



covenant.presbyterian.church

*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
April 19, 2026

**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.

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

Psalm 1:1-2

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Psalm 1:1-2 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 1

*[1] Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; [2] but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. [3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. [4] The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. [5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; [6] for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“How Firm a Foundation”*

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed; for, I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

"E'en down to old age all My people shall prove My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Jim Lewis, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Beautiful Savior”*

Choir

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.  
Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.  
Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be Thine!

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Corporate Profession of Faith

1 Peter 1:3-5

*[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again  
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*[4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,  
kept in heaven for you,*

*[5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation  
ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Hymn

*"His Mercy Is More"*

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum  
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

**chorus:** *Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
stronger than darkness new every morn'  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
what Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

**chorus**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
we stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

**chorus**

**(2nd time chorus)** *Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
stronger than darkness New every morn'  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more  
our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

words and music by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa  
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Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

Lord, You are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with You!

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls.

Speak to each of us, and let Your Word abide with us until it has wrought in us Your holy will. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:8-12

*[8] The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. [9] He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. [10] He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. [11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; [12] as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Hymn

*“The Law of the Lord Is Perfect”*

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.  
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

**refrain:** *More to be desired are they than gold,  
yea, than much fine gold.  
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.  
The commandments of the Lord are pure, enlight'ning the eyes.

**refrain**

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.  
The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

**refrain**

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Scripture Reading

Ezra 7

Sermon

*“An Ancient Reformation”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“We Are God’s People”*

We are God’s people, the chosen of the Lord,  
born of His Spirit, established by His Word;  
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:  
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured  
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv’n:  
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav’n.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us to be a family, diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,  
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;  
we die alone, for on its own each member loses fire:  
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“An Ancient Reformation”*  
Ezra 7

I. Ezra's Calling.

II. Ezra's Commission.

III. Ezra's Courage.

1. To what was Ezra called?
2. Consider your own life. How do you see the hand of God being upon you in His “callings” (the doctrine of vocation) in your life?
3. How did God work in Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, to commission Ezra?  
What is important about Ezra’s commission?
4. How was Ezra given courage by God and what was his mission?
5. What does Ezra’s mission tell us about the necessity of God’s people being reformed and always reforming to God’s Word?

## **RULING ELDERS**

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Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

**Class of 2027**  
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Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

**Class of 2028**  
Mr. Jim Lewis  
Dr. Tom Paulus

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Mr. Mike Lieblich  
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Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beurman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

## **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

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Raimo & Annemari Survo	MTW/Finland
Will & Martha	International
Wes & Kim	Undisclosed

## **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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