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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
April 20, 2025

**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.

*“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

John 17:3

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on John 17:3 printed above.**

Easter Greeting

Pastor: Christ, the Lord, He is Risen!

**Congregation: He Is Risen Indeed!**

Life of the Church

Choral Introit

*“Day of Joy!”*

(Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin)

This is the day of joy, a day of celebration!  
This is the day of joy for all of God's creation,  
For Christ is risen from the dead. Let every heart rejoice.  
This is the joy of joy!

This is the day of joy, a day of adoration.  
This is the day of joy, a time of jubilation,  
For Christ is risen from the dead. Let every heart rejoice.  
This is the day of joy!

Come sing a glad hosanna, sing an alleluia.  
Sing an alleluia to the Lord!

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Call to Worship

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.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

"Christ the Lord is ris'n today," Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!  
raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia! Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia! Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!  
death in vain forbids His rise; Alleluia! Christ hath opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia! where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia! where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
made like Him, like Him we rise: Alleluia! ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! Alleluia! Praise to Thee by both be giv'n; Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now; Alleluia! hail, the Resurrection, Thou! Alleluia!

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Scripture Reading

Psalm 2

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

*“Joy in the Morning with Joyful, Joyful”*

Choir

Joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy in the morning on that day  
with the light of dawn, the dark is gone, there'll be joy.  
And the glory, glory of the Lord will shine  
And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.  
Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,  
with the bright dawn, night gone, there'll be joy, joy, joy.  
Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.  
Ever singing march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.  
And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine  
and the glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.  
There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere,  
and the way of the Lord will that day be restored.  
There'll be peace and contentment  
There'll be Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Scott Freydl, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

*“Up from the Grave He Arose”*

Low in the grave He lay- Jesus, my Savior,  
waiting the coming day- Jesus, my Lord.

**refrain:** *Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.  
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed- Jesus, my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead- Jesus, my Lord.

**refrain**

Death cannot keep his prey- Jesus, my Savior;  
He tore the bars away- Jesus, my Lord.

**refrain**

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## Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, gracious Father,  
we confess that we are not worthy of Your presence,  
but we look now to the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin.  
Through Him we would now come near to You,  
listening to Your voice, trusting in Your love,  
delighting in Your word, and leaning on Your arm.  
We joyfully beg to see Your face!  
Now cleanse our minds of all error and our hearts of all idols,  
that we may shine in the world with the radiant light of  
Your Spirit and Your character.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

### Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 3:18

*[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous,  
that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive  
in the spirit.*

### Hymn

*“In Christ Alone”*

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save;  
till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I'll live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*"Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death"*

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

**chorus:** *O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

**chorus**

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed,  
and we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore.

**chorus (2 times)**

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Sermon Outline  
*"What We Believe"*  
1 John 2:18-27

I. It is the Last Hour (v.18-19)

II. Jesus is the Christ (v.20-23)

III. The Promise of Eternal Life (v.24-25)

IV. The Anointing of the Spirit (v.26-27)

1. How might our awareness that it is the last hour impact the way we live?
2. What ways can we help one another "abide" in the truth that Jesus is the Christ?
3. What should give you confidence in the face of denials about Jesus?
4. How does this passage aid our assurance of eternal life (the theme of this letter)?

## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

#### **Class of 2025**

Mr. J. C. Baker (sabbatical)  
Mr. Dan Butkowski  
Dr. Bob Tramel

#### **Class of 2026**

Mr. William Fennell  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

#### **Class of 2027**

Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

### **TEACHING ELDERS**

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
Mr. Jason Guenther

#### **Class of 2026**

Mr. Andrew Kinzler  
Mr. Mike Lieblich  
Dr. David Matlock

#### **Class of 2027**

Mr. Bob Davis  
Mr. Scott Freydl  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

### **STAFF**

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)  
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

### **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

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

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

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Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock  
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Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan  
Pete Mitchell, France  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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