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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
August 20, 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.

*"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding."  
Proverbs 3:13*

Prelude **During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Proverbs 3:13 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship Daniel 2:20-23

*[20] Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. [21] He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; [22] he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. [23] To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might.*

Invocation

Hymn *"Forever Settled in the Heavens"*

Forever settled in the heavens Thy Word, O Lord, shall firmly stand;  
Thy faithfulness shall never fail; the earth abides at thy command.

Thy word and works unmoved remain, Thine every purpose to fulfil;  
All things are thine and thee obey, and all as servants wait thy will.

I should have perished in my woe had not I loved thy law divine;  
That law I never can forget; O save me, Lord, for I am thine.

The wicked would destroy my soul, but in thy truth is refuge sure;  
Exceeding broad is thy command, and in perfection shall endure.

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Corporate Profession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee:  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

**refrain:** *Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided -  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

**refrain**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**refrain**

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Scripture Reading

James 3:13-18

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

*[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

*[14] But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.*

*[15] This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.*

*[16] For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

*[17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*

*[18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Ken Knecht, Deacon 3

Hymn

*"I Lift My Eyes Up to the Hills" (Psalm 121)  
to the tune "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"*

I lift my eyes up to the hills,  
from where shall come my aid?  
My help comes from the Lord above,  
Who heav'n and earth has made.

He will not let your foot be moved,  
your Keeper will not sleep.  
Behold, He slumbers not, nor sleeps,  
for He will Isr'el keep.

At your right had the Lord, your Keeper  
is your constant shade.  
The moon shall strike you not by night,  
nor sun by light of day.

The Lord will keep you from all harm;  
He keeps your life secure.  
Your going out and coming in,  
the Lord keeps evermore.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Lord, though You should guide us, we inform ourselves;  
though You should rule us, we control ourselves;  
though You should fulfill us, we console ourselves.  
We think Your truth too high, Your will too hard,  
Your power too remote, Your love too free. But they are not!  
And without them, we are of all people most miserable.  
Now heal our confused minds with Your word,  
heal our divided wills with Your law,  
heal our troubled consciences with Your love,  
heal our anxious hearts with Your presence,  
all for the sake of Your Son,  
who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 55:6-9

*[6] "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; [7] let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. [8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

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*[13] Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,*

*[14] for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.*

*[15] She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.*

*[16] Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.*

*[17] Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.*

*[18] She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.*

*[19] The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;*

*[20] by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.*

*[21] My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion,*

*[22] and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.*

*[23] Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.*

*[24] If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

*[25] Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,*

*[26] for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.*

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.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;  
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;  
Thou my soul’s shelter, Thou my high tow’r:  
raise Thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.

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.

Public Domain

Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“The Value of Wisdom”*  
Proverbs 3:13-26

I. The Wise Person is the Blessed Person (v.13-18)

II. The World is Governed by Wisdom (v.19-20)

III. The Wise Person is the Secure Person (v.21-26)

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

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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

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Dr. David Matlock  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

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Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Kurt Smith

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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

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

### COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
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Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France  
Jim & Karan Romaine, New York City  
Julian & Christiana Russell, Bahamas  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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