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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
February 26, 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.

*"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."*

1 John 3:1

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on 1 John 3:1 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Philippians 4:4-5

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

*5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is at hand;*

Invocation

Hymn

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
and He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;  
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is for ever.

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- 1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.*
- 2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.*
- 3 I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.*
- 4 More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?*
- 5 O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.*
- 6 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.*
- 7 For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.*
- 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.*
- 9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.*
- 10 When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.*
- 11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.*
- 12 I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.*
- 13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.*
- 14 Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.*
- 15 Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.*
- 16 Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.*
- 17 Hide not your face from your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.*
- 18 Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!*
- 19 You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.*
- 20 Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.*
- 21 They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.*
- 22 Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.*
- 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually.*

- 24 Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.*
- 25 May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.*
- 26 For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.*
- 27 Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.*
- 28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.*
- 29 But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!*
- 30 I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.*
- 31 This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.*
- 32 When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.*
- 33 For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.*
- 34 Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.*
- 35 For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it;*
- 36 the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.*

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

*“Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor”*  
by Matt Papa

Ensemble

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Peter Bogaards, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

*“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”*

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me,  
underneath me, all around me is the current of Your love,  
leading onward, leading homeward to Your glorious rest above.

***refrain:*** *Oh the deep, deep love, all I need and trust  
is the deep, deep love of Jesus.*

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore,  
how He came to pay our ransom through the saving cross He bore;  
how He watches o’er His loved ones, those He died to make His own,  
how for them He’s interceding, pleading now before the throne.

**refrain**

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, far surpassing all the rest,  
it’s an ocean full of blessing in the midst of every test.  
Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, mighty Savior, precious Friend,  
You will bring us home to glory, where Your love will never end.

***refrain***

written by Samuel Trevor Francis/arr. by Bob Kauflin/CCLI 209271

Corporate Confession of Sin

O my Savior, help me.  
I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb;  
I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights;  
I am pained by my graceless heart, my prayerless days,  
my poverty of love, my sloth in the heavenly race,  
my sullied conscience, my wasted hours, my unspent opportunities.

I am blind while the light shines around me: take the scales from my eyes,  
grind to dust my heart of unbelief. Make it my highest joy to study You,  
meditate on You, gaze on You, sit like Mary at Your feet,  
lean like John on Your breast, appeal like Peter to Your love,  
count like Paul all things but dung. I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness  
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved  
Son,*

<sup>14</sup> *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness  
of sins.*

Hymn

*“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”*

Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood,  
sealed my pardon with His blood: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we; spotless Lamb of God was He;  
full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die, “It is finished!” was His cry;  
now in Heav’n exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring,  
then anew His song we’ll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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Scripture

John 15:17-27

*17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

*18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.*

*19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

*20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*

*21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*

*22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.*

*23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also.*

*24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.*

*25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’*

*26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.*

*27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.*

## Hymn

*“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”*

Jesus I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee  
 Destitute, despised, forsaken Thou from hence my all shalt be  
 Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known  
 Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me they have left my Savior too  
 Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not like them untrue  
 Oh while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might  
 Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, twill but drive me to Thy breast  
 Life with trials hard may press me, Heaven will bring me sweeter rest  
 Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me  
 Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Go then earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain  
 In Thy service pain is pleasure, with Thy favor loss is gain  
 I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee  
 Storms may howl and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

Soul then know thy full salvation rise o'er sin and fear and care.  
 Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.  
 Think what Spirit dwells within thee, think what Father's smiles are thine  
 Think that Jesus died to win thee, child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
 Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
 Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days.  
 Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

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## Scriptural Benediction

## Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“The Comfort of Proper Expectations”*  
John 15:17-27

I. Disciples Expect the World’s Hate (vv. 18-25)

II. Disciples Expect the Spirit’s Help (vv. 26-27)



## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

### **RULING ELDERS**

**Class of 2023**  
Mr. Bruce Hurlbut  
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

### **TEACHING ELDERS**

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Dr. David Matlock  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

**Class of 2024**  
Mr. David Beurman  
Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Kurt Smith

**Class of 2025**  
Mr. Peter Bogaards  
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 Beurman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

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

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
Peter & Jenny Boling, Mexico  
Dan & Nancy Butkowski, Little Rock  
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Pete & Ruth Mitchell, France  
Jim & Karan Romaine, New York City  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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