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Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
February 4, 2024

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.

*And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"
And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others,
one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."
And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.
Mark 8:27-30*

Prelude

During the prelude selection, prepare for worship by reflecting on Mark 8:27-30 printed above.

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Revelation 5

Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! 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 kingdom 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 debtors. 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

"Father, Long Before Creation"

Father, long before creation Thou hadst chosen us in love,
and that love so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day;
mercy free and never failing moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us that His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee we will ever praise Thy love,
and our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,
giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb;
giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb.

[1] “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

[2] But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

[3] And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

[4] “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

[5] “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

[6] And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Congregational Prayer

Dan Butkowski, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Song of the Potter”

words by Bert Stratton/music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Choir

Master, Creator, in earnest I pray:
 You are the Potter, I am the clay.
 Mold me and make me.
 Savior, Sustainer, begin me anew;
 bend me and break me; my trust is in You.
 Mold me, mold me and make me.
 Sculpt me with care so that I may serve,
 shape me forever with Your Holy Word.
 Test me and prove me with fire from above;
 create in me a heart for Your love.
 Artist, Designer, touch me with grace;
 I now surrender to Your firm embrace,
 because You love me, because You love me.
 Have Your own way, Lord, have Your own way,
 You are the Potter, I am the clay.
 Mold me and make me after Your will,
 while I am waiting, yielding and still.
 Mold me, because You love me.

Corporate Profession of Faith

Galatians 4:4-7

[4] But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

[5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

[6] And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

[7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Hymn

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
women: the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
men: the shadow, in a weary land
women: a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
men: a home of rest, upon the way
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
women: the very dying form of One Who suffered there for me:
men: the One who suffered there for me.
women: and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess,
men: and from my heart, I confess
the wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, the shadow for my abiding place:
women: I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
men: I ask no other, than His face
women: content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
men: content to know, no gain nor loss
my sinful self, my only shame; my glory all the cross.

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[14] King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."

[15] But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

[16] But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

[17] For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.

[18] For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

[19] And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,

[20] for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

[21] But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

[22] For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."

[23] And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

[24] And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."

[25] And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

[26] And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

[27] And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison

[28] and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

[29] When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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Invitation to The Lord's Supper

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, we thank You for the freedom You have
given us through the life, death and resurrection of Your Son.

But we confess today that we often live like slaves.

Instead of living like You delight in us, we avoid You in shame
and guilt.

Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with
our efforts.

Instead of accepting Your freedom, we prefer our chains.

Instead of pursuing Your purposes, we cling to our short-
sighted agendas.

Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in
Jesus' name. Amen.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 2:8-10

*[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9]
not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10]
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that
we should walk in them.*

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

“How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”

How sweet and awesome is the place
with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays
the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"

"Why was I made to hear Your voice,
and enter while there's room,
when thousands make a wretched choice,
and rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast
and sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste,
and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,
constrain the earth to come;
send Your victorious Word abroad,
and bring the strangers home.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“Misunderstanding John and Explaining Away Jesus, or at least trying to!”
Mark 6:14-29

I. Hearing About Jesus' Power and Fame.

II. False Beliefs About Jesus' Identity.

III. The Correct Understanding of John's Suffering.

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Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist

Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Vocalist

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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