

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
THE LORD'S DAY

January 7, 2024

## WELCOME TO CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

We are glad you are here to worship the living God! This worship folder is intended to guide you through the service, as well as provide you with devotional material to take home.

## IN PREPARATION

The idea that to live is Christ and to die is gain is easy to assent to in theory. But the fact is that life can be very difficult and dying can be very scary. Both take supernatural courage. May the Lord fill us with unshakable hope as we meditate upon his Word today.

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 10:45 AM

### Announcements and Greeting

### Scripture Meditation—Philippians 1:18–21

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

### Introit

### Call to Worship—Psalm 31:23–24

Leader: Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

**ALL: Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for the LORD!**

## Congregational Song—Praise the Lord (Psalm 150)




1. You made the star - ry host; you traced the moun - tain peaks. You  
 2. You reached in - to the dust; with love your Spi - rit breathed. You  
 3. Let sym - pho-nies re-sound; let drums and choirs ring out. All

paint the ev - 'ning skies with won-ders. The earth, it is your throne from  
 formed us in your ver - y like-ness. To know your won-drous works, to  
 heav - en hear the sound of wor-ship. Let ev - 'ry na - tion bring its

des - ert to the sea. All na - ture tes - ti - fies your splen - dor.  
 tell your might - y deeds, to join the ev - er - last - ing chor - us.  
 hon - ors to the King: a roar of har - mo-nies, e - ter - nal.

### Refrain 1 & 2



Praise the Lord, — praise the Lord; sing his great-ness all cre - a - tion. Praise the  
 Lord. — Raise your voice, you heights and all you depths from furth - est East to  
 West. Let ev - 'ry-thing that has breath praise the Lord. — (To vs. 3)

### Refrain 3



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; sing his great-ness all cre - a - tion. Praise the  
 Lord. — Raise your voice, you heights and all you depths from furth - est East to  
 West. You dis - tant burn - ing stars, all crea - tures near and far, from sky to sea to  
 shore, sing out for-ev - er - more. Let ev - 'ry-thing that has breath praise the Lord.

Text and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa ©2020 Getty Music Publishing

## Prayer of Adoration

## **New Testament Scripture Reading—Acts 23:1–11**

And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.” And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?” Those who stood by said, “Would you revile God's high priest?” And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’” Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, “We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?” And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **Prayer of Confession of Sin and Assurance of Grace**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

### **Offertory—To Live Is Christ**

Text: Based on Philippians 1:19–25; Music: Nathan Clark George, 2012

# Congregational Hymn—Though Troubles Assail Us

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

Though trou - bles as - sail us and dan - gers af - fright,  
 The birds, with - out gar - ner or store-house, are fed;  
 When Sa - tan as - sails us to stop up our path,  
 No strength of our own and no good - ness we claim;

Though friends should all fail us and foes all u - nite,  
 From them let us learn to trust God for our bread.  
 And cour - age all fails us, we tri - umph by faith.  
 Yet, since we have known of the Sav - ior's great Name,

Yet one thing se - cures us, what - ev - er be - tide,  
 His saints what is fit - ting shall ne'er be de - nied,  
 He can - not take from us, though oft he has tried,  
 In our strong tow - er for safe - ty we hide:

The pro - mise as - sures us, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 So long as 'tis writ - ten, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 This heart cheer - ing pro - mise, "The Lord will pro - vide."  
 The Lord is our pow - er, "The Lord will pro - vide."

Text: John Newton, 1779; Music: JOANNA, Traditional Welsh Melody

# Prayer of Illumination

## Preaching of the Word—Joshua 1:1–9

### A CALL TO COURAGE

Tom Groelsema

## Congregational Hymn—Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.  
O - pen now the cry - stal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my an - xious fears sub-side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy power - ful hand.  
let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through.  
death of deaths, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Can - aan's side.

Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en, feed me till I want no more;  
Strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to thee;

feed me till I want no more.  
be thou still my strength and shield.  
I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1775; Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Huges 1907

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation, Fencing of the Table, and the Words of Institution  
Distribution of the Bread and Cup

## Congregational Hymn—On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jor - dan's storm - y banks I stand, And cast a wish - ful  
All o'er those wide ex - tend - ed plains, Shines one e - ter - nal  
No chill - ing winds nor pois - 'nous breath Can reach that health - ful  
When shall I reach that hap - py place, And be for - ev - er \_

eye To Can-aan's fair and hap - py land, Where my pos - ses - sions \_ lie.  
day; There God the Son for - ev - er reigns, And scat - ters night a - way.  
shore; Sick-ness, sor-row, pain and death, Are felt and feared no \_ more.  
blessed? When shall I see my Fa-ther's face, And in His bos - om \_ rest?

I am bound I am bound bound for prom-ised land, \_  
I am bound I am \_ bound I am bound for prom-ised land, \_ I am  
I am bound I am bound bound for prom-ised land. \_  
bound I am \_ bound I am bound for prom-ised land. \_

Text: Samuel Stennett; Music: Christopher Miner ©1997 Christopher Miner

## Prayer for our Special Offering

Please place all special /monthly communion offering gifts in an envelope (found in pews) and label it 'Special Communion Offering'.

## Congregational Song—In Christ Alone



In Christ a-lone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;  
In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less babe!  
There in the ground his bod-y lay, light of the world by dark-ness slain;  
No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the pow'r of Christ in me.



this cor-ner-stone, this so-lid ground, firm through the fierc-est drought and storm.  
This gift of love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the ones he came to save;  
then burst-ing forth in glor-ious day, up from the grave he rose a-gain!  
From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-mands my des-ti-ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease!  
till on that cross as Jes-us died, the wrath of God was sat-is-fied;  
And as he stands in vic-to-ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev-er pluck me from his hand;



My com-fort-er, my all in all— here in the love of Christ I stand.  
for ev'-ry sin on him was laid— here in the death of Christ I live.  
for I am his and he is mine— bought with the prec-ious blood of Christ.  
till he re-turns or calls me home— here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text and Music: Getty/Townend ©2007 Thankyou Music

## 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: Rev. Tom Groelsema; Assisting Pastor: Rev. Mike Miller;  
Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George; Organist: Pam Eash; Pianist: Sam Johnson;  
Instrumental Director: Joseph Foucachon

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## SERVICE OF WORSHIP — 6:00 p.m.

### Announcements and Greeting

#### Call to Worship—Based on Psalm 145:8–11

Leader: Worship the LORD, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over  
all that he has made.

**ALL:** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak  
of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power.

#### Congregational Hymn—#30 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

### Prayer of Adoration

#### Congregational Hymn—#433 O God of Mercy, God of Might

#### Old Testament Scripture Reading—Psalm 55:22–23

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

#### New Testament Scripture Reading—Philippians 4:6–7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

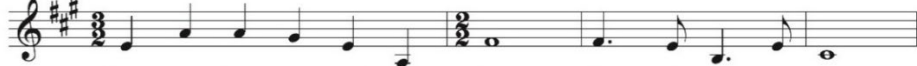
**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

### Giving of Tithes and Offerings

### Pastoral Prayer

## Congregational Song—He Will Hold Me Fast

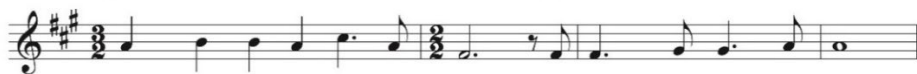
Parents, you may escort your pre-school aged children to Building Little Pillars (B-106).



When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
Those he saves are his de - light, Christ will hold me fast;  
For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.  
pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.  
jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;  
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;  
Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast,



for my love is of - ten cold; he must hold me fast.  
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.  
'till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last!



He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text: Ada Habershon, Matt Merker;

Music: Matt Merker ©2013 Getty Music Publishing and Matt Merker/BM

## Preaching of the Word—Psalm 28

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?

Joel May

## Congregational Hymn—#679 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

### Benediction

Assisting in Worship: Preaching Pastor: Rev. Joel May; Assisting Pastoral Intern: Ben Preiser;

Pastor of Worship: Rev. Nathan George

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## SERMON NOTES

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  
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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.

Christ Covenant Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).