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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*

April 19, 2020

*Covenant's Mission Statement*  
Covenant seeks to glorify God by  
*Establishing* Disciples biblically,  
*Engaging* Culture redemptively,  
*Expanding* Christ's Church faithfully.

*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 families to build community.

*“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.”  
Isaiah 40:28*

Prelude During the prelude, prepare for worship by  
reflecting on Isaiah 40: 28: printed above.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5, 17-19

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy  
name!*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,  
Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with steadfast  
love and mercy, Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle's.*

*But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His command-  
ments.*

*The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom  
rules over all.*

Hymn

*“Father, Long Before Creation”*

Father, long before creation Thou hadst chosen us in love,  
and that love so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and His covenant through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;  
mercy free and never failing moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee we will ever praise Thy love,  
and our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,  
giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb;  
giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb.

text by Francis Johnson/music by Andrew Osenga/CCLI 209271

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O, my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth;  
hast thou not seen, how all your longings have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee.  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,  
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen, sound from His people again;  
gladly for aye we adore Him.

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Corporate Profession of Faith

Habakkuk 3:17-19

*Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*

*GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

Scripture Reading

Romans 11:33-36, 8:28

Bob Tramel, Ruling Elder

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

*“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”  
“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Congregational Prayer

Bob Tramel, Ruling Elder

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well.  
Free and changeless in His favor, all is well.  
Precious is the blood that healed us, perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, all must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well.  
Ours is such a full salvation: all is well.  
Happy still in God confiding, fruitful if in Christ abiding,  
steadfast through the Spirit’s guiding, all must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow, all will be well.  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow; all is well.  
On our Father’s love relying, Jesus every need supplying,  
yes in living or in dying, all must be well.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

*Father in heaven, we thank You for the freedom You have given us through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son.*

*But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like You delight in us, we avoid You in shame and guilt.*

*Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts.*

*Instead of accepting Your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing Your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas.*

*Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Individual Prayer of Confession (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 2:13-14

*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

Hymn

*“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”*

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;  
behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev’ry hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow’r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

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Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 28:29

*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14

*Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?*

*In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.*

Sermon

*“The Wisdom of Knowing What We Can’t Know”*  
(Sermon Outline on next page)

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heaven’s sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“The Wisdom of Knowing What We Can’t Know”*  
Deuteronomy 28:29 and Ecclesiastes 7:13-14

I. God Is Sovereign And We Are Not.

II. God Is Sovereign And We Must Trust Him.

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