The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"As the ultimate seed of Abraham, Jesus is the one to whom God's promises to Abraham truly belong (Gal. 3:16)...Though Isaac was spared on the mountain of sacrifice, Jesus would not be spared. Isaac was delivered from death, yet Jesus was delivered through death—by resurrection. Jesus is the true and greater Isaac."

—Mitchell L. Chase

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

—Matthew 3:16-17

2 **EXECUTE** 2 **EXE**

Psalm 122:1-2; 124:8

Leader: I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

ALL: Our feet have been standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Leader: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

ALL: Who made heaven and earth.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshine's blaze its day May brighter, fairer be.

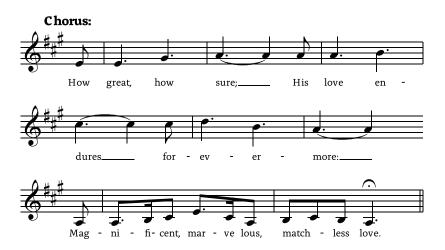
O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Words: George Matheson, 1882. Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.











 $\label{eq:continuous} U \ \mbox{- nit-ed in Your re-sur-rec-tion,} \quad You \quad lift \ us \ to \ in\mbox{-fi-nite} \quad heights.$





Words and Music: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Matt Papa, Aaron Keyes, Luke Brown. CCLI 7119246.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God:

ALL: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

We acknowledge and confess before you;

Our sinful nature, quick to do evil and slow to do good;

And all our shortcomings and offenses.

You alone know how often we have sinned;

In wandering from your ways;

In wasting your gifts;

In forgetting your love.

O Lord, have mercy upon us!

In our sin we have displeased you.

Teach us to hate our errors;

Cleanse us from our secret faults;

And forgive our sins;

For the sake of your dear Son.

And most holy and loving Father;

Please help us live in your light and walk in your ways;

In keeping with the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord,

According to the promised grace of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Hear us now, as we silently confess our sins.

MASSURANCE OF PARDON

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

—1 Peter 2:24

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.

MICENE CREED

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven; and sits on the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the life of the world to come. Amen.

"His Mercy is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done; Omniscient all knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore: Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more! Stronger than darkness, new every morn, Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father, so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor: Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. (Chorus)

What riches of kindness He lavished on us! His blood was the payment, His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford: Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. (Chorus, twice)

Words and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa. © 2016 Messenger Hymns (ASCAP)/Getty Music Publishing (ASCAP)/Love Your Enemies Publishing (ASCAP). Admin at MusicServices.org. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI 7065053.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Hebrews 11:8-19

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer" Congregational Hymn

Whose priceless blood has ransomed me;
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails,
And hung Him on that judgment tree;
I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who crushed the power of sin and death;
My only Savior before the holy Judge,
The Lamb who is my righteousness,
The Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer,
My life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another,
I'm satisfied in Him alone;
I will glory in my Redeemer,
His faithfulness my standing place;
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me,
My feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who carries me on eagles' wings;
He crowns my life with loving-kindness,
His triumph song I'll ever sing;
I will glory in my Redeemer,
Who waits for me at gates of gold,
And when He calls me, it will be paradise,
His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.

Words and Music: Steve and Vikki Cook. CCLI 3337435.

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

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 18 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

Genesis 22

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because

you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

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

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

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.

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Let us love and sing and wonder, Let us praise the Savior's name! He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mt. Sinai's flame.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, Pitied us when enemies, Called us by His grace and taught us, Gave us ears and gave us eyes:

Chorus:

He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood, He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation Threatens hard to bring us down! For the Lord, our strong salvation, Holds in view the conqueror's crown.

Let us wonder; grace and justice Join and point to mercy's store; When through grace in Christ our trust is, Justice smiles and asks no more:

He who washed us with his blood, He who washed us with his blood, He who washed us with his blood, Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus Of the saints enthroned on high; Here they trusted him before us, Now their praises fill the sky:

He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood, He has washed us with his blood, He will bring us home to God.

He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood. (Repeat 4x)

Words: John Newton, 1774. Music: Laura Taylor, 2001. CCLI 5834479.

BENEDICTION

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT: March 21 - 27, 2021

SUNDAY, March 21

8:15 a.m. Gathered Worship 10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship

MONDAY - FRIDAY,

March 22 - 26 Spring Break for Alabama Schools

Scripture Memory. During the season of Lent, we invite our whole congregation to memorize Colossians 3:3-5. Lent is a season when we slow down and take a hard look at our sin. Colossians 3:3-5 reminds us that, while we have already died with Christ, we still have indwelling sin to battle. This passage will help us live out the grace of repentance together.

Sunday School Podcast. This week's Sunday School podcast focuses on Matthew 16. You can find this podcast on iTunes by searching for "Covenant Presbyterian Church" and at covpres.com/see-hear/audio.

Holy Week at Covenant. Holy Week begins with our two worship services on Palm Sunday, March 28. We also will have a Maundy Thursday service, with communion, at 7:00 p.m. on April 1 and a Good Friday service at 12:00 p.m. on April 2. Easter morning we will begin with a Sunrise Service at 6:15 p.m. at Vulcan, and then we will have three worship services at Covenant: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. We will require RSVPs for the three services at Covenant. Reservations open March 17 at 9:00 a.m. at covpres.com/lent. Please note that Children's Worship will be available at the 8:00 and 9:30 services.

Communion. We plan to return to weekly communion on Sunday, April 11. We will distribute the bread and cup in the same manner to which you are accustomed, with social distancing in place. We also will have prepackaged elements available to anyone who wants them. Please plan to join us in person for communion, as you are able and comfortable, beginning April 11.

Returning to Sunday School. It is our plan and hope to return to Sunday morning Sunday School on April 11! We are dividing our Sunday School communities into two groups that will meet every other Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 a.m., April 11 through June 27. For group assignments and dates, please see page 20 or visit covpres.com/sunday-school-communities. Our full nursery will be available, and all Children's and Youth Sunday Schools will meet together weekly during this time. If you have any questions, please contact David Driskill (ddriskill@covpres.com) or Laura Tucker (ltucker@covpres.com).

Early Service Time Change. With the return of Sunday School on April 11, we also will be moving our early service from 8:15 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. This will allow our worshipers in that service to make their way to Sunday School.



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS: THE GLORY & GRACE OF KING JESUS

THE CONCLUSION OF OUR LENTEN STUDY OF MATTHEW

We invite you to join us in worship during Holy Week as we reflect on the Passion of our Lord and celebrate his Resurrection. All are welcome!

| PALM SUNDAY |

March 28

Gathered Worship | 8:15 & 10:30 am

| MAUNDY THURSDAY |

April 1

Gathered Worship with Communion | 7:00 pm

| GOOD FRIDAY |

April 2

Gathered Worship | 12:00 noon

| EASTER SUNDAY |

April 4

Sunrise Service at Vulcan Park \mid 6:15 am

Gathered Worship | 8:00 am*

Gathered Worship | 9:30 am*

Gathered Worship | 11:00 am*

*RSVPs required through covpres.com/lent. Please note that Children's Worship will be available at the 8:00 and 9:30 services.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

SUNDAYS, 9:15-10:15 A.M. | APRIL 11 - JUNE 27, 2021

Nursery available; Children's and Youth Sunday School classes will meet together weekly during this time.

GROUP A

April 11, 25; May 9, 23; June 6, 20

CROSSPOINTE (S100)	Young families; 30s
LIGHTHOUSE (E301)	30s and 40s
LIVING STONES (E201)	40s and 50s
OPEN DOORS (S104)	70s and above
UPPER ROOM (S104)	60s and 70s

GROUP B

April 18; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27

COMMUNITY (E305)	All ages and life stages
CORNERSTONE (E100)	30s and 40s
FOUNDATIONS (E301)	30s and 40s
KINGDOM BUILDERS (E201)	50s and 60s
THRESHOLD (E304)	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, mcrawford@covpres.com
Senior Adults, Missions)

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 illink@covpres.com

MINISTRY STAFF

Rick Barnes, Director of Music rbarnes@covpres.com Jami Bennett, Director of MDO and Nursery Ministries ibennett@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 ijohnson@covpres.com (Young Adults, Adult Discipleship) Sara Litten. Director of Girls' Ministries slitten@covpres.com Andrew Luchenbill, Assistant Director of Guys' Ministries aluchenbill@covpres.com Daniel Sluis, Director of Guys' Ministries dsluis@covpres.com Brooke Stewart, Director of Covenant Day School bstewart@covpres.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Laura Tucker, Director of Children's Ministries

Katie Caldwell, Director of Design and Production
Meg Cotney, Director of Finance
Tyler Cuidon, Director of Technical Services
Phyllis Hamm, Ministry Assistant (Missions, Member Care)
Jeff Herbert, Director of Facilities
Stacey Loyless, Director of Communications and Media
Jocelyn Martin, Ministry Assistant (Children's)
Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship)
Kim Oliver, Assistant to the Senior Pastor
Traci Parker, Director of Food Services
Justin Richardson, Assistant to the Church Administrator
Karan Stuart, Receptionist
Victoria Williams, Ministry Assistant (Women, Shepherding)

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Itucker@covpres.com

22 RULING ELDERS

2021 2022 2023

Eric Getty Ty Dedmon Will Brooke
Daniel Murray John Hamilton Nathan Collums

Warren Norville Mark Hogewood Jeff Dyess
Sandy Stradtman John James Michael Latta
Clay Wheeler David O'Dell Charlie Logan
Norman Pless Bob Schaffeld

Kurt Senn

John Smith T Steve Stigler

DEACONS

2021 2022 2023 Nick Baggett Jim Bennett Tripp Alexander William Edwards Ward Bailey Joseph Cascio Richard Cox Samuel Bragg Merrill Johnston Randall Lancaster Trey Clegg Jay Evans Will Graham Mark Midvette Bryan Flores Jeff Hicks Stephen Mince Gary Gorham Jim Jenkins Clyde Prather Jeff Haves John Shank John Shults Alan Spooner Joe Strickland Matt Thomas Patrick Strong

Greg Tomlinson

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

Darrell Tucker

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.

MARCH READING PLAN

MARCH READING PLAN							
	NUMBERS	MARK					
1	□ 26-28	□ 9:30-50					
2	□ 29-31	□ 10:1-34					
3	□ 32-34	□ 10:35-52					
4	□ 35-36	□ 11:1-14					
	DEUTERONOMY						
5	□ 1-3	□ 11:15-33					
6/7	□ 4-9	□ 12					
8	□ 10-11	□ 13:1-31					
9	□ 12-13	□ 13:32-14:9					
10	□ 14-16	□ 14:10-31					
11	□ 17-19	□ 14:32-52					
12	□ 20-22	□ 14:53-72					
13/14	□ 23-28	□ 15					
15	□ 29-31	□ 16					
		LUKE					
16	□ 32-33	□ 1:1-38					
17	□ 34	□ 1:39-56					
	JOSHUA						
18	□ 1-2	□ 1:57-80					
19	□ 3-4	□ 2:1-21					
20/21	□ 5-8	□ 2:22-3:20					
22	□ 9-10	□ 3:21-38					
23	□ 11-12	□ 4:1-41					
24	□ 13-14	□ 4:42-5:26					
25	□ 15-17	□ 5:27-39					
26	□ 18-19	□ 6:1-26					
27/28	□ 20-24	□ 6:27:7:35					
	JUDGES						
29	□ 1-3	□ 7:36-8:3					
30	□ 4-5	□ 8:4-39					
31	□ 6-7	□ 8:40-56					

