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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
December 27, 2020

*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.

*“Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth,  
in the seas and all deeps.”*

Psalm 135:6

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Psalm 135:6 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 135:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,*
- <sup>2</sup> who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!*
- <sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!*
- <sup>4</sup> For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.*
- <sup>5</sup> For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.*
- <sup>6</sup> Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,  
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew what the Almighty will do,  
if with His love he befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,  
spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
gladly for e'er we adore Him.

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The Sacrament of Baptism

Zoe Grace Dambaugh  
Covenant daughter of John and Emily Dambaugh

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

Acts 4:23-31

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

*<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.*

*<sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,*

*<sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?*

*<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—*

*<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,*

*<sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*

*<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,*

*<sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

*<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

Corporate Profession of Faith

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible knowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

Hymn

*“Be Still, My Soul”*

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as He has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
then shall you better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.  
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay  
from His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of You and for ignoring Your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that You rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we offend You in minimizing Your power and squandering Your gifts. We confess that our blindness to Your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. 20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.*

Hymn

*“Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”*

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

***refrain:*** *Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;  
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my strength, my vict'ry wins.

***refrain***

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,  
even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul.

***refrain***

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,  
storms about me, night o'ertakes me, He, my pilot, hears my cry.

***refrain***

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find,  
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

***refrain***

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Scripture Reading

*1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*

*7 The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”*

*8 And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”*

*9 Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?”*

<sup>10</sup> *Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.*

<sup>11</sup> *But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”*

<sup>12</sup> *And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.*

<sup>1:20</sup> *Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.*

<sup>21</sup> *And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

<sup>22</sup> *In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*

<sup>2:1</sup> *Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.*

<sup>2</sup> *And the LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”*

<sup>3</sup> *And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.”*

<sup>4</sup> *Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life.*

<sup>5</sup> *But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”*

<sup>6</sup> *And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”*

<sup>7</sup> *So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.*

<sup>8</sup> *And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.”*

<sup>10</sup> *But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

Hymn

*“O Father, You Are Sovereign”*  
(to the tune *“The Church’s One Foundation”*)

O Father, You are sovereign  
in all the worlds You made;  
Your mighty Word was spoken  
and light and life obeyed.  
Your voice commands the seasons  
and bounds the ocean’s shore,  
sets stars within their courses  
and stills the tempest’s roar.

O Father, You are sovereign  
in all affairs of man;  
no pow’rs of death or darkness  
can thwart Your perfect plan.  
All chance and change transcending,  
supreme in time and space,  
You hold Your trusting children  
secure in Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign  
the Lord of human pain,  
transmuting earthly sorrows  
to gold of heav’nly gain.  
All evil overruling,  
as none but Conqu’ror could,  
Your love pursues its purpose -  
our souls’ eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign!  
We see You dimly now,  
but soon before Your triumph  
earth’s every knee shall bow.  
With this glad hope before us  
our faith springs forth anew:  
our Sovereign Lord and Savior,  
we trust and worship You!

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\*Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“God Is Sovereign”*  
Job 1:6-12; 1:20-2:10

I. God’s Sovereignty is Comprehensive.

II. God’s Sovereignty can be Challenging.

III. God’s Sovereignty brings Comfort.



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