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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
December 26, 2021

*Covenant's Mission Statement*  
Covenant seeks to glorify God by  
*Establishing* Disciples biblically,  
*Engaging* Culture redemptively,  
*Expanding* Christ's Church faithfully.

*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.

*“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us  
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

1 John 4:10

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on 1 John 4:10 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 66:1-5, 16

*<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to God, all the earth;*

*<sup>2</sup> sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!*

*<sup>3</sup> Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!  
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.*

*<sup>4</sup> All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;  
they sing praises to your name.”*

*<sup>5</sup> Come and see what God has done:  
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.*

*<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord”*

All praise to Thee, Eternal Lord,  
clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;  
choosing a manger for Thy throne,  
while worlds on worlds are Thine alone.

Once did the skies before Thee bow;  
a virgin's arms contain Thee now:  
angels who did in Thee rejoice  
now listen for Thine infant voice.

A little child, Thou art our guest,  
that weary ones in Thee may rest;  
forlorn and lowly is Thy birth,  
that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night  
to make us children of the light,  
to make us, in the realms divine,  
like Thine own angels round Thee shine.

All this for us Thy love hath done;  
by this to Thee our love is won:  
for this we tune our cheerful lays,  
and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

1 John 4:7-10

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,  
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

*<sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God,  
because God is love.*

*<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us,  
that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we  
might live through him.*

*<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he  
loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

## Congregational Prayer

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

## Corporate Profession of Faith

Jesus Christ, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be exploited; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Like a River Glorious”*

Choir

Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace, over all victorious in its bright increase.  
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller ev’ry day; perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest-  
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand, never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care, not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest-  
finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

Ev’ry joy or trial cometh from above, traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.  
We may trust Him fully all for us to do; they who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest-  
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.  
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hymn

*“Lead Me to the Cross”*

(sheet music pgs. 8 & 9)

Saviour I come, quiet my soul, remember Redemption’s hill,  
Where Your blood was spilled, for my ransom.  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.  
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.  
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human,  
The word became flesh, bore my sin in death.  
Now, You’re risen.

Ev’rything I once held dear,  
I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.  
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.  
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.  
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.  
Rid me of myself, I belong to You.  
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

words and music by Brooke Fraser/CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

O merciful God, full of compassion and of great pity,  
who spares us from the fullness of suffering  
when we deserve punishment. Make us earnestly to repent.  
Make the remembrance of our sin so burdensome  
that we may flee to You with a troubled spirit and contrite heart.  
O merciful Lord, visit, comfort, and relieve us  
that we might live toward Your glory and for grace toward others.  
Cast us not from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from us,  
but excite in us true repentance that receives the righteousness of Jesus.  
Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 1:8-9

*<sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and  
to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Hymn

*“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”*

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in Thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

words by George Matheson/music by Christopher Miner  
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Scripture Reading

*<sup>8</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.*

*<sup>9</sup> Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.*

*<sup>10</sup> The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.*

*<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.*

*<sup>12</sup> My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.*

*<sup>13</sup> The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

*<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

Sermon

*“It's a Meaningful Life”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Amazing Grace!”*

Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound -  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“It’s a Meaningful Life”*  
Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

I. The Flawed Humanistic Conclusion.

II. An Urgent Fatherly Warning.

III. The Truthful Biblical Conclusion.

# Lead Me To The Cross

Words and Music by  
Brooke Fraser

♩ = 75

Em Bm7/D C

1 Sav - iour I come, \_\_\_\_\_ qui - et my soul, \_\_\_\_\_ re - mem -  
2 You were as I, \_\_\_\_\_ tempt - ed and tried, \_\_\_\_\_ 7 hu -

4 G D Em Bm7/D

ber \_\_\_\_\_ re - demp - tion's hill, \_\_\_\_\_ where Your blood was spilled, \_\_\_\_\_  
man \_\_\_\_\_ The word be - came flesh, \_\_\_\_\_ bore my sin in death. \_\_\_\_\_

7 C G D Am7

\_\_\_\_\_ for my ran - som \_\_\_\_\_ Ev - 'ry - thing \_\_\_\_\_ I  
\_\_\_\_\_ Now, You're ris - en \_\_\_\_\_

10 Dsus D Em D Cmaj7

once held \_\_\_\_\_ dear, \_\_\_\_\_ I count \_\_\_\_\_ it all \_\_\_\_\_ as loss. \_\_\_\_\_ Lead me to the cross, \_\_\_\_\_

13 Cmaj7 G D

\_\_\_\_\_ where Your love poured \_\_\_\_\_ out. \_\_\_\_\_ Bring me to my knees, \_\_\_\_\_

15 Cmaj7 G D Cmaj7 G

\_\_\_\_\_ Lord, I lay me \_\_\_\_\_ down. \_\_\_\_\_ Rid me of \_\_\_\_\_ my - self, \_\_\_\_\_ I be - long to \_\_\_\_\_ You. \_\_\_\_\_

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18 **D** *Last time to Coda* **Am9**  $\oplus$  **C** **D** **Em** **Bm7/D**

Oh, lead me. Lead me to the cross.

22 **C** **Em** **Bm7/D** **Am7** **Em**

To Your heart.

27 **G** **Cmaj7** **D** **G** **C**

To Your heart.

30 **D** **G** **Cmaj7**

Lead me to Your heart.

32 **D** **G** **C** **D** *D.S. al Coda*

Lead me to Your heart. Lead me to the cross.

$\oplus$  *Coda*

35 **Cmaj7** **D** **Cmaj7** **G**

Lead me to the cross, where Your love poured out.

37 **D** **Cmaj7** **G**

Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

39 **D** **Cmaj7** **G**

Rid me of my - self, I be - long to You.

41 **D** **Am9** **C** **D** **N.C.**

Oh, lead me. Lead me to the cross.

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Jerry Potts

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Tom Paulus, Clerk  
Bill Scholl

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Carl Monroe  
Jason Van Goor

**TEACHING ELDER**  
Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor

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