

CHRIST COVENANT ——CHURCH——

SERVICE OF WORSHIP ~ ONLINE EDITION THE LORD'S DAY ~ March 19, 2023

that in everything he might be preeminent. —Colossians 1:18

WELCOME TO CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

We are glad you are here! Whether you are visiting for the first time or you've been here for years, we encourage you to look through the bulletin as you prepare for worship. Often, there will be some theme or main idea sprinkled throughout. Some elements of the service may be familiar to you, while other aspects might feel new. Either way, it will help to keep the basic pattern of worship in mind: praise, renewal, proclamation, and response. We encourage you to take a bulletin home for further reading and prayer. Finally, if you don't have a Bible, feel free to take one from the pew as our gift to you.

IN PREPARATION

One of the church's favorite hymns is *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, but this beloved song includes one of the most challenging lines in all of hymnody. It is, "Let goods and kindred go." Theologically it makes sense but emotionally it's tough to spit the words out. In several ways our service will call us to put our first love first.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

Announcements and Greeting

Scripture Meditation—Luke 8:19–21

Then [Jesus'] mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Introit—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God v. 4

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, his kingdom is forever.

Text: Based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529

Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 71:22–23

Leader: Praise the Lord your God for his faithfulness, Sing praises to the Holy One of Israel!

ALL: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee; holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea; holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Text: Reginald Heber; Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1861

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Song—All Hail the King of Heaven

All hail the King of Heaven, Christ the Lord of all, Whom thundering angels circle 'round ablaze with awe; Let now the Hallelujah, of earth in glad refrain, Ascend the throne, to him belongs immortal praise.

Refrain: All hail the king of heaven, creation join together, Let endless praises crown his name all hail the king of heaven.

All hail the Great Redeemer, who so humbly came The lamb of our salvation, O for sinners slain Let now the loud Hosanna resound from shore to shore You nations say, "His kingdom reigns, forevermore!"

Let praise of nations rise now as a symphony
To sound the endless wonders of his majesty
Let every heart adore him, the great and small the same
Through generations ever let his anthem ring!

Text and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa ©2021 Getty Music

Congregational Song—Psalm 42: Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call

Lord from sorrows deep I call when my hope is shaken. Torn and ruined from the fall, hear my desperation. For so long I've pled and prayed, "God come to my rescue." Even so the thorn remains. Still my heart will praise you.

[Refrain] And oh my soul, put your hope in God. My help, my rock, I will praise him. Sing, oh sing, through the raging storm. "You're still my God, my salvation."

Storms within my troubled soul, questions without answers. On my faith these billows roll. God, be now my shelter. Why are you cast down, my soul? Hope in him who saves you. When the fires have all grown cold, cause this heart to praise you. [Refrain.]

Should my life be torn from me, ev'ry worldly pleasure. When all I possess is grief, God, be then my treasure. Be my vision in the night. Be my hope and refuge. 'Til my faith is turned to sight, Lord, my heart will praise you. [Refrain.]

Text and Music: Matt Papa and Matt Boswell ©2018 Getty Music

Old Testament Scripture Reading— Genesis 4:2–7

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

New Testament Scripture Reading— Hebrews 11:1-4

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Corporate Confession of Sin—from a prayer of Ambrose

O Lord, you have mercy upon all—take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of the Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Grace

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory—Guide Us, Lord

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way, Trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray.

Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly, Help us follow you more nearly day by day, day by day, guide us Lord, we pray.

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way, Seeking wisdom from your word, strengthen our tender faith.

When we stray and fall to sin help us find your path again; Draw us closer in your fellowship of love.

Lead us, teach us, guide us, Lord we pray.

Text and Music: Mark Patterson, quoting the Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester, 1197-1253

Sacrament of Baptism

Covenant Baptism

Daphné Esther Foucachon

Daughter of Joseph and Savannah Foucachon

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading—Luke 9:57–62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Congregational Song of the Month— Jesus With Thy Church Abide

Parents, you may escort your pre-school aged children to Children's Bible Time (B-102)

Jesus, with thy church abide; be her Savior, Lord, and Guide, while on earth her faith is tried: we beseech thee, hear us. Keep her life and doctrine pure; grant her patience to endure, trusting in thy promise sure: we beseech thee, hear us.

[Refrain 1] Arm her soldiers with the cross, brave to suffer toil or loss, counting earthly gain but dross: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she in communion be, one in truth and charity, winning all to faith in thee: we beseech thee, hear us.

May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find, and the brokenhearted bind: we beseech thee, hear us. [Refrain 1]

Save her love from growing cold, make her watchmen strong and bold, fence her round, thy peaceful fold: we beseech thee, hear us. May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light through the realms of heathen night: we beseech thee, hear us.

[Refrain 2] May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin, gather all the nations in: we beseech thee, hear us.

Text: Thomas Benson Pollock, 1871; Music: and alt. v. 2: Nathan Clark George, 2023

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word—Leviticus 10

ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

Kevin DeYoung

Congregational Hymn—#9 Give to Our God Immortal Praise

Benediction

If you have a prayer need or need to speak with an elder, they will be available at the front of the Worship Center following the morning service.

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Dr. Kevin DeYoung; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Zach Fulginiti; Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Organist: Pam Eash; Pianist: Pamela Mullins; Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon

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SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 6:00 p.m.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 89:14–18

Leader: Praise the Lord! Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before him.

ALL: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

Leader: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

ALL: For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Congregational Hymn—
#97 We Praise You O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

Prayer of Adoration

Old Testament Scripture Reading—Ezekiel 17:22–24

New Testament Scripture Reading—Romans 3:9–19

Congregational Hymn—Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on thee, when sorrows rise; on thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies. To thee I tell each rising grief for thou alone canst heal. Thy Word can bring a sweet relief, for ev'ry pain I feel.

But oh! when gloomy doubts prevail, I fear to call thee mine. The springs of comfort seem to fail, and all my hopes decline. Yet gracious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my only trust; and still my soul would cleave to thee though prostrate in the dust.

Hast thou not bid me seek thy face, and shall I seek in vain? And can the ear of sov'reign grace be deaf when I complain? No, still the ear of sov'reign grace attends the mourner's pray'r. Oh may I ever find access to breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat; with humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet. Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat; with humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath Thy feet.

Text: Anne Steel; Music: Matt Merker

Giving of Tithes and Offerings Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Hymn—#274 Thine Be the Glory

Preaching of the Word—Luke 13:6–9

THE BARREN FIG TREE

Daniel Pollorena

Congregational Hymn—
#520 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastoral Intern: Daniel Pollorena; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Bruce Creswell;
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Organist: Pam Eash

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In humble reliance upon the word of God and prayer, Christ Covenant Church is committed to worshiping God, making disciples, loving one another, and serving the body of Christ.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Services at 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

SENIOR STAFF

Kevin DeYoung, Senior Pastor kdeyoung@christcovenant.org

Tom Groelsema, Executive Pastor tgroelsema@christcovenant.org

Dave Baxter, Pastor of Congregational Life dbaxter@christcovenant.org

Bruce Creswell, Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation bcreswell@christcovenant.org

Zach Fulginiti, Pastor of Campus Ministry zachary.fulginiti@campusoutreach.org

Nathan George, Pastor of Worship ngeorge@christcovenant.org

Mike Miller, Pastor of Outreach and Missions mmiller@christcovenant.org

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Amy Wallace, Director of Children's Ministry awallace@christcovenant.org

Blair Smith, Adult Education Coordinator bsmith@christcovenant.org

NEW TO CHRIST COVENANT?

We hope you will visit the Guest Center in the main lobby so we can meet you!

Interested in knowing more about Christ Covenant Church? Please contact Michelle Gustavson,
Engagement and Connections Ministry Manager, at mgustavson@christcovenant.org.

Interested in a small group? Please contact Caleb Johnson,
Small Groups and Young Adults Ministries Coordinator, at calebjohnson@christcovenant.org.