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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
February 8, 2026

**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.

*“No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God,  
but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,  
fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”*

Romans 4:20-21

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on Hebrews 10:23 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-2, 8

*[1] I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. [2] For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.” [8] O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?*

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

*“How Firm a Foundation”*

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;  
for, I am your God, and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"E'en down to old age all My people shall prove  
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

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Scripture Reading

Acts 4:23-31

Tom Paulus, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Tom Paulus, Ruling Elder

Lord of life, sing through me.  
Give my heart a melody so sweet and pure,  
good and true that I may offer a song to You.  
Come to me and still my fear until my song is Yours alone.  
Sing through me, Lord of life: make my voice Your own.

Lord of life, pray through me.  
Fill my mind with quiet peace so sweet and pure,  
good and true that I may have only thoughts of You.  
Come to me and still my doubt until my dreams are Your alone.  
Pray through me, Lord of life, make my mind your own.

Lord of life, live through me.  
Keep my soul in harmony so sweet and pure,  
good and true that through my living I'll honor You.  
Come to me and still my will until my deeds are Yours alone.  
Live through me, Lord of life; make my heart Your own.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jeff Rooker, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Shorter Catechism Question 11

What are God's works of providence?

God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful  
preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Hymn

*"Though Troubles Assail Us"*

Though troubles assail us, and dangers affright,  
though friends should all fail us, and foes all unite,  
yet one thing secures us, whatever betide,  
the promise assures us, "The Lord will provide."

The birds, without garner or storehouse, are fed;  
from them let us learn to trust God for our bread:  
His saints what is fitting shall ne'er be denied  
so long as 'tis written, "The Lord will provide."

When Satan assails us to stop up our path,  
and courage all fails us, we triumph by faith.  
He cannot take from us, though oft he has tried,  
this heart-cheering promise, "The Lord will provide."

No strength of our own, and no goodness we claim;  
yet, since we have known of the Saviour's great name,  
in this our strong tower for safety we hide:  
the Lord is our power, "The Lord will provide."

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Scripture

Ezra 1:1-11

Sermon

*"The Sovereign Stirring-Up of God"*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”*

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;  
behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev’ry hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow’r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

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The Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to The Lord’s Supper

Corporate Confession of Sin

We confess, our Father, that we do not live up to the family name.  
We are more ready to resent than to forgive,  
more ready to manipulate than to serve,  
more ready to fear than to love,  
more ready to keep our distance than to welcome,  
more ready to compete than to help.  
At the root of this behavior is mistrust.  
We do not love one another as we should,  
because we do not believe that You love us as you do.  
Forgive us our cold unbelief.  
And make more vivid to us the meaning and depth of Your love at the cross.  
Show us what it cost You to give up Your Son  
that we might become Your sons and daughters.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our righteousness. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Joel 2:12-13

*[12] “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all  
your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; [13]  
and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the  
LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.*

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

*“By Faith”*

By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design,  
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth with the pow'r of His promise in their hearts,  
of a holy city built by God's own hand, a place where peace and justice reign.

***chorus:*** *We will stand as children of the promise;  
we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear  
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
to deliver captives and to preach good news in ev'ry corner of the earth.

***chorus***

By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the Gospel shall prevail,  
for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.

***chorus:*** *We will stand as children of the promise;  
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

*Oh, we will stand as children of the promise;  
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight,  
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*“The Sovereign Stirring-Up of God”*  
Ezra 1:1-11

I. Cyrus’ Decree.

II. God’s Decree.

1. What are the implications of the Shorter Catechism’s teaching on the sovereignty of God in Questions 7 and 11?
2. How does Ezra 1 reflect God’s sovereignty over all in light of the Catechism questions?
3. What are the implications of God’s sovereignty as taught in the Catechism Questions and Ezra 1 in your life?

## **RULING ELDERS**

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Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

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Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

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Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

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Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beurman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

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Will & Martha	International
Wes & Kim	Undisclosed

## **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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