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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
August 7, 2022

**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 families to build community.

*"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,  
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by  
reflecting on 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Revelation 5:12-13

<sup>12</sup> *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth  
and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"*

<sup>13</sup> *And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under  
the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him  
who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor  
and glory and might forever and ever!"*

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy King-  
dom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debt-  
ors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for  
Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Hymn

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is His new creation by water and the Word:  
from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish. Her dear Lord to defend,  
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
though there be those who hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

"Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Exodus 24:3-8

- 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."*
- 4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.*
- 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.*
- 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.*
- 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."*
- 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."*

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*"Rise Up, O Men of God"  
by Kenneth Jennings*

Men's Chorus

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things;  
give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.  
Rise up, O men of God! His kingdom tarries long;  
bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong.  
Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait;  
Her strength unequal to her task; rise up and make her great!  
Lift high the Cross! Tread where His feet have trod;  
as brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O men of God!

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Corporate Profession of Faith

Romans 8:28-30

- 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*
- 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*
- 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*“He Will Hold Me Fast”*

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

**chorus:** *He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

**chorus**

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

**chorus**

Keith Getty/CCLI 209271

Hebrews 9:15-28

- <sup>15</sup> *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*
- <sup>16</sup> *For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.*
- <sup>17</sup> *For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.*
- <sup>18</sup> *Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.*
- <sup>19</sup> *For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,*
- <sup>20</sup> *saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.”*
- <sup>21</sup> *And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship.*
- <sup>22</sup> *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*
- <sup>23</sup> *Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*
- <sup>24</sup> *For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.*

*<sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,*

*<sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

*<sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,*

*<sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Sermon

*“Reasons to Hope”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;  
let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,  
all for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to Thee for dress, helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
foul, I to the Fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

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Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we confess that  
we have exchanged the truth about you for a lie;  
we have worshiped and served created things  
rather than you, our loving Creator.

Because of this our lives are empty,  
our relationships are broken  
and we deserve your judgment.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sin  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
By your Spirit, help us to trust in you  
and live for your glory.  
We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

*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.*

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

*“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

***chorus:*** *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

***chorus***

His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

***chorus***

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be  
found;  
dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

***chorus***

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“Reasons to Hope”*  
Hebrews 9:15-28

I. The Hope of Those Called.

II. The Hope of a Mediator.

III. The Hope of Those Who Eagerly Wait.

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