

The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Is it chance or dance moves the world? Is it the world blind and dumb or bloom, festal? A vain jest, or holy feast?

—Eugene Warren, “Christographia XIV”

The Kingdom of God is first and foremost a statement about God—who He is (King) and what He does (reign)...God the Creator King reigns over all of His creatures, but He also reigns through His image-bearing servant-kings.

—Jeremy Treat

The earth will be filled

with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

—Habakkuk 2:14

This sense of being made in God's image calls us all constantly to look for it in others and to do what we can to help them acknowledge it and to realize it by joining in worship. We thereby carry to others the answer to their inmost longing, a yearning for union with the Trinity, a thirst to respond with adoration to the God who made them.

—Marva Dawn

 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

David Driskill

Congregation reads the italicized portions.

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that you care for him?*

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
 and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet,
all sheep and oxen,
 and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

 *Congregation stand as able.*

☒ HYMN OF ADORATION

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord the Almighty,
The King of creation;
O my soul praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who o’er all things
So wondrously reigneth;
Shelters thee under His wings,
Yes so gently sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
How all thy longings have been
Granted in what He ordaineth.

Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper thy work
And defend thee.
Surely His goodness and mercy
Here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord
O let all that is in me adore Him.
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen
Sound from His people again.
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Let the amen
Sound from His people again.
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Words: Based on Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt. 1990. Music: *LOBE DEN HERREN*.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Taylor Brown

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“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: 2nd century. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Our Father in heaven,
You are the Creator and Sustainer of all things;
Your glory and majesty are evident in all the world,
especially in the hearts of men.
But we confess that we have sinned, and continually do so,
And have fallen short of Your glory.
In our sinful hearts, we have missed what it means to be truly human:
To reflect your glory to the world around us
in our thoughts, words, and deeds.
Forgive us according to the merits of Christ's blood,
And restore in us the image of glory for Christ's sake,
In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

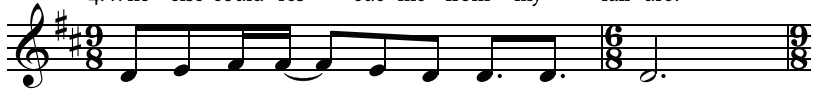
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

—2 Corinthians 4:6

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
"Only a Holy God"

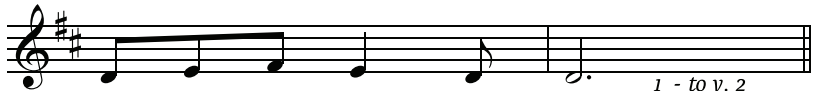

1. Who else com mands all the hosts of heav en?
 2. What oth - er beau - ty de-mands such prais es?
 3. What oth - er glo - ry con-sumes like fi - re?
 4. Who else could res - cue me from my fail- ure?



Who else could make_ ev - 'ry king bown down?
 What oth - er splen - dor out-shines the sun?
 What oth - er pow - er can raise the dead?
 Who else would of - fer His on - ly Son?



Who else can whis - per and dark - ness trem- bles?
 What oth - er maj - es - ty rules with jus - tice?
 What oth - er name re-mains un - de - feat - ed?
 Who else in- vites_ me to call Him Fa - ther?



On - ly a Ho - ly God. *1 - to v. 2*
2, 3, 4 - to chorus

CHORUS:


Come and be - hold Him, the One and the On - ly.



Cry out, sing ho - ly, for - ev - er a Ho - ly God.



Come and wor - ship the Ho - ly God.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 4:17-24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God righteousness and holiness of the truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS*Josh Johnson**“The Perfect Wisdom of Our God”**Choral Offertory*

The perfect wisdom of our God,
Revealed in all the universe;
All things created by His hand,
And held together at His command.
He knows the myst'ries of the seas,
The secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way,
And turns the earth through another day.

The matchless wisdom of His ways,
That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet,
His Spirit teaching and guiding me;
And O the mystery of the cross,
That God should suffer for the lost;
So that the fool might shame the wise,
And all the glory might go to Christ.

O grant me wisdom from above,
To pray for peace and cling to love;
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty;
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace,
So through the trials I choose to say,
Your perfect will in Your perfect way.

Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. CCLI 5933569.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Mary Mills Coffey

DAUGHTER OF ANNA KATE AND AARON COFFEY

Marilyn Louise Harrelson

DAUGHTER OF GRACE AND KEITH HARRELSON

PARENTAL VOWS

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on your child's behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE BAPTISM

THE PRAYER OF BLESSING

“JESUS LOVES ME”

Words: Anna Bartlett Warner (1859). Music: William B. Bradbury.

☒ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you.
And also with you.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 19 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. 3 year olds (by 9/1/2020) through Kindergarteners 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

Clay Wheeler

READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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.

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.

“The Heavens Declare Thy Glory”



1. The heav-ens de-clare Thy glo-ry, the fir-ma-ment Thy pow'r; 7
 2. The sun with roy-al splen-dor goes forth to chant Thy praise, and
 3. How per-fect just and ho-ly the pre-cepts Thou hast giv'n; still
 4. All heav-en on high re-joice-es to do its Mak-er's will; the



day un-to day the sto-ry re-peats from hour to hour; 7
 moon-beams soft and ten-der their gent-ler an-them raise; 7
 mak-ing wise the low-ly, they lift the thoughts to heav'n: how
 stars with sol-emn voic-es re-sound Thy prais-es still: 7



night un-to night re-ply-ing, pro-claims in ev-'ry land, O
 o'er ev-'ry tribe and na-tion the mu-sic strange is poured, the
 pure, how soul-re-stor-ing Thy Gos-pel's heav'n-ly ray, a
 so let my whole be-hav-ior, thoughts, words and ac-tions be, O



Lord, with voice un-dy-ing, the won-ders of Thy hand.
 song of all cre-a-tion, to Thee, cre-a-tion's Lord.
 bright-er ra-diance pour-ing than noon of bright-est day!
 Lord, my strength, my Sav-ior, one cease-less song to Thee.

Words: Psalm 19:1-6; 14; Thomas R. Birks, 1874. Music: Rick Barnes, 2011.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: September 20 - 26, 2020**SUNDAY, September 20**

- 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday School (Group B; see page 20)

MONDAY, September 21

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

TUESDAY, September 22

- 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 23

- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays With the Holts (Fellowship Hall)
Threshold Sunday School Community

Should you need pastoral assistance after our regular office hours, please contact our pastor on call at 205-874-3559 (Dan Edwards, September 21-27).

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee Recommendations. We're now taking recommendations for our 2021 Nominating Committee. Please submit your recommendations by October 4 by emailing Victoria Williams at vwilliams@covpres.com or by filling out the form at the back of this worship guide and placing it in the basket provided in the Sanctuary foyer.

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 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, 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. If you do not find your name tag or would like to request one, 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 Fellowship (Classrooms)

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

GROUP A

September 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
David Driskill, Assistant Pastor (Shepherding, Middle Adults)	ddriskill@covpres.com
John Fountain, Assistant Pastor (Students and Families)	jfountain@covpres.com
Ingram Link, Director of Women's Ministries	ilink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music	rbarnes@covpres.com
Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries	jbennett@covpres.com
Rachel Davis, Assistant Director of Girls' Ministries	shields.rachel.c@gmail.com
Dan Edwards, Assistant Pastor (Middle Adults)	dedwards@covpres.com
Katie Flores, Assistant Director of Children's Ministries, Director of Enfold Disability Ministry	kflores@covpres.com
Bill Hay, Pastor Emeritus	bhay@covpres.com
Josh Johnson, Assistant Pastor (Young Adults, Adult Discipleship)	jjohnson@covpres.com
Sara Litten, Director of Girls' Ministries	slitten@covpres.com
Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries	dsluis@covpres.com
Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School	bstewart@covpres.com
Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries	ltucker@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production	kcaldwell@covpres.com
Meg Cotney, Director of Finance	mcotney@covpres.com
Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services	tyler.cuidon@gmail.com
Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)	phamm@covpres.com
Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities	jherbert@covpres.com
Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media	sloyless@covpres.com
Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)	caseys.odell@gmail.com
Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Interim Senior Pastor	koliver@covpres.com
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

STEERING COMMITTEE

2020

Michael Latta, Clerk of the Session
Stephen Mince, Chair of the Diaconate
Lee Sheppard, Personnel Committee Chair
John Shank, Finance Committee Chair

Will Brooke, Member At-large
Daniel Murray, Family Ministry Chair
Steve Stigler, Missions Ministry Chair
Ty Dedmon, Shepherding Ministry Chair

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is elected by the congregation to serve a one-year term and is responsible for nominating church officers for election by the congregation. The Nominating Committee is made up of 14 members (4 elders, 3 deacons, 7 at-large congregants) and pastoral staff.

Please submit your recommendations by October 4 for male and female lay persons by either emailing Victoria Williams at vwilliams@covpres.com or by filling out this form and placing it in the basket provided in the Sanctuary foyer.

► **FEMALE NOMINEES** for the Nominating Committee:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

► **MALE NOMINEES** for the Nominating Committee:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

RECOMMENDED by: _____

There will be a congregational meeting in December, following gathered worship, to elect the 2021 Nominating Committee members.