



covenant.presbyterian.church

Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
April 16, 2023

Covenant's Mission Statement

"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."

Covenant's Values

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,
connectional by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),
confessional by adhering to the Westminster Standards,
missional by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and
relational by encouraging the church family to build community.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Matthew 3:-16 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:4-5

*⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons
through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

Invocation

Hymn

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise"

Give to our God immortal praise; mercy and truth are all His ways:
wonders of grace to God belong; repeat His mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown:
His mercies ever shall endure, when lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, He spread the sky, and fixed the starry lights on high:
wonders of grace to God belong; repeat His mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light; He bids the moon direct the night:
His mercies ever shall endure, when suns and moons shall shine no more.

He sent His Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave:
wonders of grace to God belong; repeat His mercies in your song.

Through this vain world He guides our feet, and leads us to His heav'nly seat:
His mercies ever shall endure, when this vain world shall be no more.

CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

¹ *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.*

² *Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's
hand double for all her sins.*

³ *A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make
straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.*

*5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

Congregational Prayer

Bruce Hurlbut, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Unto the Hills”
by Joseph M. Martin

Choir

Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes beyond the skies.
From where, for us, shall our salvation come? Who hears our cries?
From our Creator shall come our certain aid.
Our help is from our God, by whom all things are made.
Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes, unto the hills.
Jehovah God will keep us through the years. God knows our tears.
God is our shade, protecting every dream. God calms our fears.
We will not fear the sun. In faith we live each day
and through the silent night, God’s candle shows the way.
Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes, unto the hills.
From every evil God will keep our lives.
God will preserve our going out and coming in. God will guard our lives.
Above the angels watch with careful gaze.
God is our refuge, God is our refuge and our strength.
Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes.
From where, for us, shall our salvation come? Who will hear us?
From our Creator, shall come our certain aid.
Our help is from our God, by whom all things are made.
Unto the hills we lift our longing eyes, unto the hills.

CCLI 209271

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Ken Knecht, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold fast:
That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day,
and that He appeared first to the women, then to Peter,
and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God.

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 Mount Sinai’s flame.
 He has washed us with His blood, He has washed us with His blood.
 He has washed us with His blood. He has brought us nigh to God.

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
 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, threaten hard to bear us down
 for the Lord our strong salvation holds in view the conqu’ror’s crown.
 He who washed us with His blood. He who washed us with His blood.
 He who washed us with His blood soon will bring us home to God.

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.
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood. Thou hast washed us with Thy blood.
 Thou hast washed us with Thy blood. Thou art worthy Lamb of God.

© 2001 Laura Taylor Music/CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father of mercies, we confess that we have sinned against You.
 By Your Holy Spirit, come and work repentance into our hearts.

Help us to see You as You are: with outstretched arms, a loving heart,
 and power to save. Help us to see Jesus, the friend of sinners,
 and to follow Him more faithfully.

As we have received Him, so strengthen us to walk in Him,
 depend on Him, commune with Him, and be conformed to Him.

Give us an experience of Your grace that makes us bold for others,
 that we might joyfully tell our friends and neighbors of Your saving mercy.
 Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Galatians 4:4-5

*4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth
 his Son, born of woman, born under the law,*

*5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we
 might receive adoption as sons.*

We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Spread the tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Bear the news to ev'ry land, climb the steeps and cross the waves;
 onward! 'tis our Lord's command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Tell to sinners far and wide: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Sing, ye islands of the sea; echo back, ye ocean caves;
 earth shall keep her jubilee: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Sing above the battle strife, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 By His death and endless life, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves;
 sing in triumph o'er the tomb - Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Give the winds a mighty voice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Let the nations now rejoice - Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
 Shout salvation full and free, highest hills and deepest caves;
 this our song of victory- Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Reed

- ¹ *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*
- ² *As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,*
- ³ *the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”*
- ⁴ *John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*
- ⁵ *And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*
- ⁶ *Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.*
- ⁷ *And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.*
- ⁸ *I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

“Preparing the Way for Encountering Jesus”

Hymn

“May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day,
by His love and pow’r controlling all I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through His pow’r.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

May His beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel, seeing only Him.

CCLI 209271

Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“Preparing the Way for Encountering Jesus”
Mark 1:1-8

I. Mark's Aim

II. Mark's Message

III. Mark's Beginning

MEMBERS OF SESSION

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2023
Mr. Bruce Hurlbut
Mr. Carl Monroe
Mr. Jason Van Goor

Class of 2024
Mr. Jim Lewis
Mr. Josh Sanford
Dr. Brandon Walser

Class of 2025
Mr. Dan Butkowski
Dr. Bob Tramel

TEACHING ELDERS

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023
Mr. Scott Freydl
Dr. David Matlock
Mr. Jeff Rooker

Class of 2024
Mr. David Beuerman
Dr. Ken Knecht
Mr. Kurt Smith

Class of 2025
Mr. Peter Bogaards
Dr. Jonathan Goodwin
Mr. Jason Guenther

STAFF

Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS

Mrs. Liz Baker, Choir Director
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Becca Sanders, Vocalist
Mr. Mike Walsh, Pianist
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Vocalist

COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock
Scott & Kathy Craig, Mexico
Roger & Laura Dye, South Carolina
Del & Hazel Farris, MNA Ministry to State
Jamie & Jacki Gildard, France
Rob & Jenny Ilderton, England

Darlene Johnson, Japan
Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan
Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France
Jim & Karan Romaine, New York City
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)
Will & Martha, International
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Covenant Drive • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-228-5903
cpc@covenantpca.com • www.covenantpca.com
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America