



covenant.presbyterian.church

Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
January 21, 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.

*"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."
Psalm 139:13-14*

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on Psalm 139:13-14 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 8

[1] O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. [2] Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. [3] When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, [4] what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? [5] Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. [6] You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, [7] all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, [8] the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. [9] O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Invocation

Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

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Scripture Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

*[22] So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.
[23] For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.*

[24] *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,*
 [25] *nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*
 [26] *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*
 [27] *that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,*
 [28] *for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”*
 [29] *Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.*
 [30] *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,*
 [31] *because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”*

Congregational Prayer

Josh Sanford, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

“Symphony of Praise”

Choir

The composer and the conductor of the universe
 steps before the orchestra of God;
 Creation lifts their finely crafted instruments
 as all in heaven wildly applaud.
 The seasons well rehearsed begin with His downbeat,
 and on His cue the sun trumpets the dawn;
 The whirling winds swell in a mighty crescendo,
 with each commanding sweep of His baton.
 The oceans pound the shore in march to His cadence,
 the galaxies all revolve in the cosmic rhyme;
 the fall of raindrops all in wild syncopation,
 as lightning strikes and thunder claps in time.
 The symphony of praise conducted by the Ancient of Days;
 May each creation great or small
 lift their voices one and all in the symphony of praise.
 Heaven waits in hushed anticipation,
 the great I AM then turns to mortal men;
 a massive chorus robed in spotless garments
 offers up their song of praise to Him.
 The glories of God explode in full orchestration
 as all creation joins the thund’rous refrain:
 “Worthy, Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!
 The symphony of praise, glory to the Ancient of Days;
 May each creation great or small lift their voices one and all
 in the symphony of praise.”
 “Worthy, Worthy, Worthy, is the Lamb that was slain!
 Worthy, Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb!”
 The symphony of praise, glory to the Ancient of Days:
 May each creation great or small
 lift their voices one and all in the symphony of praise!

Corporate Profession of Faith

Hebrews 1:1-4

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

[4] having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hymn

“This Is My Father’s World”

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.

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Corporate Confession of Sin

O Lord, our great God, all holy,
Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
we are ashamed and embarrassed to come before You,
for we have preferred the ways of this world to Your ways,
we have rebelled against Your wisdom and have invited trouble,
we have rejected Your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.
O Lord, our great God, all holy, filled with awe,
Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
incline Your ear to our troubles.
Hear us as we pour out our sorrows to You.
Forgive us, not because of our own righteousness,
but because of Your great mercy.
Because of Your great mercy in the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
It is in His name that we pray, for He is our Savior,
and the mediator of the covenant of grace.

Individual Prayer and Meditation (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1:18

*“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as
white as snow; though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.”*

Hymn

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

chorus: *He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

chorus

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!

chorus

Keith Getty/CCLI 209271

Scripture

Psalm 139:1-18

- [1] *O LORD, you have searched me and known me!*
- [2] *You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.*
- [3] *You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.*
- [4] *Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.*
- [5] *You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.*
- [6] *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*
- [7] *Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?*
- [8] *If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*
- [9] *If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*
- [10] *even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.*

[11] *If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"*

[12] *even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.*

[13] *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

[14] *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

[15] *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

[16] *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

[17] *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!*

[18] *If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.*

Sermon

"The Sanctity of Life of the Unborn"

Pastor Reed

Hymn

"God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory"

God, all nature sings Thy glory, and Thy works proclaim Thy might;
ordered vastness in the heavens, ordered course of day and night;
beauty in the changing seasons, beauty in the storming sea;
all the changing moods of nature praise the changeless Trinity.

Clearer still we see Thy hand in man whom Thou hast made for Thee;
Ruler of creation's glory, image of Thy majesty.
Music, art, the fruitful garden, all the labor of his days,
are the calling of his Maker to the harvest feast of praise.

But our sins have spoiled Thine image, nature, conscience only serve
as unceasing, grim reminders of the wrath which we deserve.
Yet Thy grace and saving mercy in Thy Word of truth revealed
claim the praise of all who know Thee, in the blood of Jesus sealed.

God of glory, power, mercy, all creation praises Thee;
we, Thy creatures, would adore Thee now and through eternity.
Saved to magnify Thy goodness, grant us strength to do Thy will;
with our acts as with our voices, Thy commandments to fulfill.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“The Sanctity of the Life of the Unborn”
Psalm 139:1-18

I. God Creates Mankind from Conception.

II. God Creates Mankind in His Image.

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Dr. Brandon Walser

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Mr. Dan Butkowski
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Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

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Mrs. Liz Baker, Choir Director
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist

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

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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