The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We all long for Eden, and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most human, is still soaked with the sense of exile."

-J.R.R. Tolkien

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

—Revelation 21:22

"Our priestly task as a Church in being God's temple, so filled with his presence, is that we expand the temple of his presence and fill the earth with that glorious presence until God finally accomplishes this goal completely at the end of time!"

-G. K. Beale

"The image is broken and marred, but it remains. ...[H]umanity... recognizes the 'wrongness' and continues to cry out for the world as it should be—Eden."

-Sandra L. Richter

M CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Edwards

MATHOR ADORATION

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease, 'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ; Ye blind, behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread thro' all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

He speaks and list'ning to his voice, New life the dead receive; The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; The humble poor believe.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Carl G. Glazer, 1828; arr. Jeff Koonce, 2012.

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Kristi Gidley

Isaiah 61:1-7

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations;

Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
 foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;
 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
 they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
 you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
 and in their glory you shall boast.
 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
 instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
 therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
 they shall have everlasting joy.

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

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

"Jesus I Come"

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness and into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth, Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows and into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above, Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come. Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Father of Mercies,

We come before you today ready and willing to admit our failures.

We have failed to steward your world in a way that honors and pleases you;

We use and take advantage of your gracious gifts,

And we daily fail to obey your Word.

You made us to be a kingdom of priests,

And we have failed to welcome others into your gracious presence.

Forgive us according to your steadfast love,

And renew us by your Spirit,

So that we may better serve you and others

To bring them Into the shalom of your presence.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

MASSURANCE OF PARDON

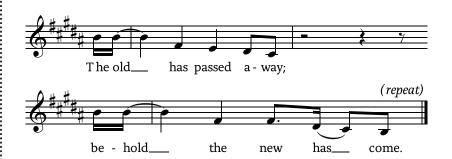
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

-2 Corinthians 5:17

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.

"2 Corinthians 5:17"





Words: 2 Corinthians 5:17. Music: Adam Wright.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 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

Marty Crawford

"Let the Nations Be Glad" Congregational Hymn





Words and Music: Matt Boswell, Aaron Boswell, Matt Papa. CCLI: 5760316.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

See page 15 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

Ty Dedmon

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:5-25

Then 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."

²⁻⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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

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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.

MATHEMATICAL PROPERTY OF GLORY

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell" (to the tune of "Doxology")

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice. Serve Him with joy, His praises tell, Come now before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; He formed us all without our aid. We are the flock He comes to feed, The sheep who by His hand were made.

O enter then His gates with joy, Within His courts His praise proclaim. Let thankful songs your tongues employ, O bless and magnify His name.

Because the Lord, our God is good, His mercy is forever sure. His faithfulness at all times stood, And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore, From us and from the angel host, Be praise and glory evermore.

Be praise and glory evermore.

Words: William Kethe, 1561. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551 OLD HUNDREDTH.

BENEDICTION

SUNDAY, September 27

10:30 a.m. Gathered Worship (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday School (Group A; see page 16)

MONDAY, September 28

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

TUESDAY, September 29

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 30

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

Crosspointe Sunday School Community

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 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!

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 ibennett@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 6os and 7os

GROUP B

October 4, 18; and November 8, 22

COLLEGE College students

CORNERSTONE30s and 40sFOUNDATIONS30s and 40sKINGDOM BUILDERS50s 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)

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 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 jjohnson@covpres.com (Young Adults, Adult Discipleship) slitten@covpres.com Sara Litten. Director of Girls' Ministries 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 Stacev Lovless, Director of Communications and Media slovless@covpres.com Casey O'Dell, Ministry Assistant (Children's Choir, Worship) caseys.odell@gmail.com Kim Oliver. Assistant to the 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

18 RULING ELDERS

2020 2021 2022

Bill BennettEric GettyTy DedmonWill BrookeRussell MartinJohn HamiltonMichael LattaDaniel MurrayMark HogewoodCharlie LoganWarren NorvilleJohn JamesPaul LoylessSandy StradtmanDavid O'Dell

Bob Schaffeld Clay Wheeler Norman Pless

Lee Sheppard Kurt Senn
Steve Stigler
Mark Taylor

John Wood

DEACONS

2020 2021 2022

Jim Bennett Tripp Alexander Nick Baggett William Edwards Paul Darden Ward Bailey Jay Evans Samuel Bragg Merrill Johnston Bryan Flores Trey Clegg Randall Lancaster Will Graham Mark Midyette John Gant John David Gray Jeff Hicks Stephen Mince Marty Martin Jim Jenkins Clyde Prather Bud Miller John Shank Alan Spooner Tyler O'Connor Patrick Strong Matt Thomas

John Shults
Danny Smith
Robert Stephens
Clark Worrell

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

Greg Tomlinson

BIBLE READING PLAN

31/Nov. 1

□ 29-34

□ 3-Philemon

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 READI | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 00/07 | ISAIAH | GALATIANS |
| 26/27 | □ 7-11 | □ 6-Ephesians 1 |
| | | EPHESIANS |
| 28 | □ 12-14 | □ 2 |
| 29 | □ 15-17 | □ 3 |
| 30 | □ 18-20 | □ 4 |
| OCTOBER READING | G PLAN | |
| | ISAIAH | EPHESIANS |
| 1 | □ 21-23 | □ 5 |
| 2 | □ 24-26 | □ 6 |
| | | PHILIPPIANS |
| 3/4 | □ 27-30 | □ 1-2 |
| 5 | □ 31-32 | □ 3 |
| 6 | □ 33-34 | □ 4 |
| | | COLOSSIANS |
| 7 | □ 35-37 | □ 1:1-2:5 |
| 8 | □ 38-40 | □ 2:6-3:17 |
| 9 | □ 41-42 | □ 3:18-4:18 |
| | | 1 THESSALONIANS |
| 10/11 | □ 43-48 | □ 1:1-2:12 |
| 12 | □ 49-50 | □ 2:13-3:5 |
| 13 | □ 51-53 | □ 3:6-13 |
| 14 | □ 54-55 | □ 4 |
| 15 | □ 56-58 | □ 5 |
| 15 | 2 30 30 | 2 THESSALONIANS |
| 16 | □ 59-61 | |
| 17/18 | □ 62-66 | □ 2-3 |
| 1// 10 | JEREMIAH | 1 TIMOTHY |
| 19 | □ 1-3 | |
| 20 | □ 4-5 | □ 2 |
| 21 | □ 4-3 □ 6-7 | □ 3 |
| 22 | □ 8-9 | □ 4 |
| 23 | □ 10-11 | • |
| | | □ 5:1-6:2a |
| 24/25 | □ 12-15 | □ 6:2b-2 Timothy 1:18 |
| 0.0 | - 10 17 | 2 TIMOTHY |
| 26 | □ 16-17 | □ 2 - |
| 27 | □ 18-20 | □ 3 |
| 28 | □ 21-23 | □ 4 |
| | | TITUS |
| 29 | □ 24-26 | □1 |
| 30 | □ 27-28 | □ 2 |

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