry. (Chorus, twice)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1742. Music: Kevin Twit, 1996.

M PRAYER OF ADORATION

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things; Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

READING FROM ACTS

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

M HYMN OF GLORY

"A Hymn of Glory, Let us Sing"

A hymn of glory let us sing!

New hymns throughout the world shall ring,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod

Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stands.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with his faithful foll'wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O Lord, our homeward pathway bend That our unwearied hearts ascend. Alleluia! Alleluia! Where, seated on your Father's throne You reign as King of kings alone. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord All praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Bede (673-735); tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, 1623.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

"Hail the Day"
Choral Ensemble, Liz Richardson (soloist)

Hail the day that Christ arose, Through the skies to worlds unknown; Glorious there He ever reigns, Object of all heaven's praise.

See Him lift His hands above, See the scars of His great love; He has conquered death and sin, Saving all who hope in Him.

Chorus:

Hallelujah, hallelujah!
The King of love is on His throne!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
His grace will lead us safely home!

Though He dwells beyond the stars, His redeemed are on His heart; Even now He intercedes, Jesus cares for all our needs. (Chorus, twice)

Hallelujah, we are redeemed! Hallelujah, Jesus is King! Hallelujah, we are redeemed! Hallelujah, Jesus is King!

Words and Music: Steve Cook, Vikki Cook.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ is Risen!
He is Risen, indeed!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

Greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

Children's Worship Information

Summer Children's Worship is available for rising 4k through 3rd grades. Please read the details below regarding dismissal from the sanctuary and classroom assignments. If you are a guest and have not checked your child into our system, please visit the nursery welcome desk (1st floor) to receive a name tag and pickup details.

- Rising 4K & Kindergarten (C221; available for the entire worship hour)
- Rising 1st through 3rd (C221; 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. You may read all of our ministry announcements on page 19.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

Clay Wheeler

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 6:5-9

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eyeservice, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

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 CHRISTIAN WORKER"		
Dan Edwards		

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

Almighty God,
You have raised Jesus from death to life,
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.

Amen.

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

M Assurance of Pardon

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

-Hebrew 4:14, 16

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.

Magnetic Apostle's 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

To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore. His sovereign majesty, May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

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.

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.

"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.

"Make Me a Captive, Lord

Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall conqu'ror be;
I sink in life's alarms,
When by myself I stand;
Imprison me within Thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.

My heart is weak and poor
Until it master find;
It has no spring of action sure,
It varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move
Till Thou hast wrought its chain;
Enslave it with Thy matchless love,
And deathless it shall reign.

My pow'r is faint and low,
Till I have learned to serve;
It wants the needed fire to glow,
It wants the breeze to nerve.
It cannot drive the world
Until itself be driv'n;
Its flag can only be unfurled
When Thou shalt breathe from heav'n.

My will is not my own
Till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach the monarch's throne,
It must its crown resign;
It only stands unbent,
Amid the clashing strife;
When on Thy bosom it has leaned,
And found in Thee its life.

Words: George Matheson, 1890. Music: George J. Elvey, 1868 (DIADEMATA).

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

® CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny;
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: June 2 - 8, 2019

SUNDAY, June 2

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

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

Gathered Worship (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. Children's Worship | Rising 4k through 3rd grades

6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Women's Study: Even Better Than Eden (Dining Room)

MONDAY, June 3

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Women's Study: From Garden to Glory

(dinner \$6; Dining Room)

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. College Dinner & Study

at the Dyess' home (3408 Water Oak Dr, 35243)

WEDNESDAY, June 5

6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

6:30 p.m. Women's Summer Salad Supper

Alieta Casey speaking at the home of Amanda Welden

(1 West Montcrest Dr, 35213)

7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

MINISTRIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Women's Summer Studies. Ladies, we have two Bible studies beginning in June. "Even Better Than Eden" by Nancy Guthrie begins tonight, June 2(6:30-7:45 p.m.; dining room). "From Garden to Glory" by Courtney Doctor begins tomorrow, June 3 (5:30-7:00 p.m.; dining room; dinner for \$6). You can register for either study, or both, at covpres.com/summer-studies.

Women's Summer Salad Suppers. Ladies, our Summer Salad Suppers begin this Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. Alieta Casey will be sharing at the home of Amanda Welden (1 West Montcrest Dr, 35213). You can find the full schedule at covpres.com/womens-ministry.

Summer Chancel Choir. Summer choir is a no-strings-attached opportunity to see if choir might be an area in which you'd like to serve in the coming year. We will rehearse one Wednesday in June and July (June 5, July 10) at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room and sing the following Sunday (June 9, July 14). In August we will rehearse twice (August 7 and 10) and sing Sunday morning and evening August 11 during worship and during our Hymn Sing.

Save the Date: Hymn Sing & Fall Kick-Off. Mark your calendar for our second annual Hymn Sing and Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, August 11, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. You can listen to last year's Hymn Sing at covpres.com/see-and-hear. There will be a dessert fellowship immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.

College Summer Ministry. This summer our College Sunday School class will be meeting at 9:15 in the Parlor. We will be studying "Acts—The Church on the Move." We will also gather on Monday nights for dinner and study from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Dyess home (3408 Water Oak Drive, 35243) beginning June 3 and ending July 29. Our topic of study will be "Bible Stories—Not Just for Kids."

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

9:15 a.m.

Some classes will be combined for the month of June.

Maps and directional signs are located around the church.

COLLEGE | PARLOR College students

COMMUNITY | E305 All ages and life stages

CORNERSTONE &

FOUNDATIONS | E304 30s and 40s

CROSSPOINTE & 20s and 30s; **LIVING STONES** | S100 40s and 50s

KINGDOM BUILDERS & 50s and 60s; **LIGHTHOUSE** | E201 30s and 40s

OPEN DOORS | S105 70s and above

THRESHOLD & 60s and 70s; singles and young
UPPER ROOM | S104 marrieds, 20s and 30s

YOUTH | YOUTH AREA Students grades 7-12

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 Warren Norville Heath Henderson Charlie Logan Sandy Stradtman Tom McKnight Paul Loyless Clay Wheeler John Smith T Bob Schaffeld

Richard Thompson Lee Sheppard

Steve Stigler Mark Taylor John Wood

DEACONS

John Shank

2019

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

Tvler O'Connor

2020

2021

Patrick Strong

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.

MAY READING PLAN

	1 CHRONICLES	JOHN
25/26	□ 14-19	□ 9:24-10:21
27	□ 20-22	□ 10:22-42
28	□ 23-25	□ 11:1-16
29	□ 26-27	□ 11:17-44
30	□ 28-29	□ 11:45-57
	2 CHRONICLES	
31	□ 1-3	□ 12:1-19

JUNE READING PLAN			
	2 CHRONICLES	JOHN	
1/2	□ 4-9	□ 12:20-13:20	
3	□ 10-12	□ 13:21-38	
4	□ 13-16	□ 14	
5	□ 17-19	□ 15	
6	□ 20-22	□ 16:1-15	
7	□ 23-25	□ 16:16-33	
8/9	□ 26-31	□ 17:1-18:24	
10	□ 32-33	□ 18:25-40	
11	□ 34-36	□ 19:1-22	
	EZRA		
12	□ 1-2	□ 19:23-42	
13	□ 3-5	□ 20	
14	□ 6-8	□ 21	
		ACTS	
15/16	□ 9-Nehemiah 3	□ 1:1-2:13	
	NEHEMIAH		
17	□ 4-6	□ 2:14-47	
18	□ 7-8	□ 3	
19	□ 9-11	□ 4:1-22	
20	□ 12-13	□ 4:23-37	
	ESTHER		
21	□ 1-3	□ 5:1-16	
22/23	□ 4-10	□ 5:17-6:15	
	JOB		
24	□ 1-3	□ 7:1-22	
25	□ 4-6	□ 7:23-43	
26	□ 7-9	□ 7:44-60	
27	□ 10-12	□ 8:1-25	
28	□ 13-15	□ 8:26-40	
29/30	□ 16-20	□ 9	