



covenant.presbyterian.church

*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
August 16, 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.

*“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”*  
John 17:17

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

Prelude

Life of the Church

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Psalm 119:9-16

*[9] How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. [10] With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! [11] I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. [12] Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! [13] With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. [14] In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. [15] I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. [16] I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

Come, Thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing, help us to praise.  
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, Ancient of days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word, gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.  
Come, and Thy people bless, and give Thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-29

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

William Fennell, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Hebrews 1:1-3

*[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways,  
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,  
[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,  
whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom  
also he created the world.  
[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact  
imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the  
word of his power. After making purification for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King.  
 He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
 In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come!  
 Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man,  
 in His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.  
 See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man,  
 Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
 In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory!  
 See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,  
 bringing many sons to glory: grace unmeasured, love untold!

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life.  
 But no grave could e'er restrain Him; Praise the Lord, He is alive!  
 What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
 Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.  
 What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
 Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

text & music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker  
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 arrangement/orchestration: Dan Kreider and Brad Weishaupt  
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### Corporate Confession of Sin

O Father, we are gathered before You, the Maker of Heaven and Earth,  
 Whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite,  
 to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed;  
 we have not loved You with all our heart and soul,  
 we have not loved You with all our mind and strength;  
 we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
 In Your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done  
 and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin  
 with a holy hatred. But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow.  
 With You, O Lord, there is forgiveness. In Your mercy, restore the joy  
 of our salvation; so that we may love You with a holy love. Amen.

### Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Luke 24:46-47

[46] *"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day  
 rise from the dead,*

*[47] and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed  
 in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."*

Hymn

*“O Great God”*

O great God of highest heav’n, occupy my lowly heart.  
Own it all and reign supreme, conquer every rebel pow’r.  
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war.  
You have loved and purchased me, make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice,  
did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven’s joys.  
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me  
through the Gospel of Your Son, gave me endless hope and peace.

Help me now to live a life that’s dependent on Your grace.  
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.  
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed.  
O great God of highest heav’n, glorify Your Name through me.  
music and words by Bob Kauflin/2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)/CCLI 209271

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:9-18

Sermon

*“A People of Scripture”*  
Part 2

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Trust and Obey”*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will,  
He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

**refrain:** *Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
but His smile quickly drives it away; not a doubt or a fear,  
not a sigh nor a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.

**refrain**

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
but our toil He doth richly repay; not a grief nor a loss,  
not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.

**refrain**

But we never can prove the delights of His love  
until all on the altar we lay; for the favor He shows,  
and the joy He bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.

**refrain**

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,  
or we’ll walk by His side in the way; what He says we will do,  
where He sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.

**refrain**

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“A People of Scripture”*  
Part 2  
Nehemiah 8:9-18

I. A People Who Long for Scripture. (last week)

II. A People Who Respond to Scripture.

III. A People Who Obey Scripture.

1. How would you characterize the perspective of “the people gathered” towards the Word of God in 8:1-8? Keep in mind to them the Word of God was the Toray or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, and in particular the book of Deuteronomy. What is your perspective on the Word and how might you seek to long for it more?
2. The people who heard Ezra read the Law wept (8:9). Why do you think they responded in that way? How did Ezra and Nehemiah encourage them? Have you found a similar mix of responses to God’s Word?
3. What is significant about the people observing the Feast of Booths in 8:13-18? Verses 14 and 18 will guide you in answering this question.

## **RULING ELDERS**

**Class of 2026**  
Mr. William Fennell  
Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

**Class of 2027**  
Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

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

## **TEACHING ELDERS**

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

## **BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2026**  
Mr. Andrew Kinzler  
Mr. Mike Lieblich  
Dr. David Matlock

**Class of 2027**  
Mr. Bob Davis  
Mr. Scott Freydl  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

**Class of 2028**  
Mr. Steve Nielson  
Mr. Zachary Wagers  
Mr. Bryant Young

## **STAFF**

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)  
Mr. David Linn, Intern  
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mrs. Anna Allen, Nursery Coordinator

## **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mr. Terry Allenbaugh, Guitarist  
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist  
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director, Vocalist

## **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

|                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Paul & Connie Backstrom | FamilyLife/Bentonville               |
| Dan & Nancy Butkowski   | CRU Arts & Culture/Little Rock       |
| Gabriel & Olga Diaz     | Church Planting - MTW/Mexico         |
| Frank & Daisy Du        | Church Planting/Little Rock          |
| Roger & Laura Dye       | FamilyLife/Latin America             |
| Jamie & Jacki Gildard   | MTW/France                           |
| Kevin & Annie Hale      | Training Leaders International       |
| Rob & Jenny Ilderton    | MTW/England                          |
| Darlene Johnson         | MTW/Japan                            |
| Pete Mitchell           | MTW/France                           |
| Gama & Grace Pozos      | Church Planting-MTW/US-Mexico Border |
| Ben & Kirstin Spivey    | MTW & RUF/London                     |
| Raimo & Annemari Survo  | MTW/Finland                          |
| Will & Martha           | International                        |
| Wes & Kim               | Undisclosed                          |

## **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America