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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
February 19, 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.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him,
he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5*

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on John 15:5 printed above.

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Revelation 1:5-6

5 To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Invocation

Hymn

"We Come, O Christ, to You"

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
by whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
in You alone we live and move, and have our being in Your love.

You are the Way to God, Your blood our ransom paid;
in You we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand, Your love has met Your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in You,
the Source of every skill, the one eternal TRUE!
O great I AM! In You we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know You is to live
the more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in You: in us each day Your life renew!

We worship You, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,
to You our youth and strength adoringly we bring:
so fill our hearts, that all may view Your life in us, and turn to you.

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Scripture Reading

Psalm 80

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

- 9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.*
10 The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.
11 It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
12 Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
14 Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,
15 the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
16 They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
17 But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
18 Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Congregational Prayer

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Kurt Smith, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Hymn

*“That Man Is Best Who, Fearing God”
 (to the tune “Forever Trusting the Lord”)*

That man is blest who, fearing God, from sin restrains his feet,
 who will not stand with wicked men, who shuns the scorners' seat.

Yea, blest is he who makes God's law his portion and delight,
 and meditates upon that law with gladness day and night.

That man is nourished like a tree set by the rivers' side;
 its leaf is green, its fruit is sure, and thus his works abide.

The wicked like the driven chaff are swept from off the land;
 they shall not gather with the just, nor in the judgment stand.

The Lord will guard the righteous well, their way to Him is known;
 the way of sinners, far from God, shall surely be o'erthrown.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy Father, You see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts.
We confess that we are unworthy of Your gracious care.
We forget that all life comes from You and that to You all life returns.
We have not sought to do Your will with our whole hearts.
We have not lived as grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us.
Apart from You, we are nothing. Only Your grace can sustain us. Lord,
in Your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole.
Set us free from our sin, and restore us to the joy of Your salvation
now and forever. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 2:24-25

*²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.*

*²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now
returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Hymn

“Abide with Me”

(sheet music pg. 8)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
and, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
on to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

- ¹ *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*
- ² *Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*
- ³ *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*
- ⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*
- ⁵ *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
- ⁶ *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*
- ⁷ *If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*
- ⁸ *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*
- ⁹ *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*
- ¹⁰ *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*
- ¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
- ¹² *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*
- ¹³ *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*
- ¹⁴ *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*
- ¹⁵ *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*
- ¹⁶ *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*
- ¹⁷ *These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

Hymn

“Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me”

(sheet music pgs. 9 & 10)

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
 there is no more for heaven now to give.
 He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
 my steadfast love, my deep boundless peace.
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
 for my life is wholly bound to His.
 Oh how strange and divine, I can sing:
 all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
 for by my side, the Savior he will stay.
 I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
 for in my need, His power is displayed.
 To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
 through the deepest valley He will lead.
 Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
 the future sure, the price it has been paid;
 for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
 and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
 To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
 Jesus now and ever is my plea.
 Oh when the chains are released, I can sing:
 I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
 for He has said that He will bring me home;
 And day by day I know He will renew me
 until I stand with joy before the throne.
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 all the glory evermore to Him.
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren
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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“The Comfort of Union with Christ”
John 15:1-17

I. The Metaphor: “I am the true vine (v. 1-6)

II. It’s Meaning: “Abide in me” (v. 7-17)

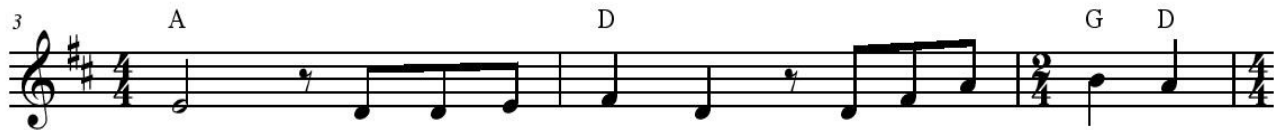
Abide With Me

CD Key

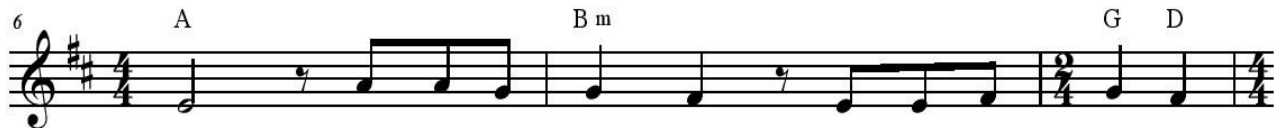
Words by Henry Lyte
alt. by Justin Smith
Music by Justin Smith



1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven -
2. Thou on my head, in ear - ly youth didst
3. I need Thy pres - ence, eve - ry pass - ing
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
5. Hold Thou Thy cross, be - fore my clos - ing



3
tide; The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
smile; And, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
hour: What but Thy grace, can foil the tempt - er's
bless; Ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -
eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the



6
bide. When oth - er help - ers, fail and com - forts
while, Thou hast not left me, oft as I left
power? Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can
ness. Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy vic - to -
skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows



9
flee, Help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
Thee, On to the close Lord, a - bide with me.
be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bide with me.
ry? I tri - umph still, a - bide with me.
flee; In life, in death, Lord, a - bide with me.


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Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me


Lead Sheet

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren

♩ = 75 C F⁶/A C/G F⁶/A


A  1. What gift of

5 C F




grace is Je - sus my red - ee - mer There is no
 dark but I am not for - sak - en For by my
 dread, I know I am For - giv - en The fu - ture
 breath I long to fol - low Je - sus For he has

7 C Am G




more for hea - ven now to give He is my
 side, the Sav - iour he will stay. I Lab - our
 sure, the price it has been paid For Je - sus
 said that he will bring me home And day by

9 C C(add9) F



joy, my righ - teous - ness, and free - dom My stead - fast
 on in weak - ness and rej - oic - ing For in my
 bled and suf - fered for my par - don And he was
 day i know he will ren - ew me Un - till I

11 C G C(sus4) C



love, my deep and bound - less peace. To this I
 need, his pow - er is dis - played To this I
 raised to ov - er - throw the grave To this I
 stand with joy be - fore the throne To this I

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13 F C

hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus For my
 hold, my Shep - herd will de - fend me Through the
 hold, my sin has been de - fea - ted Je - sus
 hold, my hope is on - ly Je - sus All the

15 F C G(sus4) G

life is who - lly bound to his. Oh how
 deep - est val - ley he will lead Oh the
 now and ev - er is my plea Oh the
 glo - ry ev - er - more to him When the

17 C Dm C/E F

strange and di - vine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not
 night has been won, and I shall ov - er - come! Yet not
 chains are rel - eased, I can sing: I am free! Yet not
 race is com - plete, still my lips shal re - peat: Yet not

19 C/G G Last time to

I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in
 I, but through Christ in

20 C F/A C/G F6/A

me
 me
 me

2. The night is
 3. No fate I
 4. With eve - ry

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One Covenant Drive • Little Rock, AR 72211 • 501-228-5903
cpc@covenantpca.com • www.covenantpca.com
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